From the Principal’s Desk….

It truly takes adults from all aspects of a child’s life to coach them through their middle school years. We notice each February/March that there is an increase in students challenging expectations and rules. This is a normal part of their social and emotional development however it is essential that calm, thoughtful adults provide the coaching and/or consequences needed to ensure they remain on a successful path. Great students make mistakes. 😊

Electronic Interims - Check Schoology on March 5
We are communicating interim information by asking parents to log into Schoology on March 5. Monitoring progress mid-quarter is an important part of coaching your child to advocate for themselves in order to achieve academic goals. Conference Afternoon is Wednesday, March 11 from 3:15 – 5:30. Please contact teachers directly to set up conferences for 3/11 or at another mutually agreeable time.

Spring Pictures March 5 - Optional
Students who want their pictures taken again should have informed their homeroom teachers. Pictures will be taken with the LifeTouch photographers in the Activity Room on Thursday, March 5. If a parent would like to ensure their child is included in spring pictures please contact Mrs. Merrick at our front desk by calling 443-809-3176 or by emailing smerrick@bcps.org).

97 Dumbarton Parents Completed Our Stakeholder Survey—Ends on March 11
Thank you to those parents who have had completed the DMS/BCPS Stakeholder Survey. We would like to reach a minimum of a 10% parent response level which means we need more parents to respond. The survey is accessed on the BCPS website, provided in 16 languages and the window has been extended until March 11.

DMS Black Saga Club Wins First Place in Competition
We are proud to congratulate our students who won the BCPS Black Saga Competition. Mr. Opdyke, their coach, was also very proud of his team. This is the first year, in more than 50 years of DMS history, that we have won first place! West Towson is also pictured as they won first place for elementary schools.

Thank you!
Mr. Collins, our Social Studies Department Chairperson, led our Black History Month Celebrations. This included daily morning announcements honoring the achievements of African-Americans through trivia questions and posting photos and information on our school message boards around the building. Students also enjoyed engaging in our homeroom door decorating contest. March is the month when we are focusing on Women’s History.

Students collaborated with their classmates and homeroom teacher to determine a person or group that represents a quality/aspect of their class. These were suggestions for how to choose a person/group.

Choose someone who represents the subject you’re learning.
  - *Example: A math class might choose Katherine Johnson.*

Choose someone who represents a character trait in our school’s vision.
  - *Example: A diligent class might choose Misty Copeland.*

Choose someone who represents a project or memory in your class.
  - *Example: A class that overcame an obstacle might choose Jackie Robinson.*

The homerooms with the most unique doors and most well-explained connection to the students in the class will be recognized. Below are some examples of doors created by our students.
ELA 8
In 8th grade ELA, students are reading the novel *Refugee* by Alan Gratz as part of a unit focusing on immigrants. They will be evaluating multiple types of text (stories, poems, nonfiction, websites) to determine how effectively they serve their audience and purpose.

In 8th grade GT ELA, students are reading *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare as a central text to apply various critical approaches to literature. Students will learn and apply the Archetypal, Feminist, Psychological, Philosophical, and Sociological approaches to the classic play.

World Language
In Latin, students are exploring their interests so that they may align them with careers and compare them with popular jobs in Ancient Rome. Meanwhile in the French and Spanish Intermediate classes, students have recently explored their favorite musical and cinema genres, as well as musical performers and actors for the various genres.

Science 8
The 8th graders are about to become the proud parents of paper puppies! Now that we have studied the similarities amongst organisms and that they change over time, our big questions are now how and why organisms change. We will be looking at genetics and environmental pressures as drivers of change. The students will finish the lesson by modeling how natural selection favors some traits over others in wolves by crossbreeding their dogs to make a new class pack.

American History
American History students have wrapped up their discussions of the War of 1812 and the effects it had on our nation. In this unit of nationalism and expansion, we move beyond the war to cover how we used our status as a global power, for better and for worse. Students are learning about how we gained all the land from sea to shining sea, or from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. In most classes, they are developing arguments on whether we were justified in declaring war on Mexico in the 1800s. We will then move into the issues that led to the civil war, including the expansion of slavery into the aforementioned territories.

Math
Algebra 1 students are wrapping up a hefty unit 2 on linear functions. Students’ excitement will exponentially grow in our next unit of exponential functions. Hopefully, Algebra teachers will see a decay with missing homework assignments.

Geometry students just finished their exploration of triangles and will use what they learned to explore the properties and attributes quadrilaterals. Students were thrilled to learn that we will be doing proofs again very soon 😊

Students in Math 8 recently finished up their preview of Algebra 1 skills including solving equations and systems of equations. Our next topic of study will include Statistics where we will explore scatter plots by creating and interpreting data, as well as the construction and interpretation of two-way frequency tables. This topic is always a lot of fun for students as there are a lot of real-world connections.
8th Grade P.R.I.D.E Students

The following students were recognized for demonstrating the P in Pride.

Perseverance

Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

Rory F.    Rose A.
Georgia K.  Oliver D.
Audrey B.   Dayana O.
Ben S.      Shlok P.
Mariam A.   Catherine C.
Finn L.     NaJai H.
Damirah J.  Sam T.
Jake C.     Kenndi B.
Aiden L.    Osiris G.
Onyije I.   Ridda Z.

8th Grade Contact Information

Erin Murphy, Counselor  emurphy3@bcps.org
Janice Millard, Grade Level Coordinator  jmillard@bcps.org
Stacy Stathopoulos, Assistant Principal for 8th Grade  ssstathopoulos@bcps.org
8th Grade Activities
Here are the exciting 2020 activities coming up for our 8th grade students! You will receive more information about each activity closer to the date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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| **D.C. Trip**  
Students will visit the National Mall in D.C.  
Permission slips were distributed in February  
March 13th is the last day to submit permission slips and payments | Thursday  
April 2, 2020  
(extended day field trip. Students will return at 4:30) |
| **Residency Re-verification required**  
for all BCPS 5th & 8th graders.  
More information will be provided in the spring newsletters and will be posted on our website. Parents can send required documents to school with their child or bring it in themselves. | May – June 1, 2020 |
| **8th Grade Farewell Dance**  
Sponsored by the PTSA | Friday,  
May 8, 2020  
At 7 pm |
| **8th Grade College Bowl** | TBD |
| **8th Grade Farewell Assembly at Dumbarton Middle School**  
(two tickets per child due to seating limitations) | Wednesday  
June 10 or June 17  
At 7 pm  
(depending on final day of school determined by BCPS) |

Questions?
Contact: Mrs. Millard, Grade Level Coordinator at jmillard@bcps.org  
Mrs. Stathopoulos, AP, at sstathopoulos@bcps.org
Science
Seventh grade students are in the process of completing the module Form Follows Function. They will be focusing on how two body systems interact with each other. In the next few weeks students will begin looking at the ‘Chemistry Within Us’. Students will also focus on the question: “How does my body use sugar? This unit will focus on how substances combine to make new substances. Students will investigate how living things (plants and animals) obtain and use matter to produce the food and energy they need to live and grow.

Math
For March in Algebra 1, exponential functions! We will analyze growth and decay in an exponential theme. (Double a penny a day for a month, anyone?) Pre-Algebra will continue to wrestle with equations and modeling situations that can be represented by equations. We will be extracting data from graphs and learning the importance of accurate data.

World Cultures
Students in Social Studies will learn about the various events and forces that ended feudalism. This includes the Crusades, Bubonic Plague, Mongol Horde, and the creation of the nation-state. While the invention of the Printing Press and the Renaissance are not explicitly included in the curriculum, teachers hope to also address these times. Students are analyzing primary and secondary sources and crafting essays to prepare arguments about them.

English Language Arts
All Language Arts students will be voting for BCPS’s next Student Member of the Board (SMOB) on March 12th! In preparation for this election, students spent time analyzing and evaluating campaign speeches in order to make an informed and critical decision on March 12th. In addition to preparing for the SMOB election, Language Arts students have begun their third unit of study. In the Academic classes, students are participating in a unit titled Choosing to Appreciate Historical Fiction. We have already read about a few different times in history and compared those non-fiction texts with historical fiction narratives set during the same time period. At the end of the unit, students will be writing their own historical fiction narratives. Students in Advanced Academic classes are participating in a unit titled Choosing My Perspective. They began reading Parallel Journeys while analyzing WWII propaganda and speeches given during the war that represent different perspectives.

Physical Education and Health
Students are reminded to continue to wear uniforms as they transition into a basketball and floor hockey unit. Health classes can look forward to learning about safety and injury prevention. Please continue to come prepared to health class by bringing your device, binder, paper and pencil.

Art
In 7th grade art, Mr. Citrano, Mr. Jones, Mr. Krantz and Mrs. Evans’ classes are participating in the State Attorney’s Anti-Drug Poster contest. Students will not only earn a major grade in this
assignment, but they will earn 10 service learning hours and chances to win cash prizes, as well as have their artwork published in 2020-2021 calendar through the State Attorney’s office.

**World Languages**

**Unit 3 of Study**

**Spanish:** Unit 3 of Study: *La tecnología en mi vida cotidiana*

How do we use technology in our daily lives? / ¿Cómo usamos la tecnología en nuestras vidas cotidianas? El desafío: Xataka, a technology website, is writing an article about the future of technology. It is looking for insight from users like you into how it is used, how it impacts your daily life, and what changes you would like to see for the future. You will create an infographic in the hopes that your engaging visual display will be chosen for use in the article.

**Latin:** Theme 1: Corpus humanum / The Human Body · What is the meaning of the phrase “physically healthy”? Quid signifiatur sententia “Mens sana in corpore sano?” · Why is it important to have a healthy body? Qa causa necesse nobis corpus sanum habere? · How are the parts and systems of the human body interconnected? Quomodo partes corporis intersunt? · How does a healthy body compare with a healthy society? Quid interest inter corpus sanum et sanam civitatem · How do we keep our bodies healthy? Quomodo possum corpus praeservare.

**French:** Theme 1: In this unit theme, students will… identify when and where a celebration takes place; identify the cultural products, practices, and perspectives of a celebration. · express my opinions about a celebration. · ask and answer questions about celebrations.
COUNSELOR CORNER

Dr. Martin has been meeting with students for academic planning and coaching. Students who have earned less than 69% or lower in an academic course (Math, Science, World Cultures, Language Arts, and Foreign Language) have been meeting with the school counselor for individual goal setting to help improve academic performance. The classroom guidance lesson for March is “Empathy.” Students will define and identify examples of empathy in order to understand that being empathetic is a conscious decision.

Contact Dr. Martin in the Counseling Office at 443-809-5654.

World History
6th graders are a third of the way into the unit on Ancient India, Persia and Greece. They have learned about Hinduism, the Caste System, Ashoka, Buddhism and Cyrus and Darius the Great. Students are now diving into Greece and Alexander the Great. A DBQ on Alexander the Great will help students apply their analytical skills, writing skills and communication skills that will serve as a rigorous and fun week on whether Alexander the Great was truly “Great.” Get ready for more analysis, discussion and overall evaluation of three major cultures that influenced and shaped the world as we know it!

Language Arts
In GT classes, students finished their quiz on pronouns and are now working on shifting point of view in order to take a section of the novel, One Crazy Summer, and write it from a new perspective. In Academic classes, students began reading Esperanza Rising. This unit is all about character development and theme development. Students will read short stories and poems as well in order to analyze how a character’s changes help the reader determine the theme.

Physical Education and Health
Students are reminded to continue to wear uniforms as they transition into a basketball and floor hockey unit. Health classes can look forward to learning about disease prevention. Please continue to come prepared to health class by bringing your device, binder, paper and pencil.

Math
Students are continuing to learn about Equivalent Expressions. They have learned about exponents, prime factorization and order of operations. They are now writing and evaluating algebraic expressions and will soon be using the distributive property and combining like terms to simplify algebraic expressions. Students will be looking toward a Unit 4 test near the end of the month! Please watch for updates on Schoology!

Foreign Language
In Latin, students are learning about the concept of gladiator fights and the items that a gladiator needed. 6th grade Spanish is studying life as a student in Latin America and discussing how to be a better student. 6th grade French students are learning about how to describe their classes and their teachers and are learning how to describe a typical day at school.
Science
Absolutely outstanding work in the Mock Shark Tank/Culminating Event for Matter and It’s Interactions Unit. Students started their new unit: Forces and Motion. Encourage your student to complete their assessments daily. Our BCPS Science Department is reaching out to current 6th graders interested in this summer’s STEM camp opportunities at Aberdeen Proving Ground (see information below). Rising 7th & 8th Grades - July 27 - 31, 2020 STEM in Pop Culture: Superhero Science and More!

P.R.I.D.E. Students of the Month
This month, 6th grade teachers had the opportunity to recognize one student who demonstrated the “P” in P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Intellectual growth, Diligence, and Empathy). Perseverance refers to persistence in doing something despite difficult or delay in achieving success. Kudos to the following students who have been recognized:

Marcus A.  Heymi C.  Zoe F.
Joseph G.  Nico G.  Andrew K.
Angel M.  Peter M.  Erick M.
Michael O.  Elaina R.  Josephine S.
Jan Anthony S.  Jamiah W.  Yuta Y.

Sixth Grade Contact Information
Dr. Martin, Counselor tmartin10@bcps.org
Stacie Elliott, Grade Level Coordinator selliott@bcps.org
Michelle Wedderburn, Assistant Principal for Sixth Grade mwedderburn@bcps.org
Each month, Ms. Sharbonda & her students acknowledge those scholars who are resilient and helpful, and who strive to do their best in Algebra & Geometry. These students are recognized below and on a bulletin board in the classroom. **Keep up the great work!!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anna S.</th>
<th>Corin W.</th>
<th>Francesco T.</th>
<th>Jake B.</th>
<th>Melina R.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anoushka B.</td>
<td>Eloise B.</td>
<td>Gavin C.</td>
<td>Julia S.</td>
<td>Mila B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Y.W.</td>
<td>Eric L.</td>
<td>Grant G.</td>
<td>Malayna M.</td>
<td>Molly B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cece L.</td>
<td>Erin O.</td>
<td>Jack B.</td>
<td>Matthew W.</td>
<td>Sadie L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMINDERS FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE**

Attention 6th grade parents: All 7th grade students in 2020-2021 (next school year) are required to provide proof of having received the 1st dose of Meningococcal vaccine (also called Menactra) and a booster dose of Tdap (Adacel/Boostrix). These vaccines are in addition to vaccines given to your child prior to kindergarten. Children generally receive these vaccines at the age 11 year old check-up.

Parents of current 6th graders are urged to:

- Check with your child’s doctor to see if the vaccines have already been given.
- Schedule an appointment for your child to receive these vaccines BEFORE September 1, 2020.
- Provide written verification to the school nurse prior to the beginning of next school year. Students may hand deliver vaccine paperwork to our school nurse at any time.

If you have any questions, please call Nurse Donna anytime during school hours: 443 809 6950. Copies can also be scanned to dmiedusiewski@bcps.org.

March 15-21, 2020 is Poison Prevention Week. Glance at the following list of poison prevention tips provided by the Maryland Poison Center. Enter the POISON HELP line in your phone 1-800-222-1222 to always be ready for a poison emergency.

- Avoid storing potential poisons in low cabinets—use cabinet safety locks.
- Safely discard expired or unused medicines and cleaning chemicals.
- Keep medicine and other potential poisons in their original containers.
- Take medicine and cleaning products with you especially if you have young children if you need to answer the door or take a phone call.
- Know the names of flowers and plants in your home and yard—remind your children to never eat any berries or leaves these plants may produce.

Contact the Maryland Poison Center as soon as you suspect a poison or overdose may have occurred. Do not wait for symptoms! Expert advice is free and confidential. Be poison safe—it can save a life.
For the first time, all BCPS students will be able to vote to elect the new SMOB. The SMOB (Student Member of the Board of Education) candidates have recorded speeches which will be shared in ELA classes after which every student will be able to cast their vote.

This year, Dumbarton’s 6th grade artists created pet portraits to donate to the Kindness for Paws Art Show, an animal-welfare-inspired art collection by students from various local schools. The Kindness for Paws Art Show raises awareness in hopes to find new homes for the cats and dogs at the Maryland SPCA and their works were displayed at White Marsh Mall from 2/8-2/16/2020. On the last day of the show, their portraits were sold to the public during the "Name Your Donation Art Sale" where 100% of the proceeds would benefit the Maryland SPCA. The 6th grade artists earned 10 service-learning hours for donating their work to the art show. At the Kind for Paws event, with over 4,000 pieces of art displayed, we were able to raise over $5,500 for the Maryland SPCA animals!

THANK YOU to our students, families, and supporters - you all made the seventh annual Baltimore County Kindness for Paws Art Show a HUGE success!
Meet the DMS Writing Lab Tutors!

Tuesdays:
Hi, my name is Isabel and I’m a former DMS student! I’m a Writing Lab tutor and I attend Towson High School. I enjoy reading, writing and playing sports. My favorite book is The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. I’m here every Tuesday until 4:00 to help out. I look forward to helping you with your writing this year!

Hi! My name is Hannah and I am a Writing Lab tutor from Towson High. One of my favorite classes in school is Language Arts, and I would love to help you out with any writing assignment that you might have. I went to Dumbarton for middle school, so I know the books and have experience with many of the assignments. I am here every Tuesday, and I hope to see you soon at Writing Lab!

Thursdays:
Hi! My name is Nancy and I have been a Writing Lab tutor for three years. I went to Dumbarton for middle school, and now I attend Towson High, where I am a junior. My favorite subjects in school are English and math, and one of my favorite things to do in my free time is read. I would love to work with you on anything writing assignments you have!

Hi! My name is Laura and I’m a junior at Towson High School. I went to Dumbarton for middle school and have been a writing tutor for the past three years. I really enjoy reading and writing so I would love to help you revise your essays. My favorite book series is A Darker Shade of Magic by V.E Schwab and if you like fantasy this is a great place to start. I’m at writing lab every Thursday until 4:00 and I hope to see you there!

Writing Lab sponsored by Mr. Bauer
Contact: bbauer@bcps.org

Need help with a writing assignment?

Come to the DMS Writing Lab on Tuesday & Thursday from 3:00-4:00 in room 145.
Get personalized help from the best writers DMS has ever produced!

Thursdays:
Hi DMS students! My name is Ari and I’m a junior at Towson High School, where I’m currently Vice President of the National English Honor Society. This will be my third year tutoring for the Writing Lab. I’ll be happy to help you achieve any of your writing-related goals – whether you’re eager to improve your writing skills or you just want to boost your grade, I’m here every Thursday until 4:00, ready to help!

Hello DMS students, my name is Sophie and I’m an eleventh grader at Towson High School. I attended Dumbarton for middle school and have been tutoring at the Dumbarton Writing Lab for the past two years. I have a passion for anything relating to English and I love to help students succeed in their writing assignments. I also love to read in my free time. I am at the writing lab every Thursday until 4:00. I hope to see you at Writing Lab!
Advanced Academics Community Meeting

The Maryland State Department of Education approved changes to COMAR related to Gifted and Talented education. As a result, there are changes coming to Baltimore County Public Schools and the programs and services offered to students identified as gifted and talented. All interested parents and community members are invited to attend one of four presentations designed to explain these changes and how they will impact students in BCPS.

Woodlawn High School: Auditorium: March 4, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Dundalk High School: Library: March 18, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Parkville Middle School: Auditorium: March 25, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Cockeysville Middle School: Meeting Space: April 2, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Questions? Call the Office of Advanced Academics at 443-809-4330!
Empty Bowls & Kindness Club

In January, the Kindness Club worked with Ms. Kathy Fick to paint bowls for the “Empty Bowls” event on March 21st. These bowls were donated to this event to help raise money for St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore. We would like to give a special thanks to the PTA who sponsored this opportunity for our students. Our students learned about the people in our community whose “bowls” are not filled with the things that we enjoy: friends, family, a warm home, hot meals. You can see the special care that our students took to paint beautiful works of art for this event. Please consider attending “Empty Bowls” this year.

Sponsored by Ms. Sharbonda (ssharbonda@bcps.org)

EMPTY BOWLS INFORMATION
(More Information @ http://emptybowlsbaltimore.org/)
Empty Bowls is St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore’s signature event that raises funds, friends and awareness of our work to serve those who are hungry and homeless in our community.

Thank you to our PTSA for providing funding to support our club!
ATTENDANCE
A Key to Your Child’s Success

Schools cannot do their jobs if students are absent or excessively tardy. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school or comes late, misses a day of learning. Success depends on having a solid educational background and one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

Tips to Improve Your Child’s School attendance:

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school daily and on time.
- Do not accept excuses for why your child “must” miss or be late for school.
- Lead by example.

If you have questions regarding your child’s attendance, please contact their homeroom teacher.

DMS CALENDAR 2020

March
5       Interim reminder to parents – check Schoology for updated grades
5       Spring Pictures (optional for students)
10      DMS Student Recital 3:00-4:30 PM
11      Conference afternoon 3:30 – 5:30 PM
26      PTSA Executive Board Meeting: 6 PM
26-27   MISA testing for 8th grade Science students

April
1       Tentative: DMS MCAP Spring Testing starts – school-wide
3       5th Grade Parent Math Information Night 7PM
6-13    Spring Break—Schools Closed
23      Report Cards distributed & PTSA Executive Board Meeting at 6PM
27      Schools Closed ---MD Presidential Primary Election Day
29-30   Tentative: DMS MCAP Spring Testing continues – school wide

May
1       Tentative: DMS MCAP Spring Testing concludes – school-wide
4-8     Teacher Appreciation Week
8       PTA Sponsored Eighth Grade Dance in Gym 7 PM
14      Interim reminder to parents – check Schoology (conferences as needed)
18      7th Grade Spring Arts Festival & Concert 7 PM
20      8th Grade Spring Arts Festival & Concert 7 PM
25      Memorial Day: Schools closed
27      Spring Honors Concert 7 PM

June
1       Tentative: 8th Grade Farewell 7pm (Wednesday) or 6/17 depends on last day of school
8       National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Induction Ceremony 7 pm (Monday)
10      Schools Close 3 Hours Early
19      Last Day of School: Schools Close 3 Hours Early (Board of Education will determine last day
22