Safety First – Severe Weather
As you may know, this morning weather reports stated that severe weather might be heading into our area. I reminded students of our severe weather protocol which we have practiced and let them know we were monitoring the progression of strong thunderstorms via our emergency weather radio. Due to a strong lightning strike nearby, we did stay in period one a few extra minutes. Waiting until that line of thunderstorms moved away enabled students to progress to their next class safely and without apprehension. We appreciate student cooperation as always.

Report Cards Distributed on 2/6
Please sign the white envelope so it can be returned to homeroom teachers to confirm receipt. This is also a good time to replenish your child’s school supplies. Donations of tissues are always appreciated.

Final Basketball Home Game on Tuesday 2/11
We are proud of our teams and look forward to seeing them play their final home game on Tuesday.

DMS School Play on 2/20 & 2/21 at 7PM
Join us to see amazing student performances. A nominal admission fee will be charged to provide funds for costumes and drama club supplies.

Counselor Appreciation Week Concludes Today
We value our counselors and know how much they do for our students and families each day. Dr. Martin, Ms. Stump and Mrs. Murphy do an amazing job supporting more than 400 students.

BCPS Stakeholder Survey - Your Feedback Matters
Please go to the BCPS website and click on this link.

Thank you for your continued support.

Susan E. Harris, Principal
ATTENDANCE: A Key to Your Child’s Success

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools cannot do their jobs if your child is absent or excessively tardy. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school or arrives late, misses a day of learning. Your child’s success in school depends on having a solid educational background, one that can only be gained through regular school attendance. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success!

Tips to Improve Your Child’s School attendance:

- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.

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

A Word from Mrs. Scott....

Student Activity on Devices

Parents are encouraged to assist the school in monitoring student activity while on their devices. Many middle schoolers are tempted by the freedom that 24/7 access to their devices and the Internet has given them. In order to ensure that students are using their devices appropriately, parents are encouraged to review their Internet browser and download histories. Internet history is located in the upper right-hand corner of the web browser and the download history can be accessed in the download folder by clicking the This PC icon. By checking these two locations we can ensure that students are accessing sites for educational purposes only, as stipulated in the contracts that parents and students signed at the beginning of the school year. Technology is here and we must teach students how to use electronic resources appropriately. By viewing the Internet and download histories and having conversations about appropriate choices, we are coaching them to be good digital citizens. For questions about how to access Internet or download histories or concerns about suspicious sites, please contact Susan Smith, Library Media Specialist, at ssmit12@bcps.org or Cheryl Scott, 7th grade assistant principal, at cscott2@bcps.org.
Get to know how your child experiences stress and what you can do about it!

In January, 8th graders participated in a classroom guidance lesson to address stress and anxiety. Students identified some of their stressors and discussed how stress can affect their behavior and physical well-being. With this in mind, we encouraged our students to identify healthy coping strategies such as:

- Eat well
- Get plenty of rest
- Talk to a friend or caring adult
- Allow your mind to relax
- Put stress into perspective
- Breath
- Guided Imagery
- Mantra
- Change the channel in your mind

- Set aside quiet time
- Read
- Draw
- Listen to music
- Exercise
- Meditate
- Take a break from the stressor
- Laugh
- Don’t run from your problems

Because stressors, symptoms, and effective coping strategies can change over time, this process was framed as a continuous cycle of self-awareness. Please take this opportunity to talk to your child.

Erin Murphy, M.Ed., NCC
emurphy3@bcps.org
8th Grade School Counselor
Service-Learning Coordinator

**ELA 8**
In Academic Language Arts 8, we begin an exploration of nonfiction texts and the effectiveness of their structures with a focus on immigration, refugees, and the theme of “belonging.” During the unit, students will read *Refugee* by Alan Gratz.
In Advanced Academic Language Arts 8, students will learn about various critical approaches to literature: archetypal, historical, feminist, sociological, philosophical, and psychological.
Students will learn the various forms of criticism while reading Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in class.

**World Language**
Our 8th grade Latin students are learning about the practice of religion in Ancient Rome and the parties and festivals planned in honor of the gods. They will also plan and advertise their own event for a god/goddess of their choosing. Meanwhile, in 8th grade French and Spanish, students have just completed their unit exams on The Future of Animals, about endangered animals and protecting biodiversity. For Q3, the theme for Spanish and French courses will be The Creative World, in which we will explore art and artists in general and particularly those of the Hispanic world.

**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 how and why is it that organisms change. We will be looking at genetics and environmental pressures as drivers of change. The topic will conclude with examples of how natural selection favors some traits over others in wolves by crossbreeding their dogs to make a new class pack.

**American History**
Students in 8th grade history will wrap up Unit 2 about the early Republic. Unit 3 is about the expansion of the United States and the developing sectional divides that led to the American Civil War.

**Math**
- Students in **Math 8** are expanding their knowledge of solving equations to include solving systems of equations. This highly algebraic concept will be developed slowly and allow students time to understand the process and the meanings of their solutions.
- **Algebra 1** students are finishing up their applications of linear equations unit which included systems of equations, piecewise functions, and data analysis. Keep an eye out for the unit 2 test date to be announced soon! The following unit will extend students’ understanding of linear equations as they see similarities between that and exponential functions.
- Students in **Geometry** will finish their formal study about the properties of triangles. The unit will end with lessons on the special right triangles, which is a fundamental building block for success in high school math courses. Encourage your child to use flashcards (or Quizlet) to refresh and maintain the vocabulary and theorems we have been learning all year.
**8th Grade P.R.I.D.E Students**

The following students were recognized for demonstrating the **E** in Pride. **Empathy**: The Ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Erin O.</th>
<th>Ethan D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bunchie N.</td>
<td>Claire C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia B.</td>
<td>Olivia H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura R.</td>
<td>Emma O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sasha B.</td>
<td>Isaac D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinton G.</td>
<td>Ian S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy M.</td>
<td>Julissa D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope F.</td>
<td>Ethan D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverlin L.</td>
<td>Zarrukh R.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8th Grade Contact Information**
Erin Murphy, Counselor, emurphy3@bcps.org
Janice Millard, 8th Grade Level Coordinator, jmillard@bcps.org
Stacy Stathopoulos, Assistant Principal for the 8th Grade, sstathopoulos@bcsp.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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>D.C. Trip</strong></td>
<td>Thursday April 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will visit the National Mall in D.C.</td>
<td>(extended day field trip. Students will return at 4:30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permission slips will be distributed in February</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency Re-verification required for all 8th graders.</td>
<td>May – June 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th Grade Farewell Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored by the PTSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 8, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th Grade College Bowl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Counselor Corner

**Executive Functioning Lesson**

During the month of February, seventh grade students will learn about Executive Functioning Skills to promote school success. Students will take a short self-assessment to identify their strongest and weakest executive functioning skills. They will also choose a weakness and create a plan to improve that skill.
6 Year Planning is Underway

Students began meeting with Mrs. Robinson to complete their 6 Year Plans during the month of October and with Ms. Stump during the month of December. It will likely take through May to complete these individual student meetings. If your student has completed their planning session with Ms. Stump, ask them to tell you how many Service-Learning Hours they need for high school graduation and where to find information about high school magnet programs. If they have not met with Ms. Stump to date, feel free to begin exploring high school magnet options here and use the links for Student Service Learning listed below:

http://dumbartonms.bcps.org/students/servicelearning


7th graders getting ready for 8th Grade: Registration!

In December, all 7th grade students were given registration sheets for next school year. In the counseling office, we are in the process of entering the requests into our scheduling system. In the spring, all students will receive a course verification sheet which will need to be signed by a parent and returned to the counseling office. It will be your student’s last opportunity to make changes to their 8th grade schedule. Your student’s schedule will be mailed with the summer mailing in August.

jstump2@bcps.org
443-809-5654

7th Grade News

Science
All 7th grade teachers are teaching the 2nd Module Form Follows Function. We are currently working on the Tissues, Organs and Organ systems of the body. This unit will culminate with students selecting two organ systems and constructing a working model that demonstrates how two organ systems interact that allows you to complete a task that you encounter in your everyday life.

Math
During February, Pre-Algebra will be working on two step inequalities, formula for slope and linear expressions. Students used the idea of untangling a double knotted shoelace to solve two step equations. Algebra students will work on correlation and causation and data analysis (statistics 101).
**World Cultures**
Students in social studies will explore the various causes for the decline of feudalism and the growth of nation-states. The causes are inclusive of the Crusades, Mongol Conquests, Bubonic Plague, Magna Carta, Reconquista, Renaissance, and Protestant Reformation.

**English Language Arts**
Language Arts students will soon begin their third unit of study. In the Academic classes, students will participate in a unit titled *Choosing to Appreciate Historical Fiction*. Students will be assigned a historical fiction novel to read at home while in class, we will read a variety of nonfiction texts paired with historical fiction texts to determine how authors of fiction use or alter history in their writing. Students in Advanced Academic classes will participate in a unit titled *Choosing My Perspective*. They will read a novel that presents two different perspectives of situations that provide similar struggles. Other texts will be read in class to analyze how and why authors choose to present multiple experiences and viewpoints.

**Physical Education and Health**
Students in Mr. Atkins, Ms. Lewis, and Mr. Bandy’s class are looking forward to transitioning into health class for the third quarter. Mr. Kirk and Mrs. Shewell’s students will be transitioning back into physical education and will collaborate on a volleyball unit.

**Art**
In 7th grade art, Mr. Citrano, Mr. Jones, Mr. Krantz and Mrs. Evans’s 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 significatur sententia “Mens sana in corpore sano?”* · Why is it important to have a healthy body? *Qua 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 their opinions about a celebration as well as ask and answer questions about celebrations.

**Congratulations to January’s 7th Grade P.R.I.D.E. Students!**

Maria P.  
Leo S.  
Noel M.  
Ava C.  
Pratik B.  
Colin K.  

Owen G.  
Nina J.  
Ariel D.  
Madeleine M.  
Mason W.  
Gabe S.  

**7th Grade Contact Information**
Priscilla Robinson, Counselor, probinson3@bcps.org
Natalie Zinkham, Grade Level Coordinator, nzinkham@bcps.org
Cheryl Scott, Assistant Principal for the 7th Grade, cscott2@bcps.org

**Language Arts**
In 6th grade Language Arts academic students are finishing up their PBA where they had to write a narrative in which Castle, the protagonist of *Ghost*, and a superhero meet and work together to solve a problem. Students have spent the unit analyzing characterization, imagery, figurative language, and dialogue which will all be incorporated into the narrative. Currently the 6th grade GT students are finishing up their PBA, which consists of composing a short story. They must include two Greek heroes read about this quarter and have them go through the steps of the hero’s journey. They’re being challenged to think creatively, but also incorporate believable choices that those heroes would make based on characterizations established through class discussions earlier in the quarter.
**Foreign Language**
In Latin, students are learning to describe their homes and compare them to Roman dwellings. They have done readings and videos on the topic. Mrs. Coulson’s students are studying food and learning how to analyze the nutritional value of food in the cafeteria. Ms. Rivera’s classes are learning how to identify healthy foods and make decisions based on their ingredients. In Ms. Masango’s French class, students are studying different international foods and describing their nutritional value.

**World Cultures**
6th graders are starting a new unit on Ancient India, Persia and Greece. They will be learning about Buddhism, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism. The rise of Cyrus the Great of Persia and Alexander the Great of Greece will be key individuals discussed this unit, both of whom are regarded as major contributors to the success of their respective empires. Get ready for more analysis, discussion and overall evaluation of three major cultures that influenced and shaped the world as we know it!

**Math**
Students will begin Unit 4 Equivalent Expression where they will write and evaluate numerical expressions using the order of operations, use exponents to write unique prime factorizations for whole numbers, read, write, and evaluate expressions in which letters stand for numbers (variables), and apply the properties of operations to identify or generate equivalent expressions. In grade 6 the students begin to view expressions not just as a combination of calculations but as entities which can be described in terms of their parts. This process enables the students to use the conventions for order of operations to interpret expressions, not just to evaluate them. Viewing expressions as entities created from component parts is essential for seeing the structure of expressions in later grades and for using structure to reason about expressions and functions.

**Science**
In Science students are presenting their Shark Tank projects to live audiences who are evaluating their creations.

**Physical Education**
Students in Mr. Atkins, Ms. Lewis, and Mr. Bandy’s classes are looking forward to transitioning into health class for the third quarter. Mr. Kirk and Mrs. Shewell’s students will be transitioning back into physical education and will collaborate on a volleyball unit.

**Art**
Mr. Citrano and Mrs. Evans’ students are creating oil pastel Pet Portraits. Students are creating artworks for the Maryland SPCA and entering their work into the SPCA Art Show. Students will earn Student Service hours for this project. Mr. Jones’ 6th grade classes recently completed their endeavor into 3D landscapes. They are currently creating sketchbook assignments which highlight the elements and principles of art in order to develop the appropriate vocabulary needed to describe concepts in art using a visual language. In Mr. Krantz’s classes 6th graders are finishing graffiti tags, using font color and lettering. Following that the students are creating a doodle for Google using the theme “I show kindness by....”
This month, 6th grade teachers had the opportunity to recognize one student who demonstrated the “E” in P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Intellectual growth, Diligence, and Empathy). Empathy refers the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Kudos to the following students who have been recognized for their demonstration of empathy.

Isla D. 
Alex G. 
Camila G. 
Sloan H. 
Griffin K. 
Sydney T. 
James T. 
Hannah V. 
Caroline V. 
Natsumi V. 
Sam W.

6th Grade Contact Information
Michelle Wedderburn, Assistant Principal for 6th Grade, mwedderburn@bcps.org
Stacie Elliott, 6th Grade Level Coordinator, selliot@bcps.org
Dr Martin, 6th Grade Counselor, tmartin10@bcps.org

School Counselors Celebrated During National School Counseling Week, Feb. 3-7, 2020
National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), will be celebrated from Feb. 3-7, 2020, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as
a result of what school counselors do. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who implement comprehensive school counseling programs, a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the challenges of the 21st century.

School counselors are honored for being actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; for working in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today’s world; for focusing on positive ways to enhance students' social/personal, educational and career development; and working with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. Professional school counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in guidance and counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.

Take a moment to thank one of our school counselors today! ~ Sue Harris, Principal

Dr. Martin (grade 6) tmartin10@bcps.org
Mrs. Robinson (grade 7) probinson3@bcps.org
Ms. Stump (grade 7) jstump@bcps.org
Mrs. Murphy (grade 8) emurphy3@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!!

Brigid P. Erin O. Isaac D. Matt S. Sarah S.
Cece L. Francesco T. Jack B. Matthew W. Silas Q.
Claire C. Gabriello G. Kate H. Michael B. Theo L.
Devin G. Grant G. Keats M. Rea B. Trent R.
Dylan C. Henry G. Leo V. Sadie L. Vivian S.
Elise L.

January 2020

Created by ssharbonda@bcps.org
Healthy Heart Month

February is designated as American Heart Month to bring attention and awareness to the prevalence and severity of heart disease in the United States.

Sadly, heart disease continues to be responsible for most deaths worldwide for both men and women of all races. Risk factors include high blood pressure and cholesterol levels, diabetes or predisposition to diabetes and obesity. The good news is that we can all take steps to help reduce our risks of heart disease by making exercise part of our daily routine and by making better dietary choices, using spices to flavor our foods instead of reaching for the salt shaker. Healthy choices coupled with regular check-ups to manage existing conditions, can help to reduce, if not eliminate your risk of heart disease.

“Healthy for Good” is a lifestyle you can easily embrace by making a few simple changes for you and your families. Plan meals to include ample protein and salads, trying for 4-5 servings of fruits or vegetables each day. Raw vegetables are best but frozen and canned also offer vitamin rich benefits. Fruits can be fresh, frozen, canned or dried (look for the unsweetened varieties to avoid unnecessary sugars) and don’t forget the almost endless selections of veggie, fruit drinks and smoothies. Has anyone tried the riced vegetables? They are amazing—full of nutrition and light as feathers. My meal schedule includes “meatless Mondays”, creating fresh vegetable rich pasta meals or egg quiches and frittatas—again, adding the color of vegetables, along with essential vitamins and nutrients they provide. Empower yourself to take charge of your health---it will make a big difference in your healthy tomorrows. I am always happy to hear about changes you make and suggestions I can pass along.

Nurse Donna
dmiedusiewski@bcps.org
**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!

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

**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!
During the month of January, Dumbarton students participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee in their social studies classes. The Geography Bee is a competition that teaches geographic content while testing student knowledge of United States and world geography. Each social studies class held a class competition, and the winner of each class earned the right to participate in the school-wide competition. Below is a list of the class winners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th Grade Class Winners</th>
<th>7th Grade Class Winners</th>
<th>6th Grade Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

On January 22nd, the winners of each social studies class took part in a school-wide competition. After 40 minutes of questions, the competition was narrowed down to 5 students with amazing geographic knowledge. Jackson K took 5th place, Jesse VD took 4th, and Kai H was 3rd. Dylan B and Brayden M advanced to the championship round, with Brayden coming out on top by answering all 3 of the championship-round questions correctly. Congratulations to Jackson, Jesse, Kai, and Dylan. A special congratulations to Brayden for winning the title of Dumbarton’s Top Geography Student for the 2nd year in a row. Brayden will take the National Geographic online test and hopes to earn a place in the Maryland State Geography Bee competition.
HEREFORD HIGH SCHOOL

UNIQUE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Interested in participating in one of these programs? Download and complete the BCPS Special Transfer Application using the QR Code.

AVIATION AND AEROSPACE

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems Pathway
- Exploring Aviation and Aerospace
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Aviation and Autonomous Systems Engineering Capstone Work Experience

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING PATHWAY
- Principles of Aviation and Aerospace
- Exploring Aviation and Aerospace
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Aviation and Autonomous Systems Engineering Capstone Work Experience

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

- Program begins with an introduction to agriculture course that lays the foundation for studies in natural resources, plant science, and animal science pathways.

INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE AGRICULTURE COURSES INCLUDE:
- Veterinary Animal Science
- Plant Science
- Biotechnology
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Environmental Studies
- Capstone Work Experience

More information can be found on our website herefordhs.bcps.org

Look under Academics - Special Programs

*Note: these are not magnet programs. Students can apply to Hereford High School for special transfer to enroll in one of these programs of study. Questions about special transfer can be directed to Mrs. Buck (ebuck@bcps.org) 410-820-1200, Assistant Principal Hereford High School.

ALL IN YEARBOOK

It's not too early to pre-order your yearbook online! Yearbooks cost $26 each and the direct link to order is on Dumbarton's Website. You can purchase one in person in June, but the only way to guarantee a copy is to order online. We sold out last year in 3 days, so don't wait until it's too late!

BUY TODAY > jostensyearbooks.com
Lead in Drinking Water – Public and Nonpublic Schools

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)

Dumbarton Middle School

LEAD WATER SAMPLE RESULT(S)
All Maryland public and nonpublic schools are required to sample all drinking water sources for the presence of lead pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations. On November 2, 2019, 2 water samples were collected from Dumbarton Middle School. Of these water samples, NONE (0) had levels of lead exceeding the action level of 20 parts per billion (ppb) for lead in drinking water in school buildings. These were samples from fixtures that were repaired in the past year.

ACTION LEVEL (AL)
The AL is 20 ppb for lead in drinking water in school buildings. The AL is the concentration of lead which, if exceeded, triggers required remediation.

LOCAL AND FEDERAL DRINKING WATER STANDARDS
Without being required to do so, BCPS has tested school drinking fountains for lead since 2016. There are no federal regulations for schools regarding drinking water. The federal Clean Drinking Water Act requires public water systems to test for lead. Nine of our schools have well systems, and those systems have tested for lead as required.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD
Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the fetus receives lead from the mother’s bones, which may affect brain development. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

SOURCES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO LEAD
There are many different sources of human exposure to lead. These include: lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust or soil, some plumbing materials, certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics, exposure in the workplace and exposure from certain hobbies, brass faucets, fittings, and valves. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 10 to 20 percent of a person’s potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water, while for an infant consuming formula mixed with lead-containing water this may increase to 40 to 60 percent.

NEXT STEPS ---None

HOW CONSUMERS CAN REDUCE EXPOSURE TO LEAD IN DRINKING WATER
1. Run your water to flush out lead: If water hasn’t been used for several hours, run water for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
2. Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. If lead was present in the plumbing, it would dissolve more easily in hot water.

Please note that boiling the water will not reduce lead levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
1. For additional information, please contact David Glassman, Supervisor, Environmental Services at 443.809.6310 or dglassman2@bcps.org.
2. For additional information about reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/lead.
3. If you are concerned about exposure, contact your healthcare provider. If you do not have a healthcare provider, please contact the Baltimore County Department of Health at 410.887.3725
February
6 Report Cards Distributed
17 Schools OPEN (Presidents’ Day)
20 PTSA Executive Board Meeting: 6 PM
20-21 DMS School Play (snow dates are 2/27-28)

March
5 Interim reminder – check Schoology for updated grades
10 DMS Student Recital 3:00-4:30 PM
11 Conference afternoon 3:30 – 5:30 PM
12 PTSA Executive Board Meeting: 6 PM
26-27 MISA 8th Grade Science Testing

April
1 5th Grade Parent Math Information Night 7PM
3 Third Marking Period Ends: Schools Close 3 hours early
6-13 Spring Break—Schools Closed (4/13: snow closure makeup day)
23 Report Cards distributed & PTSA Executive Board Meeting at 6PM
27 Tentative: DMS MCAP Spring Testing starts – school-wide
28 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 8th 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
28 PTSA Executive Board Meeting (final meeting for the year): 6 PM

June
1 6th Grade Spring Arts Festival and Concert 7PM
8 National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Induction Ceremony 7 pm (Monday)
17 8th Grade Farewell Event -- 7pm (Wednesday)
19 Schools Close 3 Hours Early
22 ** Last Day of School: Close 3 Hours Early (Board of Education will determine final day)