

## BBMS PTA News - September 23, 2020

Bonnie Branch Middle School <no-reply@hcpss.org>

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To: Claire Striebich <Claire\_Striebich@hcpss.org>

# BBMS PTA News

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**September 23, 2020**

### Important Dates (mark your calendars)

September 25 – Sign up for S.T.A.RS program before 25 September!!!!

October 10- First Restaurant Night at Chipotle

October 14- PTA Virtual Meeting (Code will be sent the week of the meeting)

### **THANK YOU!!!**

Thank for you taking the time to take the survey! We received a lot of good feedback and we appreciate you taking the time to give suggestions of what you would like to see this upcoming school year. As we get accumulated to the new school year, we will start to slowly incorporate events that will cater to students and parents. Thank you to everyone who has become a new member, donated, or signed up to be a volunteer, it is greatly appreciated! Even though we are in a virtual setting we still need your support to keep the PTA alive! I highly encourage you to attend a PTA meetings to get the latest updates from admin, upcoming events or simply a suggestion. If you aren't able to attend a virtual meeting e-blast are sent out to the community every two weeks and all information is posted on the PTA website at

<https://www.bbmspta.org/>. We are still actively looking for committee members to join the team!! We have positions open, if you are interested please reach out! You have a question reach out to PTA president at [keiabenefield@gmail.com](mailto:keiabenefield@gmail.com)

## **Stars Program!!!**

***Looking to get involved and make a difference this year at BBMS? The STARS program is a fun, voluntary program which shows our appreciation to BBMS staff members. You provide small, inexpensive treats to your staff member once a month (Oct-May). It can be a small snack, gift card, candle, school supplies, etc. and you choose what day to send it in.***

***We will be doing things a little different this year. Since the students are not in school, you can drop off your gift to the front office any day of the week from 8 am - 3 pm and the administrative team will make sure to get the item to your STARS match.***

Staff members are so appreciative of this program. Many have said that receiving a treat has made their day. Please make sure to send in non-perishable items since the staff may not be able to pick up right away. Again, the items do not need to be expensive. It truly is the thought that counts.

**If you would like to participate, please send an email with your name, phone no., student name, and grade to Mashel Wakil at [bbmsstars1@gmail.com](mailto:bbmsstars1@gmail.com) by Friday, September 25, 2020.**

## **Tutoring Services For Free!!**

The PTA has teamed up with a non-profit organization called Interns 4 good! Intern4-good is a social enterprise that connects high school students with internships at nonprofit organizations to allow them to develop their professional skills while giving back to worthy causes. They have over 4,000 tutors that volunteer their time. This service is for all grades and subjects. All services are in English and Spanish!

- Our tech-savvy interns are ready, willing, and able to lend a hand to parents and teachers with learning programs such as Google Classroom and Zoom in both English and Spanish!
- Our tutors are high-achieving high school students who have all undergone an extensive screening process and share a love for working with children.
- We will pair up your student with a tutor/homework helper based on the subject(s) your student needs assistance in and the timing that works best for your student. All tutoring sessions will be recorded for safety purposes.

\*\*\*\*Please note it could take up to 3 to 5 days to get the initial notification based on the number of people who sign up for the

service. Please fill out the form [via this link](#) . Once you get the notification you will be able to pick a day and time that best fits your family schedule.

You need a little technology help? For those parents or teachers who are not technically savvy, it is okay Interns4-good can help!! They assist with zoom, google meet, google classroom, school learning/haiku learning, general technical help, device settings etc. [Sign Up!!](#) It is all free!!

### **Company Matching Program!**

Maximize Your Volunteer Hours or Direct Donations!

Does your firm have a corporate volunteer or donation matching program?

There is a chance that your company matches the hours you spend volunteering with the school or PTA with a corporate donation. Activities such as coat drives, teacher appreciation day, staff appreciation etc.

Also, if you have made a financial donation such as a direct donation to the school or PTA, it is possible your employer might match your donation?

There are a variety of ways to make the most of your volunteer hours and donations. It can be as easy as completing a simple form. Please check with your company to see if this benefit is available to you. If you would like more information, please contact PTA president at [keiabenefield@gmail.com](mailto:keiabenefield@gmail.com)

### **Virtual Creative Competitions!**

Need some fun activities for the kids to do?? Look no further Innovations future organization specializes in creative cooking, creative **face mask designing, creative problem solving, 5-minute playwrighting, coding games, animating, composing music**, and **designing fashion** from recyclable materials. All students 6-12 are invited to participate, and they can choose one or more competitions to participate based on their strengths and talents. Our purpose in making these competitions is to inspire

young people to come up with new ideas and technologies to create a better future. The winners of middle school and high school will be recognized. The top three in each competition will be awarded a trophy and a prize. The submission deadline is March 31, 2021. If you need more information about these competitions and you want to sign up please visit the site at <https://www.innovation-future.org/>. If you have any questions please reach out to [keiabenefield@gmail.com](mailto:keiabenefield@gmail.com)

### **Annual Howard County Coat Drive!**

In partnership with HCPSS Student Support Services and Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), PTA Council of Howard County is supporting the annual coat drive to provide students in our own school community (and their families) who are in need of winter wear (coats, gloves, hats, and scarves).

Due to the schools being closed currently, this outreach project will operate differently this year.

If your PTA can participate, please have members take all donations directly to the drop off collection site on Tuesday, September 22nd or Thursday, September 24th. If anyone is in need of help with delivering items, please contact PTACHC at [office@ptachc.org](mailto:office@ptachc.org) and it can be coordinated with you.

Drop off your collected coats and other winter items on:

**When: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 or Thursday, September 24, 2020**

**Time:** between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Where: Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD),**

9900 Washington Blvd., Suite 1

Laurel, MD 20723

Any family in need may receive items at the Coat Giveaway. No registration or proof of need required.

Saturday, October 10, 2020

10:00 am to noon (or until supplies last)

North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road,  
Laurel, MD 20723

### **Informational Resources!**

I received some feedback from in reference to online safety and tips that we can share with parents and students and teachers. I highly recommend you take the time to at least express the importance of internet safety to your student. I have provided some links feel free to read or give to your student to read since we are spending more time in the virtual world. Safety is key!!

<https://thesmarttalk.org/#/>

<https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/the-ultimate-parent-guide-for-child-internet/>

### **PTACHC Information!**

The 2020 PTACHC Nominating Committee is looking for people who may be interested in serving as officers or on committees this school year (2020-2021). If you would be interested in serving with PTACHC as an officer, committee chair or as a committee member, or if you would like to suggest someone who you think would be a great candidate, please email the nominating committee at [nominating@ptachc.org](mailto:nominating@ptachc.org).

A slate of officers will be announced 15 days prior to the October meeting with elections being held at that meeting. For more information, feel free to contact us! See descriptions below and at [www.ptachc.org](http://www.ptachc.org). Join us in working together to help make every child's potential a reality. Thanks so much for your consideration and suggestions! Contact the nominating committee at [nominating@ptachc.org](mailto:nominating@ptachc.org)

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BBMS PTA WEBSITE**

<https://www.bbmspta.org/>

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