

Important News from Bonnie Branch MS

Bonnie Branch Middle School

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To: Claire Striebich <Claire_Striebich@hcpss.org>;



Bonnie Branch Middle School

January News from BBMS

Community News from Bonnie Branch Middle School

We would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of our Shark Families!

This year opened with a blast of cold, snow, a school closing, and delayed openings. Please check the HCPSS calendar (i.e. Presidents' Day, Spring Break, and the end of the year) to see how inclement weather could potentially impact current vacation days. We don't want you to be surprised in case more weather requires the county to change course. Stay tuned!

January is a transition time in middle school. 8th grade students select courses for 9th grade and high schools hold parent nights to explain the process in more detail. Here are the dates that have been adjusted due to snow:

8th Grade Parent Nights:

- River Hill High School – 6:30pm on Monday, January 8
- Howard High School – 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 9
- Oakland Mills High School – 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 9
- Long Reach High School – 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 10

Bonnie Branch will also hold a parent night for incoming 6th grade parents next week on Thursday, January 11 at 6:00pm. This is a good chance to learn more about our school and what is available to students at BBMS including the Gifted and Talented and World Language programs. Please share this with your friends and neighbors with 5th grade students.

Town Hall Meetings:

And since we are talking about transitions, we will hold Town Hall meetings with each grade in the next few weeks to talk about second half of the year expectations. We will share how we expect to see a change in each grade level's behavior now that half the year is over. We expect that all students will have a strong focus on their academics in every class; that they will try their best, do their homework, and require less reminders each day. We will emphasize the connection between success and hard work and that raw talent only works for so long and that those students who work hard every day will have the greatest success down the road. We want students to see that being "College and Career Ready" is a good indicator for success in high school which means meeting the benchmark on MAP and earning a 4 or 5 on their PARCC test this spring. Please ask your student about these presentations (Jan 11 – 8th grade, Jan 18 – 7th grade, and Feb 1 – 6th grade).

Shark School – restarts on Tuesday, January 9!!

We will open our doors back up at 6:45am for students in Shark School next week. This program is geared to provide students with a little extra "boost" to help them reach "College and Career Ready" results on their MAP and PARCC tests. Please remember that Shark School does not run on 2-hour delayed openings. Currently, 72 students attend this program. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact your counselor or an administrator for more details.

Winter MAP Testing:

February 5 – 8: MAP test in Reading

February 12 – 15: MAP test in Math

Upcoming Events – mark your calendar!

January 9 – Shark School restarts – 6:45am

January 10 – PTA meeting – 7:00pm

January 11 – 5th Grade Parent Presentation – 6:00pm

January 26 – End of the 2nd Marking Period

February 7 – Music Recital with the Sharks – 7:00pm

February 9 – History Day at BBMS!

February 21 – Poetry Slam – 6:00pm

February 23 – Snow Ball Dance!

March 16 – International Night for the BBMS Community!

Stay warm Sharks!

Drew Cockley
Principal

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