

BBMS News... December 2018

Dear BBMS Families,

This week marks the last week of school in 2018. We hope that it has been a positive one for your student(s). It seems like yesterday that we were meeting with our new 6th grade students during orientation; how quickly time flies!

Recently, BBMS hosted activities for students in all science classes (grades 6 - 8) for the national “Hour of Code”. This is meant to highlight connections between science and technology while exposing students to different aspects of computer programming. Coding is a great career path for interested students and we hope this week helped open their eyes to this ever-growing field.

Also, we celebrated “Inclusive Schools Week” to help all students see the value in the diversity we have at BBMS. This week highlighted for students many ways that they are similar, as well as different, and how this helps bring a richness to our community. We hope they shared some of this with you too!

Tomorrow, BBMS welcomes teams from Howard and Long Reach High School who will meet with our 8th graders to talk about all the programs available to students in 9th grade. This includes the Junior ROTC program, elective courses, clubs, sports, and activities. This information will help students select the courses they want to take next year. Students in 8th grade will select high school courses in January, so be on the lookout for emails from Ms. Germroth and Ms. Savage; they will help you with everything there is to know about preparing for high school.

12-16-18

Before/After School Programs: Here are some updates about programs available to support students at BBMS. If you are interested in seeing if your student would benefit from one of these programs, please contact us!

- **English Language Learner Support Program:** Mr. Brinson, Ms. Jimenez, and Ms. Cohen-Holbrook work with students on Thursday afternoons from 3-4:30pm. The focus of this group is to build ELA and Math skills for those with emerging English language skills.
- **Writing Workshop:** Ms. Anthony-Williams is working with 6th grade students to improve their writing in an after school workshop setting.
- **Homework Help:** Ms. Wrenn has a group of students who meet to get their homework finished after school.
- Ms. Koslowski oversees a mentoring program that meets during Shark Tutorial on Thursdays and then extends after school if students and mentors are able to stay. This one-to-one mentoring is meant to help students in all areas that they want assistance with; including math and writing.
- **AM Shark School:** This program meets before school on Wednesdays and Thursdays with a focus on math and English skills. Students meet at 6:45am, have activity time until 7:00am where breakfast is served, then teachers pick them up from the cafeteria and teach lessons until 8:00am. Programs exist for students in all grades 6 to 8.

Other groups who meet after school include Math Counts, Drama Productions, Art Club, and the Step Team. There are more and more options to get students connected with programs at BBMS – thank you to everyone involved for making this happen!

And remember, we have an ACTIVITY BUS that runs on Thursdays after school at 4:30pm to help students access these programs.

We hope this helps you see the many ways students can get extra support at BBMS so they can reach their full potential. Please call us if you have any questions/interest in the programs listed.

Happy Holidays!

Drew Cockley

Principal