

# Back to School News - Bonnie Branch Middle School

## Bonnie Branch Middle School

Mon 8/6/2018 8:44 AM

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



## Bonnie Branch Middle School

# Back to School - are you ready?

### *Hello BBMS Families,*

We hope that your summer is going well and that you've been able to find time to connect with friends and family members in a less-rushed schedule. We hope students are reading... yes, reading! Finding time to read and unplug is healthy, increases school-readiness, and is fun! If your student needs some help finding a book, check our school website for summer reading lists.

### **NEW STAFF:**

Bonnie Branch Middle School will welcome five new staff members this year and we know they will be a great fit for our school. Here they are:

- Tiffany Carmean, Assistant Principal
- Michelle Almer, 6th Grade Science
- Lynn Birdsong, 7th Grade Science
- Julia D'Anna, Special Education
- Cathy Ferguson, Special Education Department Chair

### **FACILITIES:**

We are excited to share with you some changes to the building which look great so far. We changed over a number of classrooms from chalk boards to white boards and are in the process of installing new interactive projectors (in Special Education and Music). Due to increasing enrollment chorus room is moving from the Stage into a larger, music performance classroom and the gym is getting new flooring pads on our bleachers. Our fantastic custodial team has done a great job getting everything ready to welcome students back to school!

## **FAMILY FILE - ACTION NEEDED: (HELP US GET 100% COMPLETE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS)!!!**

HCPSS uses Family File for parents/guardians to complete emergency information. Parents/guardians must verify and/or update information for each child, and can do so by logging in to <http://www.hcpss.org/connect/> and selecting the Family File tab and then clicking on Family File.

Once logged in, parents/guardians will be asked to provide or update the following information:

- Student information
- Parent/guardian contact
- Emergency contacts
- Medical information
- Arrival/dismissal procedures
- Media release (photo approval)
- Data confidentiality
- PTA/PTSA directory

Changes of address may not be made through Family File. If you have recently moved, please contact your child's school as soon as possible.

For students who are bus riders, please note that bus numbers and routes shown in Family File may be subject to change. Please check the school and bus locator on the HCPSS website.

Resources on how to access Family File may be found online at <http://www.hcpss.org/connect/guides/#family-file-guides>

Parents who have forgotten their login credentials may click the "Forgot Password" link on the sign in page. If you need additional assistance, please fill out this Connect Help Form: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdB0nKdGfrELtDCQwO7dw73fHUx7\\_asV\\_uAhnF0SIbRlvO5nA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdB0nKdGfrELtDCQwO7dw73fHUx7_asV_uAhnF0SIbRlvO5nA/viewform)

## **STUDENT EMAILS**

Students in grades 6-12 have had restricted Office 365 email and G Suite accounts that only permit sending to and receiving from other HCPSS accounts. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, secondary students will have the ability to use their "@inst.hcpss.org" email account to send and receive email outside of HCPSS. They will also have the ability to share items (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Drive) from their G Suite to outside HCPSS domains, or non-HCPSS accounts. School librarians will include

information and lessons about these changes during media orientation at the beginning of the school year. Students will learn how to access the email account, share and send information safely to users outside HCPSS, and maintain password security.

## PTA

We love the support our PTA provides students and staff at BBMS and hope you will consider being active with them this year. We sent a separate notice out to parents last week about how you can help and know you will come through (like you always do). So, please talk to friends and neighbors and get involved. Our students and staff need you!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **August 29 (NEW DATE) - we are moving the locker set up and schedule distribution for 7th and 8th** grade to August 29 at 5:30pm to 7:00pm to avoid a conflict with Howard HS's Back to School Night. This date is reserved for parents and students of 7th and 8th grades ONLY to come pick up a schedule and set up lockers.
- **August 30 - 11:30am (NEW 7th and 8th grade students) and 12:00pm (ALL 6th Grade Students)... NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION.** Parents will have an orientation from 1:30pm to 2:30pm about the Outdoor Education field trip and how to get a good start to middle school; Parents/Guardians and students can tour the building from 2:30pm to 3:00pm.
- **September 4 - first day of school - all students arrive at 8:00am!**
- **September 12 - Back to School Night from 6:00pm to 8:30pm.**
- **September 21 - School Picture Day**
- **October 1-2-3: 6th Grade Students go to OUTDOOR EDUCATION!**

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### Connect with Us:



#### Address

4979 Ilchester Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043



#### Phone

410-313-2580

**Website**[bbms.hcpss.org](http://bbms.hcpss.org)**Twitter**[@hcpss\\_bbms](https://twitter.com/hcpss_bbms)**Instagram**[@bonnie\\_branch\\_ms](https://www.instagram.com/bonnie_branch_ms)

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SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.