

## Happy New Year from BBMS!

Bonnie Branch Middle School <dnr@hcpss.org>

Mon 1/4/2021 4:32 PM

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

# Happy New Year!

---

**January 4, 2021**

## News Topics:

1. Technology Needs
2. Congratulations BBMS Student Award Winners
3. Preferred Names in Synergy
4. Second Back to School Night (February 9) – 6pm to 8pm
5. BBMS Spelling Bee
6. Family Support and Resource Center
7. Free and Reduced Meals
8. Free Tutoring Services
9. HCPSS Remains Virtual in Quarter 3
10. Homeroom / SEL
11. Parent Resource - "Behavior Talks"
12. Supporting Maryland's Families in Need
13. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

### Dear BBMS Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family had a wonderful time over the holidays and during the winter break. We hope it provided you some time to rest, rejuvenate, and prepare for the second half of the school year. We are checking our plans for Quarters 3 & 4 to make sure we are ready to go - are you? We are leaving many of the recent topics in this newsletter for you as they remain important. Right now 8th grade students are selecting classes for next year. We are preparing to greet our incoming parents next week. And, in each grade, service learning projects are underway. There is a lot happening at BBMS right now during virtual learning and we hope you feel in "the know". If not, please reach out with questions. We are here to help!

***Happy 2021!***

***Dr. Cockley  
Principal***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/6 Rising 9th grade parent orientation – Howard HS (6pm)
- 1/7 Rising 9th grade parent orientation – Long Reach HS **(6pm)\*\*New Time!**
- 1/8 Deadline to Register for the Online Spelling Bee (see details below)**
- 1/12 Rising BBMS 6<sup>th</sup> (current 5<sup>th</sup>) grade parent orientation – 7pm
- 1/13 PTA Meeting – 7pm
- 1/15 Deadline for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to register for 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Synergy
- 1/18 Schools Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/28 End of the Second Marking Period
- 1/29 Schools Closed – Teacher Work Day
- 2/9 Second Back to School Night (details provided soon)

## NEW INFORMATION AND UPDATES:

### TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

If a new technology request becomes necessary including obtaining a device or internet support please complete a request through HCPSS. The link for information is [HERE](#).

If a problem exists with your HCPSS issued device, they may be exchanged or returned at any of the following Technology Support Centers:

- Old Bushy Park Elementary School, Rm. E2 (door to the right of the front entrance), 2690 Route 97, Glenwood (*building is between Glenwood Middle School and Bushy Park Elementary School*)
- Applications Research laboratory (ARL), Rm. B37 (door to the right of the front entrance), 10920 Clarksville Pike
- Ascend One HCPSS Conference Center, Patuxent Room (door to the left just inside first set of doors), 8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia (*Please park behind the building and look for the HCPSS entry*)

Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 2-5 p.m. Please note that the Technology Support Centers are closed any day that [HCPSS offices are closed](#).

## CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENTS!

We would like to recognize **8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Teresa Cherian**, for earning 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Middle School Essay Contest. Teresa will be honored by the Office of Human Rights & Equity for her entry. We are so proud!

**Student Council** – three (3) Delegates were selected for BBMS to represent our school at the Student Member of the Board Convention this year.

Congratulations **Matthew Banyas (8<sup>th</sup>)**, **Cindy Qin (6<sup>th</sup>)** and **Amelia Starr (7<sup>th</sup>)** for serving as our delegates this year!

## PREFERRED NAMES IN SYNERGY, CANVAS & GOOGLE

A new process will be enabled in January 2021 to allow HCPSS students to show a **preferred name** in Synergy, Canvas and Google. For students who are transgender or gender non-binary, there is an additional procedure to mask their legal name and/or gender assigned at birth, providing additional confidentiality. [Click here](#) for more information.

## SAVE THE DATE! SECOND SEMESTER BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Bonnie Branch will host a second semester Back-to-School-Night on Tuesday, February 9 so families will have a chance to meet their child's second semester teachers. The evening will be an abbreviated version of our fall back to school night, consisting mostly of classroom visits. **This virtual event will take place on February 9 from 6pm to 8pm.**

## BBMS SPELLING BEE

**Deadline to Register: Friday, January 8, 2021**

**Register Your Child for the Bonnie Branch Middle School Spelling Bee!**

This year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee has developed an online testing platform that we will use for this year's bee, since we are not physically at school. Unfortunately, in accordance with the Scripps National Bee rules, we are not able to have a spelling bee over Google Meet, which is why we are using the online testing platform they developed.

In place of our traditional spelling bee program, we will hold one schoolwide competition through an online spelling test. The first step to spelling bee participation is for you to register for the Scripps National Spelling Bee's online testing platform by visiting <https://online-test.spellingbee.com>.

We encourage you to watch this video tutorial that will walk you through the registration process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htXzjpnMijc>

Once you have registered, we will be able to assign the test to your child. Your child must complete the test before the given deadline, and these tests can be taken on any device with a web browser, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones.

Our school champion will move on to represent Bonnie Branch Middle School in the Howard County Library System's regional spelling bee program, which also may include online tests in lieu of in-person spelling bee events.

The first step to spelling bee participation is to register at [online-test.spellingbee.com](https://online-test.spellingbee.com). **You must register your child by January 8, and your child will have to complete the online spelling bee [test] between January 13 and 20.**

If you have already registered in the online testing platform for another child, you can log in to your account and add an additional child to that same parent account. There is no need to register a different email address for each child in your household.

Once registered, we encourage your child to spend time reviewing the [spelling bee study list](#).

Please reach out to Mr. Humphrey, spelling bee coordinator, if you have any questions about our school spelling bee program. We look forward to having your child compete to represent our school!

## REMINDERS:

### FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE CENTER

Do you have a child with an IFSP or an IEP? The HCPSS Family Support and Resource Center (FSRC) offers a weekly email just for you! FSRC communications include helpful workshops, resources and community information specifically geared to supporting your journey. As a parent of a child with an IFSP or an IEP, you should already be receiving the email, but if not, let us know so we can include your contact information in our database. You can also email specific questions to [FSRC@hcpss.org](mailto:FSRC@hcpss.org).

### FARMS APPLICATION (FREE AND REDUCED MEALS)

The coronavirus pandemic is causing a lot of hardship for many of our friends and neighbors. Many HCPSS families have been impacted financially by the pandemic, and may be eligible now to receive benefits through the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) program. Qualifying families can take advantage of a wide range of additional resources and discounts, including testing fees, tuition, internet and more.

[Click here](#) to learn more or to apply.

*Important Note:* If your student received Free or Reduced Meals during the 2019-2020 school year, please be reminded that a new application must be completed each year. For more information about school meals and programs, please visit the HCPSS website at: <http://www.hcpss.org/food-services/>.

## **FREE TUTORING SERVICES**

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!

<https://www.bbmspta.org/post/free-tutoring-services>

## **HCPSS TO REMAIN VIRTUAL THROUGH THIRD ACADEMIC QUARTER**

During its work session this past Monday, the Howard County Board of Education voted to continue the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in a virtual instructional model through the third academic quarter, which ends April 14, 2021. More information can be found on the [HCPSS website](#).

## **HOMEROOM/SEL PERIOD**

Each Monday at 10:50 a.m., all students go to their homeroom/SEL. We want to remind our students and families that Homeroom/SEL sessions are on the student's schedule and attendance is taken for this class.

## **PARENT RESOURCE: "BEHAVIOR TALKS"**

"Behavior Talks" is a series of brief trainings created by HCPSS staff. Each video shares useful tips to promote student success related to behavior, social/emotional needs, organization/self-management at home, and more. For more information and to access the videos, [click here](#).

## **SUPPORTING MARYLAND'S FAMILIES IN NEED**

The Maryland Department of Human Services is the state's human service provider. The agency provides a wide range of services that are administered by local departments of social services in each of the 24 local jurisdictions across the state. These services assist low-income individuals and families in their communities. [Click here](#) for more information.

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health. This benefit is meant to supplement an applicant's food budget. Click Here: [Información en español](#)  
Click Here: [Information in English](#)

---

**Bonnie Branch Middle School** | 4979 Ilchester Road Ellicott City, MD 21043 | (410) 313-2580 | [bms.hcpss.org](http://bms.hcpss.org)

---

Howard County Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Howard County Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

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.