

**News from BBMS!**

Bonnie Branch Middle School &lt;dnr@hcpss.org&gt;

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To: Claire Striebich &lt;Claire\_Striebich@hcpss.org&gt;

## End of 2020 NEWS from BBMS!

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### December 23, 2020

#### News Topics:

1. Technology Needs
2. Winter Break Meal Service
3. Congratulations BBMS Student Award Winners
4. Preferred Names in Synergy
5. Second Back to School Night (February 9)
6. BBMS Spelling Bee
7. Family Support and Resource Center
8. Free and Reduced Meals
9. Free Tutoring Services
10. Get Your BBMS Spirit Wear (deadline to order: January 3, 2021)
11. HCPSS Remains Virtual in Quarter 3
12. Homeroom / SEL
13. International Night (deadline to share your traditions: January 4, 2021)
14. Parent Resource - "Behavior Talks"
15. Supporting Maryland's Families in Need
16. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

#### Dear BBMS Families,

We hope that this holiday season brings good health, peace, and happiness to you and your family. This year has brought with it many challenges, yet we continue to persevere. Our students have shown us that they are capable of learning online and our teachers have quickly figured out creative ways to engage students in this virtual setting. Our PTA continues to thrive and many in our community are benefitting from their support. We will be here to greet you with open arms when the time comes. We miss you!

#### *Happy Holidays!*

*Dr. Cockley*  
*Principal*

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/24 - 1/13** Schools Closed - Winter break
- 1/6** Rising 9th grade parent orientation – Howard HS (6pm)
- 1/7** Rising 9th grade parent orientation – Long Reach HS (7pm)
- 1/12** Rising 6th 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](#).

### WINTER BREAK MEAL SERVICE

All HCPSS meal service is suspended during winter break from Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021. There will be no meal service during this time. For more information about meal adjustments and when to get food prior to winter break, [Click Here](#).

### 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. More information will be shared after winter break.

## BBMS SPELLING BEE

**2020-2021 Spelling Bee:** We are pleased to announce that BBMS students will have the opportunity to participate in a "virtual spelling bee" this year as part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. We are still working out details, but the event will be in the form of an online test in January via Scripps' online platform. If you wish to participate, please email [john\\_humphrey@hcpss.org](mailto:john_humphrey@hcpss.org) for study materials. Information about dates and registering for the test will be provided soon.

## 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>

### GET YOUR SPIRIT WEAR!

Please support your PTA and local small business! Shop for new spirit wear with winner designs for the new year. You have the option to pick up your orders from Nightmare Graphics located in Columbia or it can be shipped to your home!

Nightmare Graphics, 9005 Red Branch Rd, Columbia, MD

Online store link: <https://bbmsspiritfall20.itemorder.com/sale>

**Order Deadline: Sunday January 3rd, 2021 (11:59pm EST)**

Any questions, email: [bbms.spiritwear@gmail.com](mailto:bbms.spiritwear@gmail.com)

### 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.

## VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Although the holidays will be different this year, we have found creative ways to celebrate with our loved ones. We would love to see you celebrate the holidays this year. Please share a picture collage of your favorite holiday this year. The pictures can include a family tradition, you or your family members dressed in ethnic dresses, favorite holiday food or a family recipe, a traditional game or anything that represents a diverse culture, world with unique traditions and customs at BBMS. All submissions will be compiled in a slide show and will be shared with the BBMS community.

Please click on the following link for directions.

Make a copy of the slideshow.

Add pictures to the slide and email/share with [bbmsinternationalnight@gmail.com](mailto:bbmsinternationalnight@gmail.com)

**Please share the slide no later than Monday, JANUARY 4, 2021 (\*New Deadline)**

For more information contact Momina Malik [bbmsinternationalnight@gmail.com](mailto:bbmsinternationalnight@gmail.com)

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19AizWzg\\_sfmfxXJfXFPCMiwOCqI3tV7nc\\_blil\\_Duyk/copy#slide=id.ga246a2b3c9\\_0\\_0](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19AizWzg_sfmfxXJfXFPCMiwOCqI3tV7nc_blil_Duyk/copy#slide=id.ga246a2b3c9_0_0)

## 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](#)

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12/23/2020

Mail - Claire Striebich - Outlook

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.