

## BBMS News of the Week

Bonnie Branch Middle School <dnr@hcpss.org>

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## Bonnie Branch Middle School

# BBMS News of the Week

### **INSIDE**

1. **MAP Testing – October 7 & 14**
2. **PTA Membership**
3. **Clubs – September 29**
4. **G&T Seminars – September 29**
5. **BSAP Saturday Math Academy – September 26**
6. **HCPSS Family Mathematics Support Center**
7. **Khan Academy**
8. **Flu Vaccines**
9. **Science Lovers! – September 26**
10. **Face to Face Support for Students**

### *Dear BBMS Families,*

We hope you are seeing students get into a good routine with classes and assignments now that we are three weeks into the year. This email has a lot of important information; so please save this for future reference. MAP testing is right around the corner (October 7 and 14) and occurs on a Wednesday; so please prepare your students to be online that day. That is a change from our weekly schedule. We also thank the many families who have joined the PTA. We are seeing a good response to membership, but we still need more parents to join. Lastly, there is no school on Monday (we doubt your kids needed to be reminded of that). We wish those of you who are of Jewish faith “G’mar chatima tova” and “L’shana tova”. To all of our BBMS Families, we hope you are healthy and safe and that you have all of the support you need right now. Please reach out to us if there is anything we can do to help your student have a great year this year.

***Go Sharks!***

***Drew Cockley***  
***Principal***

## **(1) MAP TESTING:**

- Students will be assessed in Reading (October 7) and Math (October 14) using the MAP Test. Instructions will be provided by PERIOD 3 TEACHERS next week to ensure all students can access MAP testing materials. Students will test with their period 3 teacher on October 7 and 14 - even though it is a Wednesday and students don't normally have class. Students can choose to take the test in the morning (9-11:00am) or in the afternoon (1-3:00pm). We are offering two times to help families juggle schedules those days.
- **Wednesday, October 7: Reading Test.** Students will choose the 9am or 1pm time slot. Students login with their regular period 3 teacher using the Google Meet code they use every other day. Teachers will give students instructions from there.
- **Wednesday, October 14: Math Test.** Again, students will choose the 9am or 1pm time slot. Students login with their regular period 3 teacher using the Google Meet code they use every other day. Teachers will give students instructions from there.

## **(2) PTA Membership:** <https://www.bbmspta.org/become-a-member>

- **The PTA is also looking for parents who are bilingual in Spanish and English** to form a stronger connection for our families in this community. If you can be someone that other families can call when they have questions about school we would certainly appreciate it. Please email [keiabenefield@gmail.com](mailto:keiabenefield@gmail.com) or [andrew\\_cockley@hcpss.org](mailto:andrew_cockley@hcpss.org) if you can help with this group.
- **The PTA has partnered with a non-profit organization who will provide tutoring services for Bonnie Branch Middle School this year. All services will be free!** There will be a link that allows you to sign your child up in the next PTA eblast. Once you sign up you will receive a call or email and they will match a tutor that will meet your child's specific needs. You will be able to pick a day and time and a zoom link will be sent and your tutoring services will start! This information will be available to you on 23 September via PTA eblast or on the PTA website. They also tutor in all subjects to provide help in other areas you would like to address. They have over 4,000 tutors (elite high school students), who are interviewed to ensure they are getting the best students. More information will be in the PTA eblast. We hope this helps!

**(3) CLUBS:** visit this link to see all of our clubs being offered virtually this fall. The deadline to sign up is September 29!

- <http://bbms.hcpss.org/news/2020/09/exciting-virtual-after-school-programs>

**(4) GT Seminars:** visit this link to see what instructional seminars are available for ALL students. Deadline to sign up is Sept 29!

- <http://bbms.hcpss.org/news/2020/09/gt-instructional-seminars>

### **(5) BSAP SATURDAY MATH ACADEMY:**

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2020/09/bsap-saturday-math-academy-fall-2020-registration-september-12-2020/>

The Howard County Public School System's BSAP Saturday Math Academy (BSAP-SMA) has been in existence since 1992. The program was developed in collaboration with the HCPSS and parents as a response to requests for opportunities to network. The priority was to learn instructional mathematical strategies to support their children at home and to accelerate academic achievement.

Registration for the Fall 2020 BSAP Saturday Math Academy will be on September 26. [Click here](#) for more information, including registration information.

**(6) HCPSS Family Mathematics Support Center:** there is a tab for "Middle School Math" which break each course down by units. Inside you will find practice problems, solutions, and more. We will provide more detailed instructions soon, but for now, this is a great place to start if you want to practice those math skills. Click [HERE](#).

**(7) KHAN Academy:** the Khan Academy has great courses set up to help prepare students for their next class in math. These are called "Get Ready For \_\_\_\_". Courses go from 3rd grade all the way to Pre-Calculus. Directions for enrolling in these classes can be found [HERE](#).

**(8) HCPSS 2020 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinics:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, obtaining a vaccine for seasonal influenza (flu) is even more important this year than ever. HCPSS Health Services is continuing its partnership with the Howard County Health Department (HCHD) and the Maryland Partnership for Prevention (MPP) to offer several regional seasonal flu vaccine clinics for HCPSS students and staff during the month

of October. The clinic dates are October 7-14. The clinics will be held at 24 school sites, outdoors, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., and ANY HCPSS student or staff may attend ANY clinic they wish; pre-registration with appointments will be required. Registration starts on Monday, September 21 and closes on Wednesday, September 30. Register at [www.vaccineconsent.com](http://www.vaccineconsent.com) and search by location for flu clinics.

**The dates and sites are as follows:**

Wednesday, October 7 – AHS, CHS, DLES, SFES

Thursday, October 8 – GHS, WLHS, JHES, ARL

Friday, October 9 – MRHS, HOHS, LWES, HMS

Monday, October 12 – RHS, MHHS, BWES, CRES

Tuesday, October 13 – OMHS, HCMS, LES, DRES

Wednesday, October 14 – RHHS, LRHS, GCES, LFES

The health room staff at the schools will coordinate with administration and custodial services on logistics; the clinics will be held outside and will be drive-up clinics. Students and staff may stay in their car when they are vaccinated, or they can sit outside at a table if they walk up. All parties will be required to use appropriate PPE and all social distancing measures will be employed.

## **(9) Greetings ALL Science Lovers!**

Join the Robinson Nature Center and Howard Astronomical League for a virtual event on International Observe the Moon Night, this Saturday, September 26, from 7:30 - 8:30 pm. See the moon through different telescopes across Howard County, enjoy video clips from Robinson's planetarium, and hear from local astronomy experts. Fun for all ages and FREE! Please see this Flyer for more information:

## **(10) Face-to-Face Supports to Small Groups of Students**

- In the coming weeks, HCPSS will begin providing face-to-face support to small groups of students. Identified students and staff have been invited to complete an interest survey. If you did not receive a survey, it is because your child has not yet been identified for in-person support.
- All students who receive special education services will receive an email with directions

to complete a survey. If your child receives special education services, and you have not received an email by Friday, September 25, then please reach out to Ann Scholz ([ann\\_scholz@hcpss.org](mailto:ann_scholz@hcpss.org)) from the Office of Special Education Compliance, Non-Public Services, and Family Support. More information about the HCPSS In-Person Support initiative can be found here: <https://www.hcpss.org/2020-2021/small-groups/>.

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