

In the Middle

Arbutus Middle School Quarterly Newsletter
2022-23 Q1



6th Grade

Mr. Warren – 6th Grade AP

Congratulations on our 6th grade making it, nearly, to the halfway point of the year. I hope that everyone has a fun, relaxing, and much deserved winter break. The end of the second quarter arrives shortly after we return from winter break, January 17th. Please remind your students to complete any missing or make-up work prior to the end of the quarter. As always, please encourage your child to keep track of their class progress and assignments through Schoology. If you find your child needs additional help, please encourage them to see their teacher during PRIDE class, or sign up our Arbutus Achievers program after school to work with a UMBC tutor. Please note that I will be participating in an administrative professional learning experience, placing me in another BCPS school, for the month of January. If there is any way we can assist your child during my absence please reach out to Ms. Gardner (6th grade counselor), Mrs. Jackson (6th grade team leader), or the administrative team. Look forward to returning to AMS on February 1st.

Mrs. Jackson – Team Leader

A recent survey completed by 6th grade students showed that 52% self reported that they were not meeting with success in one or more classes. Please take time weekly to check your child's Schoology account for signs that they might be struggling. Missing assignments are the number one reason why students' grades start to fall. Encourage your child to complete all assigned work and review that work at home as a way to study for upcoming assessments.

ELA

Standard ELA students are reading a variety of non-fiction texts addressing the topics of facing fears and dealing with disaster. We are working to dig deeper into ideas across texts to develop new understanding of themes and topics. The PBA for this unit also serves as the Grade 6 service-learning project. That means that your son/daughter will be earning service learning hours by completing the required tested grade. Please encourage him/her to work hard and show how smart he/she is!

GT ELA students are examining how a variety of media depict individuals and groups, as well as how individuals and groups depict themselves. Students will be applying different literary approaches (sociological, historical, psychological, and feminist approaches) to literary criticism to analyze how authors introduce and develop individuals and groups. Students are reading *The Giver* in order to explore how authors develop fictional individuals who assert their identities in different social contexts. Please ask your son/daughter about the book and make sure he/she is keeping up with the reading.

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Reading Research

Reading Research students have started Unit 2, “Making Cultural Connections: Connecting Experiences.” Students will read, analyze, and synthesize multiple texts about various cultures in order to create a “museum” to showcase the five artifacts that best reflect that culture. Like Unit 1, students will use the Guided Inquiry Research Process Model. It is a flexible model that will help guide students through all parts of a research project. The Guided Inquiry has eight phases: Open, Immerse, Explore, Identify, Gather, Create, Share, and Evaluate.

Reading

Read 180: We will be continuing to work on our comprehension skills this quarter by identifying central ideas and details. We will begin a new workshop titled *Water Fight* in this unit students will learn background information about the water cycle that lays the foundation for understanding a domain-specific science text. A short folktale follows to help students understand the importance of rain. Then, an informational text paired with an interactive map shows the causes and effects of severe droughts. The next text uses a variety of formats to help students understand how much water is used with everyday tasks and products. Water crisis management is addressed in the three op-ed articles before the workshop concludes with an infographic showing an innovative Toilet-to-Tap program in which wastewater is recycled into clean drinking water.

System 44: We will continue to work on our phonemic awareness. We are beginning Unit 3 titled *Game On*. In this unit we will identify central ideas and details, continue to enhance our vocabulary and work contrasting short vowel sounds.

Math

Math 6: Standard Mathematics just completed Unit 2 on ratios and rates. We are moving into Unit 3 which focuses on unit rates and percentages. This is a short unit, so we will start Unit 4 before the end of the quarter. Unit 4 focuses on dividing fractions. Please continue to have your child practice their math facts, monitor their grade and redo and low scores.

Math 6/7: We have just finished Unit 2, which was focused on ratios, unit rates, and percentages. We will be moving into Unit 3 which will focus on multiplying and dividing with fractions and decimals. Please encourage your child to work on their math facts and review information on our schoology page when missing class. The student lessons will help review the materials we did in class and schoology will contain most of the assessments as well.

GT Math: In GT Math 6, students just finished Unit 2, which consisted of identifying and creating scale drawings, defining and identifying similarity and exploring the slope of a line on a coordinate plane. As we move into Unit 3 we will focus on writing and solving linear equations.

World Languages

Chinese:

NovChA- Students have been working with numbers in Chinese to describe various dates and their birthdays. Learning their numbers is the most important concept during this unit as they will use numbers to describe everything from months, days, days of the week and more! Challenge your student to say the numbers 1-10 for you!

Spanish:

Novice A- Students have been describing various food choices that they like to eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. They have also learned how to say why they enjoy eating these foods as well. They have thoroughly enjoyed this Unit and will continue to examine eating habits.

Science

Sixth graders are currently engaged in learning about Matter and Its Interactions. This unit focuses on the structure and properties of matter, the phases of matter, and chemical changes. Students have explored the structure of matter and have made models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and compounds. Up next, the physical and chemical properties of matter will be discussed which includes exploring how temperature affects the arrangement and motion of atoms. We will conclude this unit exploring how new substances can form from existing substances in the creation of synthetic materials.

World History

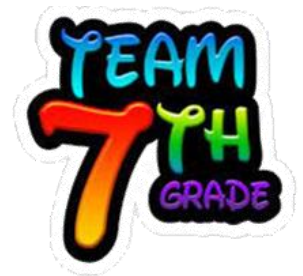
Unit 2 continues in Quarter 2 as students analyze roles of individuals within Egyptians and Mesopotamian society and determine the impacts of technology, trade, geography and government on successes and failures of these first civilizations. We are approaching the end of this unit and students should begin preparing for upcoming tests.

Students should be holding on to all of their Unit 2 notes and working on their organizational skills. Many times these notes are used for open-note quizzes, study sessions and as a reference for ongoing learning. Up next for unit 3 is the Age of Empires, where we will analyze ancient Greece and ancient Rome. What made these civilizations so powerful and expansive? Get ready to find out!

7th Grade

Ms. Parker – 7th Grade AP

As we quickly move into the 2nd half of the 2nd quarter. I would like to celebrate our 7th graders. It was great seeing so many of you at the Straight A Breakfast. This breakfast in an opportunity to celebrate our students who have worked hard to accomplish their personal academic goals.



Student Pep Rally Day will be December 21st during 4th period. Students who have exhibited positive behaviors during the 1st half of the 2nd quarter will participate in our first Grade Level Pep Rally and Activities Day. Students will cheer for each other as they participate in a variety of fun activities.

Grades and academic support are important for student success. Students should take some of their time away from school to “catch up” on any missing assignments or redos. While it is necessary for all to get rest during our break, it is also a great time to complete assignments or study for upcoming assessments.

In closing, consider supporting our PTA by becoming a member, supporting the planning and implementation of an activity, attending a fundraiser, or making a donation to support the students of AMS.

I wish you an incredible Winter Break! Happy New Year!

Science

We will be finishing our second unit: Form and Function this month. Students are learning about how life is organized from the cell up to the entire organism. We will then focus on the human body and how each cell, tissue, organ, and organ system must function and work together for survival.

World Languages

Spanish

For Spanish 1 (Novice A), we are in Unit 2 and are learning about different foods. So far, we have done what we like to eat for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. Students have learned a variety of words to identify foods and describe why they like to eat/don't like to eat certain foods. For the upcoming weeks, we will describe our eating habits and identify our favorite dishes and various healthy foods and beverages.

Chinese

NovChA- Students have been working with numbers in Chinese to describe various dates and their birthdays. Learning their numbers is the most important concept during this unit as they will use numbers to describe everything from months, days, days of the week and more! Challenge your student to say the numbers 1-10 for you!

NovChB- Students have been learning how to describe their various vacations. This week we will be learning how to express where they went during vacation, such as the beach, pool, park and more! Students will be learning lots of vocabulary, so please encourage your student to study at home by using Quizlet links and making flashcards!

World History

Unit 2 / Quarter 2 in 7th grade history turns its attention to Medieval Europe. We began Unit 2 and examined Feudalism. This was the form of government that helped Europe stabilize after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. We have also made our own Coat of Arms, which was used in Medieval Europe to identify individual knights. In the near future, we will have our first quiz of Unit 2, examine The Manor, as well as the church's influence on the lives of citizens. As we approach Christmas Break, we will be learning about Medieval towns and cities, technology of the Middle Ages, as well as Medieval art and literature. Once we return from break on 1/3, we only have a few weeks until the end of the second quarter. With two breaks, the second quarter flies by, and it's very important to stay on top of your student's grades on Schoology!! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

ELA

Ms. Kian's and Ms. Lawrence's 7th grade ELA is analyzing poems, songs, and a book-in-verse about basketball (Kwame Alexander's *The Crossover*) to understand the impact of writers' artistic choices. Students will also be crafting their own original poems.

Ms. Richards's 7th grade GT ELA are analyzing poetry and drama. They are looking at the writer's artistic choices. For their PBA, students will be composing a poem or script based on a particular theme.

Reading

7th Grade Reading is focusing on *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Students will learn about Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth and the motive behind Lincoln's assassination and the manhunt that followed. Students will also be taking their mid-year Reading Inventory to see how their reading has improved!

Math

In Algebra 1 G/T students just finished with learning inequalities and are about to move on to two variable statistics.

In Math 7th, students are just finishing with measurements of circles (radius, diameter, circumference, area) then is moving on to proportional relationships and percentages



8th Grade

Mrs. Owens – 8th Grade AP

Happy holidays! I cannot believe we are almost halfway through the school year. The students have worked so hard these last few months and we are so proud of our students' accomplishments. As we transition into a new year, we will revisit our rules and policies the second quarter by having a class meeting the first week back into the building. We will remind students when entering the building, they are required to take off hats and hoods. Parents, we need your continued support to ensure that students are keeping cell phones off/silenced and away during school hours (except lunch time). Remember that both grades and behavior will impact student participation in the quarterly incentives, Student of the Month, and end of the year activities. Our quarterly incentive is on January 17. Following our school procedures and expectations ensures students are ready for success. Making these daily choices into routines and habits will lead to a successful 8th grade year. Please do not hesitate to contact any teacher. If your child is absence due to sickness, please send an email to their homeroom teachers or send in a sick note. Parent and school communication is crucial this last half of the school year. We are here to help support you and your child! Our goal is for our students to have a smooth transition to high school next year feeling very prepared and confident.

Science

8th grade science is diving deep into history by looking at the geologic timeline and fossils! We will continue to explore how animals have evolved over time by looking at different features and how they have changed! At the end of the quarter students will be creating a digital museum exhibit tracking an animal through geologic time.

American History

In American History, we have been examining the new United States in the post Revolution time period. This course of study includes lessons on drafting the Constitution and the compromises that helped it get written. Then we look at ratifying and amending this amazing document. We will also examine the precedents set by our first President, George Washington. The Presidencies of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson will be examined as we conclude with the Louisiana Purchase.

ELA

In 8th grade ELA, students have been examining different mediums and evaluating how the medium used to present an idea can impact the message. Students will soon be demonstrating their mastery of this standard in their PBA, in which they will evaluate several multimedia sources related to a similar topic and compose a critique of the most beneficial source. Throughout this unit, students have been reading and writing texts focused on the power of diversity.

Similarly, in 8th grade ELA GT, students have also been focusing on diversity throughout various types of texts and writing tasks. Students read a historical fiction novel, *Refugee*, and explored the historical context of the character's tales, in addition to different forms of nonfiction such as the memoir and personal essay. The PBA for this unit is research-based; students will synthesize information from various multimedia sources and compose a proposal to Ms. Feeney with an original idea about how to celebrate the diversity of our school, using their research to back up their proposal.

Reading

In Reading, we are finishing up Unit 2 "Water Fight" In this unit we practiced our comprehension skills and identifying central ideas and details. We learned about the effects of drought and what we can do to prevent droughts from occurring. We also recently completed our mid-year reading inventory to check our reading growth. Many students have shown great improvements.

Math

IM Math is a problem-based core curriculum rooted in content and practice standards to foster learning and achievement for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language. Last unit in Math 8 students focused on dilation, similarity and understanding slope. The students used what they learned about similar triangles to find slope. The students will take this knowledge to build on their understanding of linear and proportional relationships in our next unit. The students will learn how to write equations and graph situations that represent linear relationships. In Geometry we just finished our unit on Congruence. Our next unit of study will focus on dilations, similarity, and similar triangles. In Algebra 1 the students just finished Unit 3 on Two-Variable Statistics. Our next unit will be focused on functions and calculating outputs for the different inputs of a function.

World Languages

Spanish

Intermediate Spanish is learning all about animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. Students have been able to identify a variety of animals, types of animals, what they can and cannot do, what they eat, as well as what they have. Students have thoroughly enjoyed this Unit as it relates to learning about different animals and how to describe them in full detail. We will wrap up this Unit by examining the reasons for their extinction as well as how to protect these animals.

Chinese

NovChB- Students have been learning how to describe their various vacations. This week we will be learning how to express where they went during vacation, such as the beach, pool, park and more! Students will be learning lots of vocabulary, so please encourage your student to study at home by using Quizlet links and making flashcards!

IntCh- Students have been learning about how to express themselves when they are sick. Students will continue to learn a lot of vocabulary at a faster pace than in previous years. It should be expected that students spend some time at home reviewing vocabulary. To do this, students can use the Quizlet links and make flashcards.

Notes from Nurse Woody

There are many illnesses floating around this time of year including COVID, Flu, RSV, and Strep throat. Please be mindful of others and follow the guidelines below.

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?

- For a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Student must be fever-free WITHOUT fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol or Motrin) for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (student may return to school 24 hours after last episode)
- Uncontrollable, infectious cough
- Suspected communicable disease (i.e. chicken pox, lice, ringworm)
- Suspected infection of the eyes (conjunctivitis), nose, throat (strep throat), or skin (scabies)
- A rash of unknown origin-must be seen by a physician
- Students must stay home for the first 24 hours of antibiotic therapy
- If positive for COVID, student must stay home for 5 full days after testing positive. They may return to school on day 6 but must wear a mask for 5 additional days.

It is important to remember the above guidelines if your child isn't feeling well. By following these guidelines, we will prevent other students from becoming ill. Also, remember that hand washing is the best defense against the spread of germs. If your child hasn't gotten a Flu shot or COVID booster yet, now is the time! Don't forget to send in a note after your child has been absent due to illness so that they are marked excused.

How to set up parental controls on an Android device:
<https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en>

Community Resources for Families and Students:

Emergency emotional support: 988

United Way: 211

Crisis text line: Text the word "HOME" to 741741 for free 24 hour support

Maryland Suicide and Crisis Hotline: 1.800.422.0009

Baltimore County DSS: 410.887.TIME

Baltimore County Crisis Response: 410.931.2214

The Trevor Project: 1.866.488.7386 or text START to 678678

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): <https://namibaltimore.org/find-support/>

Free support groups and classes to help students and families living with mental illness

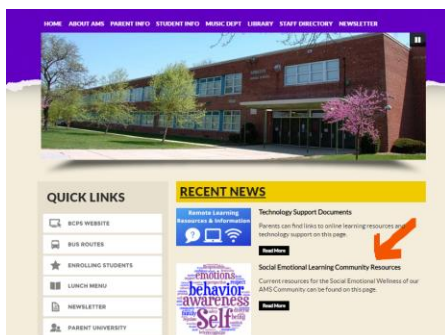
Food, Clothing, Household Items, and Emergency Financial Assistance:

Southwest Emergency Services: 1201 Maple Ave, Halethorpe; 410-247-8154; <https://swes-md.org>

Maryland Food Bank: 410.737.8282

Arbutus Middle Health and Wellbeing Hub with Resources: <https://sites.google.com/view/ams-health-and-wellbeing-hub/home?pli=1>

Easily accessible link located on the Arbutus Middle Website main page at the top



BCPS Family Resources Hub: https://scs.bcps.org/departments/social_emotional_support

Specials

Music Department

The students worked very diligently on their concert music and gave wonderful performances Dec 6, 7 and 8th. We are very proud of their performances. Mrs. Tammy Mills conducted the choruses and they sounded fantastic. We are so glad that she has been willing to help us when we did not have a chorus teacher this year. Mr. Miskimon has been coaching the chorus classes when Mrs. Mills was needed at another school for October and November. Ms. McCusker has been coaching our Festival Choir students after school all semester and they sounded FANTASTIC!

Thank you to our administration and teachers for all their support and Mr. Moser and the Broadcast team for recording the concerts and making sure we can share the performances with fans at home.

The Arbutus Wind Ensemble, Concert Orchestra, Festival Choir and Jazz Band performed at Charlestown Retirement Community and Halethorpe Elementary School on December 12th. Thanks to the parents that helped with the equipment the trip went very smoothly. Our chaperones are the BEST.

The CHS choir performed for all of the music students December 16th, and it was lovely.

Our next project will be getting students ready to audition for the All-County Honors Groups and the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Percussion students will be composing their own pieces to perform for their fellow students. The Band students will be going on a field trip to the Meyerhoff on February 8th to see a BSO performance of Jazz pieces.

February 27,28th and March 2nd our 8th grade groups will be performing at CHS for a Southwest Area Showcase event. It is in the evening at 7pm.

Look for more information about the end of the year Hershey Park trip, soon.

P.E.

Students have been actively participating in the hockey unit and are looking forward to basketball, volleyball, table tennis and dance/tinikling. Students have been enjoying their PE incentives, including a flag football tournament, open gym time and an upcoming basketball tournament. Students continue to challenge themselves to improve their physical fitness levels as we have been focused on health and skill related fitness components, heart rate and perceived levels of exertion. Please continue to encourage students to come dressed in athletic clothes and sneakers on PE days.

Art

Q2 Art Department News

Congratulations to our students whose work was put on display for the winter concert series these works will be made available to view digitally on December 20th through their art course pages.

Hooray for Hollywood! Select student artworks will be placed on display at the Hollywood Movie Theatre in Arbutus starting in late January. Students whose work will be on display will be notified in early January.

December 15th marked the end of the Fall Semester Art club. Spring semester Art Club will begin January 31st. There will be 2 Art Club groups in the spring semester. Art Club 1 will meet on Tuesdays 310-420pm, and Art Club 2 will meet on Thursdays 310-420pm. Students will be required to complete a new permission slip for the spring semester for their chosen art club group. See Ms. Snyder after break for a new permission slip. Spots are limited to 32 per group.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 23-January 2: Winter Break

January 3: Schools reopen

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Schools and Offices Closed

January 17: Second Marking Period Ends – School close 3 hours early for all students

January 23: Systemwide Professional Development Day – Schools closed for students

January 25: Report Cards Distributed

For more information on things happening in Baltimore County Schools please visit the county website at www.bcps.org.



For more information on events happening at Arbutus Middle School, please be sure to visit our website at <https://arbutusms.bcps.org/>, and to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arbutusmiddleschool.

