A MESSAGE FROM MRS. DELLONE

Dear Hereford Parents and Community,

Spring is quickly approaching. Before we know it, summer will be upon us. Our students continue to demonstrate academic excellence with 667 students receiving honor roll recognition, 183 students receiving straight A’s, and 291 students with perfect attendance. We are very proud of our students and their pursuit of excellence.

Students have completed MAP testing. Growth and achievement of the MAP assessment are in alignment with our MCAP results. As we continue to work with students to pursue their academic progress, attendance is a key factor in promoting student success. Regular attendance at school is not only required by law, but it also provides students with access to daily instruction. Absences can lead to gaps in learning. Attendance rate is one of the factors used by the state to compare schools to one another. Absenteeism is a factor in determining whether a school is a four-star or a five-star school. We are aware that many have had illnesses that have kept them out of school this school year. While illnesses are unavoidable, we find in the spring; many students take an extended weekend for family trips and sporting events. We ask for your support in ensuring that students are in school except for when they are ill or other excused reasons. Later in the newsletter, you will find information regarding attendance. Please keep in mind that when students are picked up early from school or arrive late, they must be in school for more than half of the school day to be marked present.

**OFFICIAL

March 5 - Interims distributed
March 11 - Parent Conference Day
March 16 & 17 - Spring Pictures
March 25 - Maryland Day
March 31 - Science MISA
April 1 - Science MISA

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Safe Schools Hotline: 1-877-636-6332
Text/Email: hotline@bcps.org
Maryland Crisis Hotline: 1-800-422-0009
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK
MSDE ATTENDANCE RULE: A full time student must be present for at least 4 hours to be marked present for a full day. A full time student must be present at least 2 hours to be marked half-day present. Full-time students present for less than 2 hours will be marked as absent.

Set goals with your student regarding their academic progress and your expectations. Please replenish your student's school supplies such as paper, pencils and pens and re-iterate the importance of continued academic effort. Students will be taking the MCAP assessment in April and May. MCAP is utilized by our school, as well as the high school, to determine supports students will need to be academically successful. MCAP assessment results are also used by the state to rank schools and compare them to one another. Eighth graders will take a science and social studies assessment. All students will take a math and reading assessment. More information will be forthcoming regarding this assessment.

The school ranking that I mentioned in the above paragraph refers to the star rating where Hereford Middle School received four out of five stars. Hereford Middle is the highest-ranked middle school in Baltimore County Public Schools. HMS missed five stars by approximately four points. I have heard from community members who are eager for us to achieve five stars. We share the same desire. The factors that go into the star rating are academic achievement, academic progress, and school quality/student success.

Student climate survey results are an area that we continue to focus on as we ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging. Students have the opportunity to voice their feelings regarding school climate on multiple occasions each year. Students complete the following surveys: Baltimore County Public Schools climate survey yearly, quarterly school survey, and the state climate survey yearly. Each of these surveys serves a different purpose. We utilize the Baltimore County Public School survey to determine key actions that will improve school climate for students, improving perceptions, sense of belonging, and safety. We then monitor our progress by conducting quarterly surveys. We share the results of these surveys with our students as we work toward continuous improvement. The state survey is utilized by the state to assign points to a school and compare them to one another to determine a school's star rating.

Hereford Middle School is a wonderful school with amazing students and terrific staff. The Herford community cares deeply about their children, their community, tradition, and excellence. We strive to instill a sense of academic confidence and school pride in students as they prepare to take the upcoming assessments and the state climate survey.

Please join me in supporting our students by being a warm encourager providing them with positive feedback as well as constructive feedback for improvement. Ensuring students are on time, present, and prepared for school with necessary materials and homework will set students up for success.

Thank you for your continued support as we proudly celebrate community/school pride and academic excellence.

Sincerely,
Julie A. Dellone
Principal

FROM THE PTA

The PTA Reflections Art Contest takes place at the school level every fall. Winners at the school level in each category can go on to compete at the county level, and from there, the state and even national levels. The PTA thanks all students who dedicated time to creating works of art for the contest.
We congratulate the following students who won the contest at our school level and have been sent on to compete in Baltimore County. First Place in the Visual Arts Category and our school overall winner is April Toland. Second Place in Visual Arts goes to Ella Schmier. First Place in the Category of Photography goes to Sylvia Snider.

We would also like to thank the following students for participating: Taylor Compton, Lindsay Donovan, Caroline Fair, Jameson Fanzone, Charlotte Ferguson, Mylie Fitzpatrick, Ellie Lanford, Ridley Lentz, Alexander Lizmi, Peyton Loewer, Ella Lucas, Jason Reiner, Connor Stewart, and Hailey Wiggins.

We also have a save-the-date announcement from the PTA. On April 17th at 6:30pm we will have our spring dance. Mark your calendars now, and more details will be provided in the April newsletter.

Megan Stewart-Sicking
PTA President

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

6th Grade- Keleigh Kongkraphun kkongkraphun@bcps.org
7th Grade- Victoria Shields vshields@bcps.org
8th Grade- Lilly Richardson lrichardson2@bcps.org
School Counseling Secretary- Terri Francis tfrancis@bcps.org
Phone 443.809.7905

Career and College Information

A very exciting and informative resource available to all BCPS students is NAVIANC E. Naviance is available on BCPSone as a direct link so it is very easy to get to. We encourage parents to check out their student’s Naviance account to experience all of the amazing information available. The amount of information under the “Careers” and “College” tabs on the website is extraordinary!

Under the “Career” tab, you can find information on career clusters and pathways. There is also a resource called “Roadtrip Nation” which includes 7617 engaging videos which have been broken into 40 themes and 29 career interests.

Under the “College” tab there is a variety of information on finding the best college “fit”, information on applying to colleges, and information on scholarships.

Don’t miss this very informative resource!

Information on Anxiety and Public Speaking

It’s that time of year where many classes assign projects that involve getting up in front of the class. Many students suffer with anxiety regarding speaking in front of their peers. Here are some tips to help them get through their fears:

TOP TEN WAYS TO REDUCE SPEAKING ANXIETY

As you can see in this section, there are many factors that contribute to speaking anxiety, and there are many ways to address it. The following is a list of the top ten ways to reduce speaking anxiety that I developed with my colleagues, which helps review what we’ve learned.

1. Remember, you are not alone. Public speaking anxiety is common, so don’t ignore it—confront it.
2. Remember, you can’t literally “die of embarrassment.” Audiences are forgiving and understanding.
3. Remember, it always feels worse than it looks.
4. Take deep breaths. It releases endorphins, which naturally fight the adrenaline that causes anxiety.
5. Look the part. Dress professionally to enhance confidence.
6. Channel your nervousness into positive energy and motivation.
7. Start your outline and research early. Better information = higher confidence.
8. Practice and get feedback from a trusted source. (Don’t just practice for your cat.)
9. Visualize success through positive thinking.
10. Prepare, prepare, prepare! Practice is a speaker’s best friend.

For additional information, you can also access the full article at:
https://open.lib.umn.edu/communication/chapter/10-1-managing-public-speaking-anxiety/

In March the BCPS Mind Over Matters campaign theme is “You Matter: self-care, self-love.” During the past few weeks, our HMS students contributed to our “What Lifts You?” mural. Students created feathers to represent the people, activities and experiences which “lift” them and bring happiness.

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADE LEVEL COORDINATORS:

6th Grade News

As we move into the month of March we have lots of exciting new learning in Grade 6. In Science we are finishing up our forces and motion unit. We are at the culminating event for our forces and motion unit. The students will be designing a helmet that can withstand an impact force and minimize acceleration to the head. We will then start the Space Systems unit. This is a six-week unit focusing on universe size and organization and Earth's place in the universe. The first core idea, Earth's Place in the Universe, describes the universe as a whole and includes its overall structure, composition and history in the universe. Students will investigate and model size and scale of the universe and the objects within. In addition, this core idea focuses on gravity as the force that holds together and controls the motion of objects in the universe. Students will also investigate Earth's place in the solar system. Finally, students will discover that the Earth-moon-sun system have predictable patterns which explain phenomena observed on Earth. In 6th grade World History will be exploring Ancient Greece, examining the start of Greece, the competition between Athens and Sparta, the development of Democracy and the expansion under Alexander the Great. Students will also be tested on Greece and India at the end of the month. In ELA we will be working on our PBA which focuses on writing a short speech. After that we will begin to focus on poetry.
Always remember, please do not hesitate to contact any teacher. Parent and school communication are crucial this last half of the school year. Ms. Benson is the team leader for grade 6 and can help with any questions or concerns that you might have, feel free to reach out (mbenson2@bcps.org). We are here to help support you and your child!

7th Grade News

We might be over halfway through this school year, but there are still a lot of exciting seventh grade events to come. A third quarter Team Unity Event is in the works, as is another field trip in the fourth quarter (hint: refer to the current topics being covered in social studies). Parents and guardians wishing to chaperone should make sure that they’ve submitted their volunteer application and training certificate to Carrie Johnson (csext0@bcps.org) before Spring Break.

Seventh grade students are continuing to explore fascinating topics in all their classes. English/Language Arts students are reading historical fiction and either writing their own work of historical fiction or composing a speech based off what they’ve learned of World War II and the Holocaust. In Math classes students are practicing their skills in geometry and polynomials. Chemistry is the current theme for Science classes, as students are continuing to expand their skills with hands on labs, properties of matter, chemical reactions, and how natural sugar molecules are created and processed within the body. Social Studies classes are forging through the Medieval Era and exploring the Crusades, Black Death, Mongols, and Nation States that were established during this time. World Language classes are continuing with the third quarter unit of celebrations in Spanish and French speaking countries.

As always, please feel free to reach out to teachers regarding questions or concerns. We also highly recommend that parents frequently check Schoology for up-to-date course grades, assignments, and even absent work. We’re wishing everyone all the best as we make our way to a fun and relaxing Spring Break.

8th Grade News

Spring is here! Students participated in our Third Quarter Team Event on March 4th. Students earned “beads” for their teams. There were a variety of activities such as, relaxing reading room, catch up room, dance and game party in the cafeteria. Students who participated positively and displayed team spirit earned beads. The beads were then tabulated at the end of the day to determine the “winning” team. Everyone had an amazing time! I can’t wait to plan Fourth Quarter’s team event!

Students are studying some very interesting content in their classes. In Science class, your child is moving from prehistoric content to genetics. Our Genetics unit focuses on Punnett squares and DNA arrangement. Our Language Arts teachers are navigating through multiple cultures in the book Refugee. Two other novels they will be reading are Chasing Lincoln’s Killer and Frederick Douglass. In Math class students are learning a variety of content: solving equations, quadratic functions, and Geometric properties of polygons. Finally, in American History class students are learning about the War of 1812.

Please do not hesitate to contact any teacher! Parent and school communication are crucial this last half of the school year! We are here to help support you and your child! Our goal is to make certain they are prepared and ready for high school and beyond.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- March 4th Eighth Grade Team Event
- March 5th Third Quarter Interim
- March 11th Parent Conferences
- March 16th and March 17th Spring Pictures
- March 31st and April 1st Science MISA
MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Flu Season continues.

Please continue to reinforce hand washing, practice cough etiquette and keep your child home for fevers until fever-free for 24 hours (without medication).

Many thanks and stay well,
Nurse Pam

AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES

If you have an after hours emergency, please call 911 or one of the resources listed below.

RESOURCES

Emergency - 911

Maryland Help Line - 211

Baltimore Crisis Response - 410-433-5175 (24 hours a day 7 days a week)

MD Dept of Health Crisis Line - 1-800-422-0009

Suicide Hotline Text CONNECT to 741741, for more information visit www.crisistextline.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

My Neighbors Foundation - 410-374-4657
Hereford Zone Robotics announce the 10th annual HZR STEM Summer Camps!

Learn to fly at our Drone camp with simulators & real flying!
Design robots to complete specified tasks.
Build robots to participate in robotic competition.
Program robots to operate autonomously and remote control
Explore flying fixed wing aircraft plus fly drones to take pics and videos

the week includes:

Date: July 13-17, 2020

Level 1 robotics, grade 4-7
Level 2 robotics, grades 5-7
Vex metal robotics- grades 8-12
Drone Camp, grade 4-8
(as of 2020-21 school year)

LOCATION: Hereford High School

Sign up for morning & PM camps= BYO brown bag lunch

go to our website for full details > clickHERE
open to all kids- private/public school

Full website at: hzr929.com  Contact: Chris Putnam- cputnam@bcps.org

Check out full camp descriptions on our website