

January 2023- February 2023

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science

## Resources for Families

- SCHOOLY PARENT ACCOUNTS: For instructions on how to create a parent account please see the [instructions](#) at [https://www.bcps.org/tech\\_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support)
- ACCESS TO FOCUS: Looking for student schedules, attendance, and report cards? Log into [Focus](#) at <https://baltimore.focusschoolsoftware.com> or students can use access in the BCPS links on their Chrome browser bookmarks bar to access.

## TECH TIPS

- Bring your CHARGED BCPS device with you every day. Loaner devices are not available.
- Restart your computer when you get to school and when you return home.
- Complete updates to Chrome and your device when prompted.
- Try troubleshooting using the tips on the side bar of the [Tech Support page](#) at [https://www.bcps.org/tech\\_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support)
- Get live help from the BCPS Help Desk by calling 443-809-4672 or you can submit a help desk ticket via [https://www.bcps.org/tech\\_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Contacts:

Ms. Bickerstaff, 9<sup>th</sup> grade team leader  
[kbickerstaff@bcps.org](mailto:kbickerstaff@bcps.org)

Ms. Kutch, 9<sup>th</sup> grade administrator  
[tkutch@bcps.org](mailto:tkutch@bcps.org)

Ms. Osborne, library media specialist  
[tosborne@bcps.org](mailto:tosborne@bcps.org)

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

Counselors will meet with 9<sup>th</sup> graders during the December and January to discuss 6-year plans.

### How to Succeed: Developing your Work Habits

- Manage your time
- Create goals
- Be organized
- Meet deadlines
- Ask for help in a timely manner
- Be open to feedback, learn from failures/mistakes
- Keep open lines of communication (family, teachers, school counselor, friends)

### School Counselors:

Ms. Monahan, last names A-G

[jmonahan@bcps.org](mailto:jmonahan@bcps.org)

Ms. Gould, last names H-O

[rjuanteguy@bcps.org](mailto:rjuanteguy@bcps.org)

Ms. Tavernia, Department Chair, last names P-Z

[atavernia@bcps.org](mailto:atavernia@bcps.org)

## Skills of Success!



Each month 9<sup>th</sup> graders attend skill-focused workshops in their magnet classes.

**Next session:** Goal Setting

## Calendar Updates

Jan. 3- School reopens

Jan. 16- School Closed-MLK Day

Jan. 17- end of Q3-1/2 day

Jan. 23- School Closed- PD Day/Lunar New Year

Feb. 20- School Closed- President's Day

# Upcoming Units/Projects

## January-February 2023

### Social Studies

**Mr. Sleplesky's, Mr. Jackson's, and Mrs. Streets'** American Government students will be learning about the legislative branch and public policy.

### Math

**Mr. Carlino's Algebra II** students are putting all mathematical representations together for quadratics. We are solving quadratics using graphing, algebra, and we are interpreting tables of values in order to determine the number of real and imaginary solutions. Students will have a cumulative mid-year exam at the end of the second quarter.

### English

**Mr. Conner's** will be finishing up Unit 2 PBAs (literary analysis focused on character development and theme) and moving into our main texts for Unit 3, the *MARCH* trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin.

**Mr. Daudelin's** classes will be reading the *Odyssey* and studying various types of poetry and working on a narrative poem in the style of the *Odyssey*.

### Science

**Ms. Achar's, Mrs. Bickerstaff's and Ms. Cohen's Biology/Living Systems** classes will cover the unit "Decoding your Future" aka Genetics.

**Mrs. Bickerstaff's Ecology** class will start our journey uncovering the Ecology of Maryland with the Appalachian Province in Western Maryland.

### French

**Monsieur Olive's French I** will be discussing activities in other countries and comparing them to activities in students' current life.

**Monsieur Olive's French II** will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

**Monsieur Olive's French III** will focus on the changes people can make to impact the environment.

### Spanish

**Profesoras Confair and Casas' Spanish I** class will be discussing activities in other countries and comparing them to activities in students' current life.

**Profesoras Owens and Casas' Spanish II** will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

**Profesoras Confair and Owens' Spanish Language & Culture/III** will focus on the changes people can make to impact the environment.

**Profesora Confair and Profesor Ruth's Spanish Special Topics/IV** will focus on social justice and what people can do to fight against injustices.

### Engineering Principles & Applications

**Mr. Renaud's and Dr. Mercer's** classes will be covering structures of bridges and the engineering design process.

### Automotive Services Technology

**Mr. Cunningham's** class will focus on lift safety.

### Physical Education

**Ms. Swiecicki's, Mr. Wagner's, Mr. Junker's, Ms. Rowe's and Mr. McEvoy's** Fitness Foundations and Mastery classes will Skill Related Fitness Components and their relationship to physical activity and sports.

### Cosmetology

**Ms. Cooney's** students will be creating their fantasy displays for competition. Also, students will access chapter 4, communicating for success.

### Resource

**Mr. Feigelis', Mr. Stigliano's, and Ms. Haxel's** students will work on self-advocacy skills.