A LETTER FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe Winter is upon us! As we head to the midpoint of the school year, we want to extend our gratitude to our families for their continued support of Holabird. On Back-to-school-Night, I asked for everyone’s pledge to attend at least one event this school year. So far, we are off to a great start! Please be sure to stay connected through our website and our ALL-STUDENTS page so you can mark your calendar for upcoming events.

As always, we remind our families how critical daily attendance is for students. Arriving to school on time everyday sets students up for success, not only for the current school year, but for their academic journey. MSDE expects all students to meet the 94% attendance benchmark each school year. Currently, we are focusing on decreasing lateness. Our CARE Liaison, Ms. Adamski, continues to reach out to families of those students who often enter late (after 8:30am in the main office for middle, 8:35 in the main office for elementary). Please encourage your child to have strategies in place to wake up on time, get out the door, and arrive on time and ready to learn.

Basketball - Elementary and Middle School students attending athletic events must be accompanied by an adult (18 years and older) and remain with the adult for the entire event.

Contact Information - as information changes such as address, contact numbers or persons to contact please call the school to assure all contact information is up to date.

Save the Dates

Basketball - Elementary and Middle School students attending athletic events must be accompanied by an adult (18 years and older) and remain with the adult for the entire event.

Contact Information - as information changes such as address, contact numbers or persons to contact please call the school to assure all contact information is up to date.

Basketball - Elementary and Middle School students attending athletic events must be accompanied by an adult (18 years and older) and remain with the adult for the entire event.

Contact Information - as information changes such as address, contact numbers or persons to contact please call the school to assure all contact information is up to date.
Holabird STEM/Middle School is a Baltimore County Public School located in Dundalk, MD. We became a Title I and AVID school in 2017, PLTW distinguished school in 2018 and a Community School in 2022.

VISION:
Holabird students and staff are committed to a safe learning environment in which all members collaborate and take pride in their community while preparing to be positive, productive citizens.

MISSION:
The mission of Holabird STEM/Middle School is to support and educate students to excel socially, culturally, and academically to become well-rounded citizens who aspire to reach their career and college goals.

Programs and Services:
- **Before/After School:** National Junior Honor Society, Peer Tutoring, Gender Sexualities Alliance, The Aviary Club, Drama, Environmental Club, Math 24, Chess Club, Helping Hands Service Club, Intramurals, Art Club, Student Council, Little Eagles Fitness Club
- **Athletics:** Badminton, Cross Country, Basketball, Tennis, Track and Field
- **Nutrition:** Baltimore Hunger Project, Stanley's Snacks
- **Health and Social Supports:** Villa Maria, Clubhouse for Teens, MD Department of Health, In-house Wellness Clinic
- **Mentoring Programs:** Campus Life with EPIC Church, UMBC - ETS, Black Boy Joy & Genius
- **College and Career Readiness:** AVID, UMBC - ETS

Principal: V. Melanie Kearns
Assistant Principal: Erik Evanosky
Assistant Principal: Claudette Davis
Assistant Principal: Karen Ballard
Community School Facilitator: Harry Wujek

Data is MSDE reported data for School Year 2021-2022 unless otherwise indicated.
*Economically disadvantaged is any student identified as directly certified. Direct certification are students eligible for free meal benefits.

The top 4 languages other than English at this school are Spanish, Arabic, Urdu and Punjabi

School Demographic Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolled Students</th>
<th>924</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learners</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>49%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proficient Data is not available for School Year 2021-2022 as data for MCAP has not been released.
COMMUNITY UPDATES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Parent Ambassador**: Help welcome families to Holabird and help them learn about the school and community! Parent Ambassadors do the following:
   - Inform interested parents about school events and community events.
   - Call new Holabird families to welcome them to the school and introduce them to the community.

2. **Field Trip Chaperone**: As a chaperone, your primary responsibility is the safety of the students. A field trip chaperone is expected to model appropriate behavior.

3. **School Beautification Assistant**: Help keep the school beautiful both inside and out. These volunteers may be asked to create bulletin boards, hang student work, etc.

4. **PTA Volunteer**: Responsible for encouraging PTA membership.
   - Encourage Holabird parents and staff to join the PTA by raising awareness of the benefits of PTA membership
   - Be present at various PTA events to provide parents with information about PTA membership
   - Advertise General Membership meetings through newsletter, posters, and flyers

5. **Clerical Volunteers**: Photo copying, answering phones and other clerical duties in schools and offices.

6. **Hall Monitor Volunteer**: Hall Monitor plays an integral role in assisting and maintaining a safe and secure environment that is conducive to learning. In pursuit of safety and security, Hall Monitors spend their time monitoring and interacting with students.
   - Monitors students’ behavior in areas such as hallways and restrooms.
   - Checks students for hall pass. Reports misconduct to site director.
   - Informs site director of damages to school property.
   - Ensures that safety rules are obeyed.

Please reach out if you have any questions about our volunteer opportunities to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Wajec</td>
<td>Community School Facilitator-Holabird Middle</td>
<td>410-251-2487</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hwajec@bcps.org">hwajec@bcps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Culver</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator-Holabird Middle</td>
<td>410-251-2487</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dculver@bcps.org">dculver@bcps.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Math Homework Helpers LIVE – Wednesday, January 11

On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., for the second time this school year, “Math Homework Helpers LIVE” will air on BCPS-TV Fios channel 34 / Comcast channel 73, and stream live on bcps.org and the BCPS YouTube channel.

BCPS-TV "Math Homework Helpers Shorts” are also available on the Vimeo and YouTube. These vignettes are short math lessons aligned with the math curriculum for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5.
PLEASE COMPLETE OUR NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY SATURDAY, DEC. 31ST

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY


BINGO NIGHT
Holabird hosted their first ever BINGO Night. This event was completely free to the the Community and we had received over 20 baskets donated as prizes. Prizes included things such as Holiday Cheer, Swag from local schools, etc. It was great fun to be had and we look forward to many more events like this one.

Trivia Night

Save the Date

Jan. 25
Trivia Night
5-7pm

This event will be for all Holabird Community Members. Dinner will be provided for this event. Be on the look out for a flyer after the New Year., If you have any questions you may reach out to Mr. Harry Wujek via email at hwujek2@bcps.org
The Annual PTA Holiday Shop will run December 16th - 22nd. If you supported our school via the Joe Corbi's fundraiser, all orders will be in prior to Winter Break. Lastly, Elementary students have an opportunity to participate in a Sneaker Ball on December 16th from 6-8pm, admission to this event is $5.

PTA Membership is open all year long. For $8 you may join our PTA and share your voice.

PTA meetings occur the 2nd Tuesday of every month @4pm in the Elementary Library. Our next meeting will take place on January 10th.

If you have any questions you may contact our PTA President Ms. Stacey Kelly at skelly3@bcps.org

Seasons greetings Holabird Eagles! My name is Aimee O'Malley and I am the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Resource Teacher, a new position at Holabird this year. The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a department within the office of school climate and culture framework dedicated to guiding schools in the provision of prevention and intervention services and supports, primarily through problem-solving, coaching, and professional learning related to supporting the needs of students. One identified area of growth that we will be targeting at Holabird is increasing opportunities for both staff and students to enhance their social-emotional learning. I am excited to announce that for middle school students, this will include the start of a weekly advisory period that will pilot when we return from winter break (stay tuned for more info!).

Please know that we continue to value parent and student input. We offer events each quarter related to Title I. We hope to see you there!

This past month we hosted Pizza with the Principal! We want to thank all of the families who attended and thank you all for your continued support.

Any questions regarding the Title I Program can be directed to Ms. Meghan Staley via email to mstaley@bcps.org
You can reach the School Counseling Department Office and individual counselors by calling 443-809-7148 or by email at the following addresses:

Ms. Beckmann  
4th Grade  
5th Grade  
pbeckmann@bcps.org

Ms. Cosgrove  
6th Grade  
7th Grade (last names A - L)  
ncosgrove@bcps.org

Ms. Ferges  
7th Grade (last names M - Z)  
8th Grade  
jferges@bcps.org

Ms. Edwards  
School Counseling Secretary  
gedwards3@bcps.org

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

School Counseling Vision Statement
School Counselors support the academic, career and social-emotional development of all students. Counselors promote a safe learning environment and provide equitable access to services and resources. They partner with teachers, administrators, families, and other stakeholders to develop and navigate rigorous educational opportunities and acceleration. By eliminating barriers that may impede student success, school counselors prepare students to be globally competitive citizens ready for college, career, and life.

HMS School Counseling Department Belief Statements
- We believe each student is unique and has special abilities, talents, and interests that must be recognized and nurtured.
- We believe that giving proper support to all students, so they have access to achieve at high levels in a developmentally appropriate manner according to their strengths.
- We believe that building relationships is the key, especially while students are establishing routines and counselors will advocate, guide, and through all avenues for success.

Attention Grades 6-8: Are you interested in a Mentorship Program? If so, please reach out to Ms. Cosgrove at ncosgrove@bcps.org for potential opportunities.

Are you in need school supplies? We have limited supplies but might have what you need. Please contact Ms. Cosgrove or Mr. Wujek to see what we have on hand at 443-809-7148.

Upcoming Topics:
4th/5th: Personal Safety, Character, Celebrating Differences, Mindfulness, and more
6th: Healthy Friendships & Empathy
7th: Career Exploration and 6 Year Plans (Naviance)
8th: Stress and Anxiety, 6 Year Plans (Naviance), High School Course Electives and Programs (Dec/Jan)

BCPS Mind Over Matters Campaign:
December – February “You Matter” Goal: Coping skills, healthy lifestyle, and engaging in healthy relationships play a vital role to overall wellness. Students and staff will enhance their abilities to cope by identifying their coping skills, exploring their healthy habits, and examining the quality of their relationships.
ART DEPARTMENT
The Art Department has been busy creating artwork to fill the halls! Favorite pieces so far include Tim Burton inspired portraits with the fourth and fifth graders. They explored exaggerating facial expressions in the style of the famous artist/filmmaker. Sixth graders have taken over the lobby with their oil pastel colorful cakes. They used color and lines with this new material to create a three-dimensional treat. Seventh grade has been working diligently on using value with varied materials to create three-dimensional artworks. Recently they have been mixing colors with oil pastels and paint to create still life works of colorful blocks. The art teachers are immensely proud of the arduous work students are demonstrating to explore different materials and techniques.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY
Our Project Lead the Way Program just finished creating, testing and modifying paper skimmers in our 7th and 8th grade classes. A paper skimmer is an object that glides or “skims” across a surface. Using only card stock paper, tape, glue and paper clips, we were able to develop skimmers that can go over 100 ft being launched from a simple rubber band. This activity is created to help students practice measuring in a fun way.

DRAMA CLUB
The 8th Grade will present “Haphazardly Ever After” January 27th and 28th at Dundalk High School. Tons of magical fun awaits in this one-of-a-kind fractured fairy tale farce! A kind king and queen have trouble in their royal family — four obnoxious, bratty, adult children who do not live up to their royal titles. Royal chaos occurs when the king and queen try to fix their children using magic spells. Of course, nothing goes as planned, but everyone is altered by their experiences. And through a series of haphazard events, the royal family just might live happily ever after, after all.
Functional Academic Learn Skills (FALS) Program – For Second quarter in Reading class, students will be improving their individualized reading skill levels using researched based programs. In English Language Art class, students will be working on parts of speech and cite textual evidence to draw conclusions about characters. In Science class, students will be learning about health and nutrition. In Social Studies class, students will be learning about the Northeastern states. In Math class, students will be working on individual IEP skills and review skills.

December 16, 2022 – students will be attending a Community Based Instruction field trip to Weis markets to make purchases for a Holiday meal.

February 9, 2023 – students will be attending a Community Based Instruction field trip to the African Cirque at Goucher College.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Services – Social Skills class and check in services – Students will be learning about managing emotions, and self-management which will include sustaining attention and focusing skills.

All IEP Students – Parents and guardians, please check your email for notification for IEP teams. IEP notifications and documentation will be sent to the email address that is registered with Holabird STEM/Middle School.

During second and third quarter please continue to encourage your child’s positive student behavior and work completion. Check your child’s Schoology grades weekly. Please contact your child’s IEP case-manager with concerns.

Special Education / IEP questions can be directed to Ms. Dana Foot, Special Education Department Chair dfoot@bcps.org or 443-809-4790
Math Department

The mathematics department is off to an engaging and exciting start to the school year! Baltimore County Public Schools has now officially implemented a new curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. Every student has been issued a workbook that incorporates mathematical tasks that help the students meet the daily objective.

Grade 4 and 5 students are currently in their third unit of study for math. Fourth grade students are working with fractions, and fifth grade students are working with decimals. All students should continue to practice their multiplication and division skills, which they worked in in the first two units.

Grade 6 – We started the year off by explaining and exploring the meaning of area, as well as, calculating area for parallelograms and triangles. We are currently working on creating tables and diagrams to show equivalent ratios. Students will continue to use these skills throughout the school year as we move into Rates and Percentages later this quarter.

Grade 7 – We finished Unit 1 which were topics related to Scaled Drawings and Copies. In Unit 2, we Represented and Compared Proportional Relationships with Graphs. We are currently in Unit 3, which explores the Area and Circumference of Circles.

Grade 8 – During Quarter 1 students worked Rigid Transformations and Congruence. We are starting Quarter 2 by working with Dilations, Similarity, and Calculating Slope. Later during the Quarter, Writing and Representing Linear Equations.

Algebra 1 – Students are actively working on topics related to Unit 1 which focuses on Manipulating and Analyzing Data. We have also been learning how to graph Equations and Inequalities.

Geometry – Students during Quarter 1 exploring Geometric Properties and Building Conjectures and Observations Before Defining Rotations, Translations, and Transformations. Throughout Quarter 2 we will be working on Congruence and Similarity with Triangles and Quadrilaterals.

“Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about UNDERSTANDING”
~ William Paul Thurston
WORLD CULTURES DEPARTMENT

The Social Studies department has been working on Claim–Evidence–Reasoning (CER) strategies and focusing on making historical events connections to real world scenarios. The 8th grade is currently working on great example of this with the book Stamped. The 7th grade is breaking down the Middle Ages and Feudal system. The 6th grade is breaking into one of the first highly functioning civilizations in Mesopotamia. The department just completed our first required assessment for the county with most classes scoring above the county average!

“We are not makers of History. We are made by history.”
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Grade six students are facing fears and phobias while also examining text features. The main novels include Gary Paulsen’s Hatchet and Lois Lowry’s The Giver. Students continue to work on main ideas and supporting details, while also becoming experts on summarizing texts.

During second quarter 7th grade English classes have been learning about figurative language by analyzing poetry. In the poems that we have examined we have found Imagery, Simile, Metaphor, Tone, Mood, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Theme, Rhyme, and Rhyming scheme. Students wrote their own poetry about various themes. As 7th grade continues students will read plays in class and learn about the elements of drama.

Grade 8 classes are finishing the George Takei graphic novel They Called Us Enemy, (in Mr. Sapp’s classes,) or novels of choice (For Ms. Munroe’s classes.) Meanwhile, we are discussing cultures either crossing or colliding through short stories, essays, and poems. Soon, they will begin a proposal about creating a website based on research.

“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read. There are only children who have not found the right book.”
~ Frank Serafini
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

6th grade: students have been working to classify the three states of matter based on the various properties within certain substances. This week, students are conducting direct investigations to explore the role of molecular arrangement, particle motion, and kinetic energy in order to explain the differences among the three states of matter. We will then be applying this knowledge towards the process of recycling to understand the various phases that our own plastic wastes goes through in the recycling process.

7th grade: we are in the middle of our Form and Function unit. We are learning all about cells, how they work, and how they work together to make our bodies work.

8th grade: students are exploring the pass with fossils and identifying how organisms have changed over time. They are also looking for connections between ancient/extinct organisms and modern organisms.

Select 8th grade students also had the opportunity to of attending Cromwell Valley to participate in the Stream Strollers (SF) program. This program allowed students to identify: How does the health of our stream affect the health of the Chesapeake Bay? Wade in with us to catch the critters that live there. Water shoes or boots are a must.

“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge”
~ Carl Sagan
With the winter months upon us and the days with nice weather dwindling, we're ensuring our students get outside as much as possible. While indoors, our P.E. classes will engage in several net/wall sports, such as volleyball, badminton, ping-pong (table tennis), and pickleball.

We're also planning our most significant event before the winter break, the annual H.O.G. Day! The Holabird Olympic Games are a Holabird Middle School tradition with over 20 years of history, and this year, we are returning to the way it’s been done pre-Covid! That means all of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders all together competing to paint the coveted Holabird Hog!

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

In 4th grade exploratory music, students have completed learning about the woodwind family and had the opportunity to play the clarinet. We are now beginning the string family and will have the chance to play the violin. In 4th grade vocal music, we have been working on reading and performing rhythms.

In 5th grade vocal music, we have recently finished a unit on reading and writing music and will begin working on our ukuleles again. 5th grade instrumental is celebrating their first concert on December 13th! We look forward to continuing to learn more notes on our instruments and plan to tour and perform for the 4th grade classes in the coming months.

This year’s 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Chorus students have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Winter Concert. They are excited to share their talents with you, friends, family, teachers, and more! They will also be working on their skills as music critiques, reflecting upon this winter performance and setting new goals as they begin rehearsing for the spring. Stay tuned for updates from Ms. Evans about possible fundraisers that will help order brand new Music Department polo shirts that the students will wear for future performances! If you have any questions/concerns, please reach out to Ms. Evans.

"Music is a means of giving form to our inner feelings without attaching them to events or objects in the world."

~ George Santayana
The Holabird basketball team is set to take the court in its first action of the school year on Tuesday December 13th. They will travel up the 95 corridor to faceoff against the Dumbarton Lions. The Eagles will have 7 games on the road and 5 at home. Your Eagles will conclude their season against neighborhood rival the Dundalk Owls. This game will take place at Dundalk High School.

**ATHLETICS**

**BASKETBALL**

The Holabird basketball team is set to take the court in its first action of the school year on Tuesday December 13th. They will travel up the 95 corridor to faceoff against the Dumbarton Lions. The Eagles will have 7 games on the road and 5 at home. Your Eagles will conclude their season against neighborhood rival the Dundalk Owls. This game will take place at Dundalk High School.

**HOLABIRD STEM/MIDDLE BASKETBALL**

**TUESDAY DEC 13TH**

@DUMBARTON

**THURSDAY DEC 15TH**

@MIDDLE RIVER

**TUESDAY DEC 20TH**

STRICKER

**TUESDAY JAN 10TH**

@SPARRORS POINT

**TUESDAY JAN 19TH**

@STEMMERS RUN

**TUESDAY JAN 24TH**

@PARKVILLE

**THURSDAY JAN 26TH**

@PERRY HALL

**THURSDAY FEB 2ND**

@GOLDEN RING

**THURSDAY FEB 9TH**

DUNDALK

@DUNDALK HS

**THURSDAY FEB 17TH**

DEEP CREEK

**THURSDAY FEB 25TH**

LOCH RAVEN

**TUESDAY JAN 31ST**

**ALL GAME TIMES TBD**

- Elementary and middle school students attending athletic events must be accompanied by an adult (18 years and older) and remain with the adult for the entire event.
- Once spectators have entered a game, there will be no readmittance if they choose to leave before the game has ended.
- Loitering at athletic events or on school grounds after the conclusion of the event will not be permitted.
- Students, staff and members of the community engaging in violent or criminal behavior at a sporting event will be removed from the premises immediately and not be permitted to return to any BCPS campus for athletics or extra-curricular activities for a period of no less than 90 days. Students will be subject to serious school and legal consequences.

**LADY EAGLES**

HEATHER GORSUCH
SARA GRIFFIN
AUTUMN PIETROBONE
A’LYRIC SWEET
HEATHER SIKES
MACIE HINDLE
BELLA PEREZ
ALISSIA COTTINGHAM
ALEXIS BRAUN
ANYA WHITE
KALIYAH ARMWOOD
CYNTHIA LEYDEN
KAREN AKERS
REET SANDHU

TEAM MANAGER: AUDREY KALBSKOPF
HEAD COACH: LYNDSEY ENDLICH

**EAGLES**

CARLTON TALLEY
COLIN CARROLL
MAKHI NICHOLSON
ROBERT SMITH
XAVIER CRAWFORD
TRAEO’WAH PARKER
CARTER PRAYER
WILL TORRES
ALEX WHITT
DAMIR HAWKES
ELI PRIEST
AARON AMPOMAH
SHAWN COOK

HEAD COACH: CLAUDIUS ARTIS

13
CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross Country team was led by Coach Beckmann. Adam Merchant came in second place in the Southeast District. We also had several male students win awards at the County Championship.

BADMINTON

Our badminton team was lead by Coach Norton and star player Cynthia Leyden. Holabird was the host site for the East Side Badminton competition in early October and also competed in county championships.