Dear Parents/Guardians,
Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at the Holabird STEM/Middle School! I am very excited to begin my sixth year as principal. We are eager for the opening of school on Monday, August 29, 2022. Elementary – the doors open at 8:20 a.m. and all elementary students must be in class by 8:35 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:20 p.m. Middle School – the doors open at 8:00 a.m. and all middle school students must be in class by 8:15. Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. Please remember to check the BCPS.org website regularly for information and the ALL STUDENTS Schoology page (code G3KW-4NCM-VNNFQ).

Parent support is crucial to our school. We invite you to participate in events throughout the year. Our during-school and after-school events historically have had large turn outs. Thank you for supporting your students and Holabird STEM/Middle School. We would also like to thank the MANY volunteers who supported our events last school year. Opportunities for Principal Coffee & Chat, academic-based events, and other community fun will continue this year. As each one is planned, an RSVP process may be used to plan for food and materials.

FOCUS & Schoology are our electronic information systems. If you have not already created an account, information will be sent home for you to do so. Please mark your calendars: BTSN is Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in person at the school.

The PTSA supports each of our school-wide initiatives and is a key component of the Holabird Team. Our teachers and staff are committed to our students’ success. Please join the PTSA for the 2022-23 school year. The PTSA has many planned events this year that will benefit our children and strengthen our relationships as a school family. If you have any questions about PTA, please contact Stacey Kelly skelly3@bcps.org.

We are in need of your support to improve our attendance rate. Daily attendance is crucial to our students’ success. The requirement for student attendance is 94%. While we recognize it can be a challenge, please try to schedule appointments and vacations during non-school days and times. Please note, attendance will be taken at the beginning of every day for elementary and at the beginning of every mod for middle schoolers. BCPS sends an automated attendance call at 10am daily to inform parents of their child's absence.

On Thursday, August 18, 2022, we are hosting an Open House for Grades 4 and 6 (5-6pm). This is a very casual event with our partner, UMBC-ETS. Thursday, August 25, 2022, we are hosting a Sneak-a-Peek for our Littlest Eagles (4-5pm, with parents) and the BCPS Grade 6 Early Entry Day (morning, without parents). We hope our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students will take advantage of this opportunity to become acclimated with the school prior to all other students’ arrival. A message will be sent to all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and their families the week of August 15, 2022.

We are confident that this will be a successful and rewarding year. In fact, our theme continues to be SCHOOL PRIDE. We are committed to social emotional support, rigorous instruction, meaningful relationships, and overall success. Take a peek at the team names & colors:
Grades 4 & 5 Team Success, green (Team Leader is Allyson Miele)
Grade 6 Team Achievement, red (Team Leader is Alyssa Engelman)
Grade 7 Team Respect, yellow (Team Leader is TBD)
Grade 8 Team Responsibility, blue (Team Leader is Amanda Guardia)

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

V. Melanie Kearns, Principal
Communication

As we proceed through the school year, we will keep you informed via:

- School Messenger phone calls, texts and email
- In-person events
- Follow us on twitter @HolabirdSTEM/@vkearns_M
- **ALL STUDENTS** Schoology page Code G3KW-4NCM-VNNFQ
- PTA Facebook page -https://www.facebook.com/holabird-middle-school-ptsat-199608690068796/
- Our quarterly newsletter may be accessed at [http://holabirdms.bcps.org](http://holabirdms.bcps.org). It is very important that you review all current and valuable information provided in this publication to stay updated on the variety of social/academic activities and policies that are applicable throughout the school year.

Student Conduct

Holabird STEM/Middle School is a PBIS school (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems). This school-wide behavior management plan focuses on achievement, respect and responsibility. Students, school staff, and parents share the responsibility for maintaining a safe, orderly, and healthy environment. Students’ responsibilities and rights are accessible in the BCPS Student Handbook. Each student will receive a Baltimore County Public Schools’ Student Handbook from their homeroom teacher during the first few weeks of school. **Further information will be provided regarding the student handbook.**

Students who have difficulty with another student are expected to notify an administrator or school counselor. We need your help to ensure students use restorative practices to solve conflict. A BCPS Bullying, Harassment, Or Intimidation Reporting Form is provided online. Your support is appreciated.

Cell phones have become a staple of our every day lives, but they are often a major distraction in the schoolhouse. Please know we appreciate your support in enforcing BCPS’ expectations around cell phones; used for instructional purposes only at the direction of the teacher. Outside of that exception, cell phones and ear buds/Airpods should be off and away. All students are provided a locker with a combination. Please remind your child of the importance of not sharing lockers or giving others their combinations.

School Counselors

The Holabird School Counseling Office welcomes parents and students to use their counseling and guidance services. You can call the school counseling office directly at 443-809-7148. Mrs. Robin Edwards, our guidance/records secretary, will be more than willing to assist with any questions about enrollment, withdraw, records, etc. Her email address is gedwards3@bcps.org. School counselors at Holabird work with students to help them develop academically, personally, and socially. They work closely with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to provide families with the best possible resources and services. A School Counselor is assigned to work with each grade level. Get to know your child’s school counselor. Your support will make your child’s experience rewarding.

Patricia Beckmann Grades 4 & 5 pbeckmann@bcps.org
Jessica Ferges Grade 8 and Grade 7 (M-Z) jferges@bcps.org
N. Bree Cosgrove Grade 6 and Grade 7 (A-L) ncosgrove@bcps.org
Clubs and Organizations

Holabird STEM/Middle School offers a variety of clubs and activities for all students. Additional information will be sent home during the first week of school (permission slip, sign in sheet, description of each club/activity and meet times). A sample of some of the clubs/activities are as follows:

Basketball          Math Counts
Black Saga          Math 24
Chess               National Elementary & Junior Honor Society
Cross Country       Art Club
Student Council     Educators Rising
Fitness Club        Track/Field
Literary Magazine   VEX Robotics

(All Subject to Change)

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Who: Holabird Students in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
When: Wednesday, September 14, 2022  6:30-8:00 p.m.
Where: Holabird STEM/Middle School
What: Students and Parents will have an opportunity to:

Meet their teachers/staff
Pick up important papers
Activate parent FOCUS/Schoology accounts
Join the PTSA
Tour the School
Purchase School Spirit Wear