February 2018

Hereford Middle School

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http://herefordms.bcps.org/

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

During the month of February the School Counseling Department will be coordinating several activities focused on Kindness. We are very pleased to be welcoming guest speaker Mr. John Halligan for an assembly on February 20th. He will be talking with our students about bullying and the impact that it can have on students. The counselors in all 3 grade levels will be visiting classrooms to talk about being kind and the importance of how we treat one another. We will also be having a “Kindness Challenge” as well as a few other surprises for our students and teachers.

BCPS STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

Last year, we heard from more than 81,000 students, parents, community members, and staff. While I’m happy to hear from so many of you, we are still missing some voices

Your voice matters! Your feedback shapes our budget, staffing, and programs. Help us continue to improve.

- Anytime that staff are gathering during the survey window is a great time to take the survey together.
- The survey only takes about five minutes on a phone, tablet, or computer.
• It is available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members.
• We’ve asked school leaders to allow students, staff, and parents to take the survey at school.
• This year, we are including Grade 3-12 students (Grade 3 is new), and all parents, staff, and community members.

BCPS parents are encouraged to take the survey more than once to reflect your experiences with each of your children’s schools.

Please take the survey online from January 29 – March 2 at www.bcps.org, and encourage others to help shape our future!

Thank you.

Verletta White

YEARBOOKS

Have your ordered your yearbook? The cost is $35.00! Order on-line either directly at https://shop.smart-pay.com/index.cfm?p=order-start&sid=20337&no=1 or from the school webpage! The last day to order is March 2nd!

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

The CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting influenza (flu). The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year. But if you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women. Finally, everyday preventative actions may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like the flu. This flyer contains information about everyday preventative actions.

How does the flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventative actions?
• Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
• If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you or your child stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, except to get medical care of other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
• While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
• Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based hand rub.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
• Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like flu.
• If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distances between people and other measures.

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

ROBOTICS UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 3- Baltimore County Public Schools VEX IQ Tournament
our grade 6 and 7 teams compete at Holabird MS, 9am to 3pm

Thursday, February 8- The Bull Ringmaster hosted by Hereford NTHS VEX IQ Tournament
our grade 6 and 7 teams compete at Hereford High School, 4pm to 7pm

Saturday, February 10- Baltimore County VEX VRC STEM Tournament
at Patapsco High School 9am to 4pm, grade 8 teams and high school teams

Saturday, March 3- Maryland State Championship for VEXIQ
our grade 6 and 7 teams that qualify compete at New Town High School 9am to 4pm

Saturday, March 10- Maryland State Championship for Middle School VRC metal bots
our grade 8 teams that qualify compete at Hereford Middle School 9am to 4pm

NJHS NEWS

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. All current 6th and 7th grade students that have earned a 3.5 GPA or higher during the 2017-2018 school year will be invited to apply to be a member of the NJHS at Hereford Middle School.

Important Dates:
• Applications will be distributed by the end of February.
• Applications will be due by March 16th.
• Decision Letters will be distributed by April 20th.
• New Member Induction is May 23rd.
LIBRARY NEWS

The HMS 11th annual Spelling Bee will be held **February 13th starting at 3p.m and ending at 4p.m.** in the cafeteria. Come and cheer on the participants! The winner and runner-up of the HMS Bee go on to compete in the Baltimore Bee. The winner of the Baltimore Bee goes on to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC. We wish all of our spellers the best of luck.

In preparation for the HMS Spelling Bee, Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Williams host study sessions every Tuesday during lunch shifts. If your student would like to participate have them see Mr. Thomas Tuesday mornings for a lunch pass!

Graphic Novel Book Club will meet Tuesday February 13th during lunch shifts to discuss Compass South by Hope Larson and the HMS Book Club will meet after school February 20th until 5pm to discuss Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly and to watch the movie.

#HMSreads 2018 Reading Challenge

To participate read a traditional or graphic novel

- Go to Padlet [https://padlet.com/tthomas1/HMSreads_February2018](https://padlet.com/tthomas1/HMSreads_February2018)
- Click on the + and create a post making sure you include your name & homeroom teacher
- Add a picture of you with the book
- Pick your favorite character and briefly explain why they are your favorite
- A drawing for prizes will be done at the end of each month!!
BCPS Laptop reminders:

- Please encourage students to charge their laptop each night.

- SAVING FILES – at school, by default, files are saved on the school server. Because of this, files cannot be accessed at home. We refer to this as the ‘H’ drive. If a student needs to work at home with a file, they will need to ‘save as’ into their laptop ‘download’ folder at school.

Then they can access the file at home.

- A teacher might ask students to save to their ‘OneDrive’ cloud storage via BCPSone.

This will also allow a student with internet access to find and open the file outside of school.

Carrying laptops:

Students are required to carry laptops in their bags at all times with zipper closed. They are also told to use the handles or the shoulder strap.

Customize bags! - ‘blinging your laptop bag’ (without defacing it) We are limited to temporarily attaching something to the handles but can still be creative!

The idea is to customize the bag to lower the occurrence of students picking up the wrong bag. (Think of airplane baggage carousel/ the bag with the pink ribbon on the handle)

It could be a tag or piece of ribbon, etc. No stickers or permanent sewing or attaching.

Questions? Email Chris Putnam at cputnam@bcps.org

HMS Tech Repair

If your child has a problem with their laptop, they are asked to write a tech repair ticket. All classrooms have blank tickets.

- Fill out the form completely
- Drop off the form in room C9 or D8
- Once a student’s laptop is in for repair they will be issued a loaner. The student should be checking back daily to room C9 to see if their laptop is repaired.
- If a student misplaces their laptop, they should check in room C9 and the main office.
- If a laptop is missing for more than 24 hours, the student must report this to the main office.
- No student is allowed to attempt to get through the BCPS web filter. Violation of this is a Category 1 offense.
Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, Hereford Middle School strives to be a safe and supportive place for all students. We have a bullying prevention program in place and are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb a problem that is unfortunately found in schools everywhere. Our efforts this year have focused on raising awareness about bullying and cyber bullying with students and parents as well as focusing on Kindness and Empathy.

We have recruited Mr. John Halligan to conduct a presentation on February 20th for our students. He will relay his own tragic experience as a Dad whose 13 year old son took his own life in 2003, after incessant bullying by peers since the 5th grade, both in school and online. Mr. Halligan further shares that Ryan wrestled with underlying mental health issues and depression and that these factors contributed to Ryan’s vulnerability and ultimate suicide. His story is riveting and powerful, and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the screen.

His presentation will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and still pictures of Ryan. John will then begin to tell the story of Ryan and the factors that led up to his son’s suicide. The students will gain a perspective from inside a family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyber bullying. They will also gain awareness about the signs and risk of teenage suicide and how best to help a friend. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son: www.RyansStory.org for more information. We also encourage you to ask your child about the presentation and discuss it together.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact your child’s grade level counselor at 410-887-7905 or email

Lilly Richardson, 6th grade Counselor and Department Chair lrichardson2@bcps.org

Keleigh Kongkraphun, 7th Grade Counselor kkongkraphun@bcps.org

Or Vicki Shields, 8th Grade Counselor at vshields@bcps.org

Sincerely,

Julie Dellone

Hereford Middle School

Principal
WHAT IS RESTORATIVE PRACTICES?

Restorative practices, which evolved from restorative justice, has the potential to positively influence human behavior and strengthen civil society around the world.

Restorative practices builds healthy communities, increases social capital, reduces the impact of crime, decreases antisocial behavior, repairs harm and restores relationships.

BCPS AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCILS

JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2018  7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

GREENWOOD CAMPUS – BUILDING E – ROOM 114

6901 CHARLES STREET, TOWSON, MD.
Happy New Year!

Help Hereford Middle School earn $$ for student programs

Please Remember to Turn in

GREEN

Hereford Graul’s Receipts
What's Executive Functioning Got to Do With It?

Join us for a night of discovery.

What is Executive Functioning?

How do the components contribute to the success of my child at school and home?

What strategies can be used at school and home?

March 1st 6-8 pm

Snow date: March 8th

Hereford High School Auditorium

Childcare and refreshments provided

Lisa Carey, M.A.
SENIOR EDUCATION CONSULTANT, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Dr. Liz Berquist
COORDINATOR OF PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, Baltimore County Public Schools

Click Here or scan code
Hereford Zone
YOUniversity

HZ You is a speaker series committed to providing information and support to parents of children and adolescents as they navigate the challenges of the 21st century. All events will take place in the Hereford High School cafeteria and refreshments will be provided!

OMG... They Said What?!
Thursday, February 15, 2018 (Snow Date 2/22)
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
HHS Cafeteria

Please join us for an evening discussion on social media use, internet safety, and digital footprints.

Presentation by retired police officer, Paul Ciepiela, a resident expert on all things social media.

A question and answer session will follow.

Visit the Hereford High School webpage for additional information on this series. www.herefordhs.bcps.org