



SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 9** SBCS Inc. Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Jan. 15** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, School Closed
- Jan. 19** SBCS Open House, 9:00 AM
- Jan. 24** Literacy Night, 5:30 PM
- Jan. 26** Professional Development Day, School Closed for Students
- Jan. 30** SBCS Open House, 9:00 AM

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year and welcome back to our SBCS families. Wishing everyone a year filled with peace, joy and good health.

With winter comes the cold weather, colds, flu, school closings and delays. Please monitor BCPSS and SBCS websites for closing and delay announcements and remember to send our young Trailblazers to school dressed in uniform as well as with their cold weather accessories including coats, mittens, scarves, a warm hat and boots.

Please also make every effort to become familiar with BCPSS's inclement weather policy (below). The following procedures are used on regularly scheduled school days when emergency conditions create the necessity.

Full-Day Closing

City Schools' Facilities Department makes a preliminary assessment of road conditions, neighborhood sidewalks, school parking lots, and school walkways and checks in with Baltimore City Department of Transportation and the Maryland Mass Transit Administration. City Schools CEO makes the decision to open schools on schedule, delay opening, or close schools. The decision to open schools on schedule will be made when it is determined that students will be able to travel safely to their schools.

If the decision is to close schools, this will be posted online to school websites and the City

Schools website, www.baltimorecityschools.org, by 5:00 a.m. (or as soon as possible thereafter). Parents who have opted in to receive text messages will also be alerted that way. The announcement will also be tweeted via the City Schools Twitter feed (@BaltCitySchools), posted to the district's Facebook page, made by local television and radio stations, and posted to local news websites.

Delayed Opening

The decision to delay opening schools may be made when:

- o Travel conditions are potentially unsafe at 5:00 a.m. but are expected to improve
- o Acceptable travel conditions exist at 5:00 a.m., but weather forecasts predict that conditions may worsen.
- o **If there is a delayed opening, all morning half-day early learning programs will be canceled and school breakfast will not be served.** The announcement of a delay will be made as close to 5:00 a.m. as possible on City Schools' district website, school websites, the @BaltCitySchools Twitter feed, the district's Facebook page, and by local media outlets, and parents who have opted in will receive a text message.

Early Closing

A decision to dismiss schools early may be made when weather conditions worsen and negatively affect the learning environment or pose a risk to the health or safety of students after schools have opened. Early dismissal news will be posted to the @BaltCitySchools Twitter feed, the district's Facebook page, school websites, the City Schools site (www.baltimorecityschools.org), sent by text message to parents who have opted in to receive texts, and announced to local news media as early as possible so that school administrators

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can adjust schedules, transportation can be arranged, and announcements can be made.

An early dismissal means that all afternoon-only early learning, extended-day, and after-school programs, including interscholastic athletic events, will be canceled.

We look forward to an amazing and collaborative 2018 with all our SBCS family.

Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin
Principal

FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Come on Down....to Literacy Night!!

Literacy Night, on January 24th at 5:30pm, is an exciting night for kids, with games and activities. But more importantly, it is an opportunity for families to get more information about your children's progress and how to help them thrive as readers and writers.

We will be sharing our midyear achievement test data (MAP scores) for your child and for our students as a whole, and giving you your child's progress report a day early!

We will also give you fun games, apps, and strategies for your child's skill level to help them become strong readers and writers. Snacks and free take home activities provided. Don't miss this important event!

Questions? See Ms. Romey (Academic Director) for details.

SBCS OPEN HOUSES

Please spread the word about our open houses for prospective families. They will be on Friday, January 19th and Wednesday, January 30th at 9:00 AM.

PTO UPDATE

The PTO would like to thank all the students and families who supported our Holiday Store.



Southwest Works

Connecting Southwest Baltimore residents to good jobs and stable careers

The community Career Navigator is ready to assist Southwest Baltimore residents with:

- Resume building, online applications, and cover letters
- Access to occupational trainings
- Computer skills training
- Maryland Workforce Exchange computerized job bank
- Career assessment tools
- Employment opportunities and job placement assistance
- Referral to supportive services

The Career Navigator is available five days a week to help residents connect to employment, training, and supportive services at the following locations:

<p>Employment Connection Center 1410 Bush Street, Suite 122 Baltimore, MD 21230 410-396-1052 Monday and Thursday 1st Visit/Registration: 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM By appt. only: 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM</p>	<p>UMB Community Engagement Center 870 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201 410-706-8260 Wednesday 1st Visit/Registration: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM By appt. only: 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Clay Pots 1635 West Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21233 410-233-1133 Tuesday 1st Visit/Registration: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM By appt. only: 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Southwest Partnership 1138 Hollins Street, Second Floor Baltimore, MD 21223 667-210-2105 Friday 1st Visit/Registration: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM By appt. only: 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM</p>

For more information, or to register for services, call or visit one of the locations listed above.



Southwest Works is a collaboration of the Southwest Partnership, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development and Baltimore Local Development Council, with financial support from the City of Baltimore's Casino Local Impact Grant Fund.



CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES

Elementary Fitness and Adventure: As the cold weather persists please help ensure that your student has sneakers on the days they attend Fitness to ensure that they can fully participate safely in all our games and activities. At home, keeping youth active when it is this chilly can be a challenge. Consider trying activities that are traditionally done outside indoors during these chilly months. Activities such as jump rope or hula hoop are two that can work as neither require much space or equipment. Another favorite is an indoor obstacle course. You can set one up by jumping over a pillow, walking across a thinly folded sheet (like a balance beam), and jogging around a table. Working with your student(s) to design, build, and do an obstacle course can be great fun and helps build healthy bodies for all ages. Coach Hunter

Middle Grades Fitness and Adventure: This trimester we will be utilizing yoga and meditation to improve physical fitness, manage emotions, and

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develop character. Students will work toward leading their peers through a yoga sequence while using mindfulness meditation to support their holistic development. I'm looking forward to a great trimester. Mr. Jeremy

Middle Grades Art: This trimester in Visual Art, our student artists 5th through 8th will be focused on Design. We will start the trimester designing the SBCS mascot. Designs will be submitted to a committee. The chosen design will be a part of the lacrosse team uniform. Ms. Sanders

Elementary Art: In 4th grade art we are focused on building a classroom culture for the art room. We learned where the art supplies are and the different functions of the centers in our art space. We're focused on the HofS Empathy, Responsibility, and Perseverance! Therefore once our expedition begins we will already know the expectations of the art room and the function of the space. Can't wait!

In 1st grade art we were reevaluating the rules and expectations of the art room, in order to create a visual goal for the 2nd trimester. We are focused on the HofS, Responsibility. Students will learn how to manage their time, materials, and feelings, while in the art room!

In kindergarten art we are welcoming back Ms. Cherry's class, and exploring harder drawing skills, and manipulating new materials! Can't wait to start our expedition! Ms. Jes

Middle Grades Dance: This trimester in dance we will be exploring the culture and history of Baltimore through Step, African dance and Tap. Ms. Kutia

Elementary Music: It's the start of a new trimester which means new students in Music Class!! This trimester we're welcoming 2nd and 3rd grade to a series of drum lessons and new songs. 4th grade students will begin piano lessons that span until spring while K classes will continue learning the songs and scales they started last term. Ms. Smith

KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Welcome back, we hope you had a restful and rejuvenating winter break. As we start the new

trimester we will be focusing on addition and subtraction, decoding and encoding CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, and weather. Also, donations of tissues and Clorox wipes are always appreciated to help keep us healthy during this time of year. MAP testing will also take place this January. Keep an eye out for a new snack calendar. Thanks for all you do!

1ST GRADE UPDATE

In First Grade, we are beginning our new Expedition--all about the sun, moon, and stars! We'll be exploring and learning about space using experiments, art and observations. We are continuing to work on subtraction in math. In reading, we are working on long vowel sounds and spelling patterns, and continuing to work on retelling stories using details.

2ND GRADE UPDATE

The Second Grade Team would like to welcome our families back for the New Year! We hope you had a relaxing break, but are ready to continue learning with us. In Expedition your scholar is starting a new topic where they will learn about Earth's changes. They will be learning about fossils, and how fossils can tell you how the Earth was in the past. In Math we are going to continue with addition and subtraction, but the numbers are going to continue to get bigger! We are also going to be learning about time and money soon! In Literacy we are going to continue to become fluent readers. We are going to work on answering harder questions about the text we are reading. Literacy Night is going to be on January 24th at 5:30. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions about how you can support your scholar at home please do not hesitate to reach out to your scholar's crew leader.

3RD GRADE UPDATE

Third Grade is excited to start the new year! In Literacy, we are changing our topic to amazing frog adaptations, and we will focus on informational text standards. Also, we will discuss vivid and figurative language and explain why they author chooses to use this kind of language. In Math, we will move into a focus on geometry and measurement skills. We will apply what we know about multiplying to help us find the area of figures and to help us

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interpret and create scaled bar and picture graphs. We will be doing a mini-mester for Expedition on the scientific process with a focus on physics concepts like density and states of matter.

4TH GRADE UPDATE

The Fourth Graders completed their big project for Culminating event! The event went very well, with songs led by Mrs. Smith, artwork supported by Ms. Jes, and skits and dances taught by Mrs. Romey. The Fourth Graders created a playbill for the project which showed their learning about 4 cultures--Ancient Mali, colonial Europeans, Native Americans, and enslaved people from Africa. In Literacy, they continue to work on essays about poets. In Math, they are off and running with division!

5th GRADE UPDATE

In Literacy, students are working on creating Readers Theater scripts based on our first feature novel, Esperanza Rising. Students are connecting human rights article with narrator lines and learning how to create dialogue that engages the audience, stays true to the novel, and shows their individual creativity. Additionally, students are becoming strong public speakers as they practice performing in front of others using a performance criteria.

In Expedition, students are studying Magnetism and Electricity. They will be learning new science vocabulary, conducting experiments, and figuring out why team work and responsibility are important to being successful. We would share more, but we don't want to spoil all the many surprises we have for the students. Stay tuned!

SUPPORT SBCS

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start your search at our website, www.sbc school.org. On the right side of the homepage, click on the Amazon link. We will then receive funds equal to 0.5% of your purchase price!

If you shop at Giant Food, please register for A+ School Rewards so that SBCS can earn cash through the Rewards Program. All you have to do is log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register

online using your Giant Card. Our school ID is 05598. Thanks!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us on Facebook at Southwest Baltimore Charter School and follow us on Instagram at Sbc school and keep up to date on SBCS news through our website at www.sbc school.org.

REGULAR DISMISSAL

Elementary grade students who are picked up late will be taken to Trailblazer After School Program (TASP). You will be charged \$1/minute, up to \$30, until you arrive.

EARLY DIMISSAL

If you need to pick your child up for early dismissal, please send a written request with your child. Elementary Grades children will not be released between 2:30 and 3:00, and Middle Grades children will not be released between 3:00 and 3:30, unless they bring in a written request that morning. Teachers will not release your child to you if they do not have an Early Release Pass from the Main Office.

COUNSELING SERVICES

We have a variety of counseling services at the school. If you feel that your child needs social-emotional support, please contact the school at 443-984-3385.

SBCS INC. BOARD MEETINGS

SBCS, Inc. board meetings are held six times yearly, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. They are open to the public. Please check the calendar in this newsletter or at sbc school.org for applicable dates.