SECOND QUARTER

8TH GRADE NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As we enter the mid-year point, our focus remains on social emotional learning and quality instruction. Please enjoy this issue to highlight all we are doing to sustain our focus.

Academic Achievement
It is highly recommended that you and your child log into Schoology weekly to monitor your child’s grades and assignment completion. Please feel free to email teachers with any questions you may have so we are truly fostering our shared partnership and commitment to your child’s success.

Behavioral Achievement
The grade level team leaders and assistant principals will continue to reward the students who consistently followed our P.O.U.N.C.E. code of conduct. Our goal is to have 100% participation in these special events. We will continue to recognize and celebrate the students who are coming to school each and every day on time and for consistently displaying positive behavior; as well as provide consequences for students who are not making positive choices.

Health and Safety
Students’ and staff’s health and safety remain a top priority, please consistently ensure that you are not sending your children to school when they are sick, and reiterating the importance of social distancing and mask wearing. Please contact the school if your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Stakeholder Climate Survey
It’s almost time! The annual BCPS stakeholder climate survey begins Monday, January 30, 2023, and will be available through Friday, March 3, 2023. Open to students in grades 3-12, all parents and caregivers, staff, and community members, the survey will be available in multiple languages. Each year, this comprehensive survey provides valuable feedback and helps to steer decision-making about the budget, staff, and programs. It will be available on the BCPS website; be sure to participate and let us know your views.
AVID FAMILY NIGHT

SOUTHWEST ACADEMY HOSTED OUR AVID FAMILY NIGHT DURING QUARTER 2! FAMILIES CAME TOGETHER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AVID ELECTIVE THROUGH STUDENT PANELS, AN AVID ESCAPE ROOM, AND A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE CCBC UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM. AVID IS PART OF OUR SCHOOL WIDE COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS.

THE ELECTIVE CLASS TEACHES A SERIES OF SKILLS INCLUDING: WRITING, INQUIRY, COLLABORATION, ORGANIZATION AND READING SKILLS. IN THE ELECTIVE, STUDENTS BUILD THE CONFIDENCE AND THE SKILL SET NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN RIGOROUS COURSES. INTERESTED STUDENTS CAN APPLY TO TAKE THE AVID ELECTIVE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR BY ACCESSING THEIR GRADE LEVEL SCHOOL COUNSELING SCHOLOGY GROUP. AVID APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FEBRUARY 28TH! PLEASE EMAIL MS. THOMAS (BTHOMAS8@BCPS.ORG) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

ADVISORY

EVERY WEDNESDAY, STUDENTS ENGAGE IN TIGER TALK. TIGER TALK IS AN ADVISORY PERIOD AIMED AT EXPLICITLY TEACHING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS, BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND RAPPORT WITH STUDENTS, AND IMPLEMENTING ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIORAL GOAL SETTING.

THIS PAST QUARTER, STUDENTS REFLECTED ON THE SWA RESPONSIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TENETS: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY, CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT, AND LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION. SCHOLARS DISTINGUISHED WHAT SKILLS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP THEM TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY TO DEVELOP INTO 21ST CENTURY LEADERS!

OUR BLACK BOY JOY AND GENIUS MENTORING GROUP EMBARKED ON A FIELD TRIP THIS PAST QUARTER! THE BOYS WENT TO SEE JORGE SIERRA, A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AND SELF-CHANGE ADVOCATE. SIERRA TOOK THE AUDIENCE BY STORM WITH HIS TRANSPARENT AND INSPIRING STORY OF TRIUMPH AND PERSEVERANCE.

THE SOUTHWEST ACADEMY MENTEES REFLECTED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE SAYING, "THE THINGS YOU DO NOW WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE," AND THAT, "YOUR DREAMS WILL DEFINE YOUR DESTINY." STUDENTS CONNECTED TO THE MESSAGE RELAYED BY SIERRA AND SHARED HOW THEY WILL, INTENTIONALLY, THINK BEFORE THEY ACT.

AFTER ENJOYING THE MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, THE BOYS OF BLACK BOY JOY ENGAGED IN FELLOWSHIP OVER LUNCH!

STEAM ACTIVITY

SWA SCHOLARS ENGAGED IN A SCHOOL-WIDE STEAM ACTIVITY! DAREN, OUR D.A.R.E. LION, AND THE D.A.R.E. LION MASCOT COSTUME WAS STOLEN! EACH CLASS NEEDED TO DETERMINE WHO THE CULPRIT WAS AND DELIVER A WARRANT. CLASSES WORKED TOGETHER TO TRACK DOWN THE EVIDENCE AND JOT DOWN CLUES TO EITHER SUPPORT OR REFUTE THEIR PREDICTIONS. STUDENTS SELECTED A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE TO DELIVER THE WARRANT TO THE CULPRIT. CAN YOU GUESS WHO THE CULPRIT WAS?!
UNIT 2 "WHO I AM, WHERE I AM: THE POWER OF DIVERSITY" ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO CONSIDER THE DIVERSITY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES WHILE EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AS THEY WORKED TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE. DURING THIS UNIT, STUDENTS READ AND ANALYZED INFORMATIONAL ARTICLES, AS WELL AS A VARIETY OF OTHER TEXTS INCLUDING POETRY, SHORT STORIES, AND PERSONAL MEMOIRS. STUDENTS LEARNED HOW TO EVALUATE SOURCES BY ANALYZING THE STRUCTURE OF THE TEXT AS WELL AS THE CENTRAL IDEAS. STUDENTS ALSO ANALYZED THE CHARACTERS AND EVENTS OF VARIOUS TEXTS TO IDENTIFY, EXPLAIN AND DISCUSS HOW CULTURE CREATES IDENTITY AND IMPACTS THE WAY OTHERS THINK, SPEAK, AND ACT, AS WELL AS WHAT OTHERS BELIEVE AND/OR VALUE.

POUNCE STAFF OF THE MONTH!

SOUTHWEST ACADEMY
SEL Staff Superstars

FOR ALL YOU DO - WE THANK YOU!

Ms. Key
"PREPARED"

Ms. Sanchez
"OPEN"

Ms. Cato
"UNIQUE"

Mr. Lopez
"NOBLE"

Ms. Smith
"CAPABLE"

Mr. Baldwin
"ENGAGED"

SOUTHWEST ACADEMY
SEL Staff Superstars

FOR ALL YOU DO - WE THANK YOU!

Ms. Madden
"PREPARED"

Ms. Carter
"OPEN"

Ms. Harris
"UNIQUE"

Ms. Cooper
"NOBLE"

Mr. Salter
"CAPABLE"

Ms. Hernandez
"ENGAGED"

Staff P.O.U.N.C.E Highlights
December 2022

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