6th Grade
Mr. Warren – 6th Grade AP
We are in the final stretch of the 3rd marking period with 3rd quarter coming to a close on March 24th. In preparation, please check your student’s grades on Schoology and encourage them to complete any missing or make-up work. As always, please encourage your child to keep track of their class progress and assignments through Schoology. If you find your child needs additional help, please encourage them to see their teacher during PRIDE class or sign up with our Arbutus Achievers program after school to work with a UMBC tutor. If there is any way we can assist your child please reach out to myself, Ms. Gardner (6th grade counselor), or Mrs. Jackson (6th grade team leader). I look forward to our sixth-grade students finishing out 3rd quarter, and the year, on a positive and productive note.

Mrs. Jackson – Team Leader
It is important for students to remember their responsibility to respect the BCPS dress code. Students are not permitted to wear attire that is disruptive to the school environment. Encourage your child to dress in such a way that demonstrates respect for themselves and others. Wearing hoods and hats in the building is not allowed for safety reasons and as always student’s are expected to keep their cell phones off and away during the school day. Students are not permitted to make phone calls, text, use social media, take photos or videos, etc. while at school. If parents need to reach students, please call the front office. Students are required to be prepared daily with the supplies they need to learn including a charged device. If your child has lost their charger, please visit: https://arbutusms.bcps.org/news/what_s_new/technology_support_documents. We appreciate your support.

ELA
Standard ELA- Students will read a variety of narrative texts in order to identify the literary elements used in each and to examine how these elements work together to create the narrative. We will examine narrative elements as part of a focus on how particular sentences or sections of text help to develop the theme or plot and also how point of view affects the story. The PBA for this unit will engage students in writing a crossover narrative. In this narrative writing experience, they will create a scene in which a character from one of the stories read in the unit meets a superhero. The two characters will work together to solve a problem.

GT ELA- This unit challenges students in Grade 6 GT to recognize universal themes in Shakespeare and how those themes are conveyed through performance and writing. Students analyze themes, points of view, and performances to determine how they all work together to keep Shakespeare relevant in modern-day society. Students apply the archetypal, historical, and philosophical approaches to literary criticism in their analysis of plot and characterization in order to determine how stories of the past can speak to the future. Then, they will apply skills of critical analysis to explain how a classic work of Shakespeare can be staged for a modern audience. GT students were given the opportunity to join Mrs. Gast and Mrs. Wilson in a smaller group setting
book club by reading *The Shakespeare Stealer*. This optional club will meet weekly at lunch and engage in student created games, discussions, activities, etc. This is our first-time meeting as a book club and we are eager to create fun memories with your son/daughter.

**Reading Research**

In sixth grade Reading Research, students are reading a variety of graphic novels to analyze the various structural and story elements the author uses to develop his/her story. Students will be visited by graphic novel author, Kata Kane in order to learn about storytelling through art and comics. Students will use what they have learned about graphic novels to adapt a narrative text into a graphic novel. Their graphic novel will be formatted using panels, captions, sound effects, and dialogue.

**Reading**

In Read 180 we are currently working on a unit titled Drought Report. Students work on their comprehension skills while learning about droughts and the effect it has on our world. We are also building our vocabulary daily by working on weekly words.

In System 44 we continue to build phonics skills. Our current unit is titled Famous or Infamous. We are learning about what it means to be famous vs. infamous as well as learning about contractions and vowel sounds.

**Math**

**Math 6** - We are finishing up our unit in dividing fractions. We will be moving on to our next unit which is adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. It is important for students to be working on their math fluency using things like Xtra Math to practice at home. Please continue to check your student’s schoology report, and encourage them to make up any missing assignments or low scores within the 2-week time frame.

Math 6/7 - We are halfway through our unit on evaluating expression and equations. Our next unit will be looking at negative numbers and working with those. It is important to continue practicing math fluency at home and to complete any assigned homework. Please continue to check your student’s schoology report, and encourage them to make up any missing assignments or low scores within the 2-week time frame.

**GT Math** - Students are finishing their Unit 4 assessment on solving algebraic equations. Next unit, students will begin graphing and solving linear equations. Please continue to check your student’s schoology report, and encourage them to make up any missing assignments or low scores within the 2-week time frame.

**World Languages**

**Chinese** - 6th graders are doing a spectacular job in Chinese. For Unit 3 we are learning about families (family members, pets, adjectives, hobbies, etc). Their Mid-Unit test will take place on Feb 16 (if you were unaware, there is a schedule posted on students’ Schoology pages).

**Science**

6th grade science is exploring the world of physics and Sir Isaac Newton with our Forces and Motion Unit. Students are learning how forces interact, cause motion, and what happens during collisions. Everything learned can be applied to games, sports, and everyday life. There has also been a focus on designing investigations and controlling variables. We will be concluding the unit soon with a culminating event where students will design a marble roller coaster! Up next will be our Space Science unit. During this unit, students investigate Earth's place in the solar system. Students discover that the Earth-moon-sun system has predictable patterns which explain
phenomena observed on Earth. Throughout the unit, students will also discover the technologies that scientists use to help them study and better understand the components and organization of the universe.

**World History**
6th grade continues their exploration of ancient civilizations! We’ve finished with Greece and are now moving on to India and then Rome! Students will be practicing their evidence-based writing by completing Document Based Questions (DBQ), as this is the focus of most social studies assessments that come from the county and state. They will continue to evaluate the factors that contribute to successful ancient civilizations and the influence that these societies have on the modern world.

**7th Grade**
**Ms. Parker – 7th Grade AP**
Congratulations Grade 7 Parents, we are almost to the end of the school year. Since we are at the start of third quarter, please have your child show you their grades weekly. This year is important for all our 7th grade students who are thinking about applying for a magnet school. Magnet school program applications are due at the beginning of the 8th grade year, which means that this year, is so important both academically and behaviorally. Remember that both grades and behavior will impact student participation in the end of the year incentives, Student of the Month, and any pop-up incentives.

Parents, just a few reminders so you can support our school. Consider joining the PTA. Next year is an important year for our students. They will be preparing for 8th grade promotional ceremony as well as other 8th grade activities. The PTA will support our students and grade level with all our activities. Your support will specifically help our grade level.

As we move to the end of the third quarter, we are asking that parents speak to their 7th grade children about appropriate dress, use of cell phones during the school day, arriving to each class on time, and sharing concerns with their administrators, team leaders, and counselors. We have high expectations for our 7th graders.

**Science**
Science is in the middle of our “Chemical Magic” Unit in which we learn about what occurs during chemical reactions. We then will start our 4th unit “Awaken the Force”. This unit investigates all of the non-contact forces (magnetic, electrical, and gravitational) that occur. Lots of “Phun” Physics in this unit.

**World Languages**
In Spanish 1, students have begun a new Unit about School. So far they have learned about different classes and school supplies and will continue to learn about ways to describe their extracurricular activities in order to compare it to other countries.

In Chinese 1, students have started learning how to talk about their families in Chinese. From expressing how many people are in their family to how many pets they have. A schedule of what students are learning and when tests will take place has been posted on a schedule on students’ Schoology pages.

In Chinese 2, students have started learning about different holidays. This first half of the quarter, their focus is on American holidays and the second half will focus on Chinese holidays. Students are learning how to express dates, opinions and traditions done during various holidays. A schedule of what students are learning and when tests will take place has been posted on a schedule on students’ Schoology pages.
World History
We began Unit 3/quarter 3 examining the first four Crusades. Once we completed those, we moved into the Bubonic Plague, which is what we are currently studying. After we are done with The Plague, we will transition to The Mongols, the 100 Years War, Joan of Arc, and we should be having our Unit III Exam the fourth week of March, before Spring Break.

ELA
In 7th grade GT ELA, students are learning about historical fiction. Students are learning about different events in history and their fictional story and comparing and contrasting the story to the real life event. For the Unit 3 PBA, students will be research a historical event of their choice and creating their own historical fiction story.

In 7th grade Standard ELA, students are also learning about historical fiction. Students are currently reading the novel Fever 1793.

Math
Algebra 1 is finishing up learning about different types of functions, we are about to start focusing on exponential functions.

8th Grade
Mrs. Owens – 8th Grade AP
With only a few months away from promotion, we hear 8th graders chatting about their high school dreams. Let’s make sure our students finish these last few months strong by reminding them to complete any missing or make-up assignments prior to the end of the quarter, March 24. As always, please encourage your child to keep track of their class progress and assignments through Schoology. If your child needs additional help, please encourage them to see their teacher during PRIDE class, or sign up with our Arbutus Achievers program after school to work with a UMBC tutor.

Within a couple weeks, students will bring home a letter of 8th grade expectations. This is a reminder to students that even though they are in their last days, their grades, attendance, and behavior are still held to high expectations. Our goal for the 8th grade is that every student experiences the end of the year events. We are planning a third quarter incentive, a school dance, field day, field trips, and promotion day for students to earn. Students will be taking the MCAP assessments in March (MISA) April (ELA and Math) and May (Social Studies). All students will take a math and reading assessment, but 8th grade assesses social studies and science (MISA). MCAP is utilized by our school, as well as the high school, to determine supports students will need to be academically successful. More information will be forthcoming regarding these assessments.

Science
We are right in the middle of our genetics unit. Students are moving from how genes influence traits and are starting to figure out how nature and humans can influence the traits in species. In the beginning of March students will create their brackets for “March Mammal Madness”. Feel free to ask your student about their bracket and your student’s science teacher if you would like to compete as well! Students will be taking their standardized science test at the start of March as well, please make sure your student gets plenty of rest the night before the test!
American History
Unit 3 in American History is off to a great start. So far we have examined the War of 1812 and how it impacted the city of Baltimore. We then moved on Andrew Jackson and specifically his role in the Indian Removal Act. Manifest Destiny was a great topic as we examined the ‘American Progress’ painting. We are now examining the Industrial Revolution and how parts of America start to turn from Agriculture to Industry. This transition will continue and will be one of the reasons between the North and South, leading up to the Election of 1860, which was the final breaking point for the start of the Civil War. Thanks to all students who are keeping up with their assignments!

ELA
In ELA 8, we have been examining the structure and word choice of various types of texts in a unit called “Enduring Tumultuous Times: The Power and Craft of Structure.” Students will now be taking these skills with them to a mini study of texts featuring Anne Frank: her diary, the play about her diary, a related poem, and an analytical essay, before they begin their PBA, which is a literary analysis comparing and contrasting various types of texts related to the same topic.
In ELA 8 GT, unit 3, “How It’s Made: Analyzing Structure and Style,” focuses on the same standards but with different texts. Specifically, students are reading A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare in addition to a novel at home, along with a deep study of science fiction stories. As students analyze the universality of stories across time, they are building toward composing a thematic analysis as their PBA.

Reading
In our unit “The Hunt for Lincoln’s Killer”, we are exploring ideas of perspective, comparative analysis of texts, and building academic vocabulary. Students are working on concepts like making inferences and connotations, and are practicing sharing their own ideas with small groups, and revising their ideas in light of ideas shared by other students.

Math
In Math 8, we just finished our unit on solving equations and graphing. In this past unit, we revisited slope and linear equations. We were able to make real-world connections to our graphs. In the next unit, Functions and Volume students will be introduced to the concept of a function. They will learn to understand and use the terms “input,” “output,” and “function,” as they describe functions as increasing or decreasing between specific numerical inputs, and they consider the inputs of a function to be values of its independent variable and its outputs to be values of its dependent variable. In addition, students are expected to interpret representations of volume functions of cylinders, cones, and spheres; describe quantities in a situation; describe volume measurements and features of three dimensional figures; describe the effects of varying dimensions of rectangular prisms and cones on their volumes.

In GT Geometry we just finished a unit on Right Triangle Trigonometry where the students applied what they knew about similar triangles to right triangles. Students were able to use trig functions to calculate side lengths and angle measurements. In the upcoming unit “Solid Geometry” students will analyze properties of geometric solids. We will focus on real-world problems about solids. For example, a designer might need to create packaging for a candy bar in the shape of a triangular prism. An engineer might need to design a controller for a water tank in the shape of a cylinder. Or a lighting director for a theater might model the light from a spotlight using the shape of a cone.

In algebra 1 we just finished the fourth unit on functions. In this unit students discovered how functions work and how every input has one output. In unit five we use the discoveries about functions to solve exponential functions representing real world scenarios.
World Languages
Intermediate Spanish has begun a new Unit about the creative world. They have learned about various music, movie, and tv show genres and how to express their creativity in their own personal lives. For the remainder of the Unit, students will discover various Hispanic music and artists. They will be taking their Mid-Unit Exam the week of 2/13

Novice Chinese B-Students are learning about different holidays. The first half of the quarter they are learning about American holidays and for the second half of the quarter they will learn about Chinese holidays. Students are learning how to express traditions done during these holidays, traditional foods, etc. Students will be taking their Mid-Unit test the week of 2/13.

Intermediate Chinese- Students are hard at work learning how to eat healthy in Chinese. They are learning about various food groups, the benefits of specific foods and are giving recommendations on what one can do to be healthier. A good suggestion we came up with is no Takis for breakfast, ha! Students have their Mid-Unit test coming up the week of Feb 22.

Specials
Music Department
Our third and fourth quarters will be very busy! The 7th grade and 8th grade band with a few 6th graders and string players went to the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall to hear the BSO perform a Black History Month program featuring music from the Harlem Renaissance. We all enjoyed it.

The students in the percussion classes worked in small groups to perform ensembles and they performed for the string classes. The 7th and 8th grade wind players performed their small ensembles for the chorus classes. The string players are working on their ensembles as well. This is all in preparation for the Baltimore County Solo and Ensemble Festival February 25th. We love that so many students are participating in this great performance opportunity.

We have several students participating in the All-County Band, Chorus and Orchestra. The concert will be at Carver Center March 11th. The Band students are: Olivia Parton, Sky Mikow, Josh Agen-Davis, Emem Udoh and Jaime Rodwell. Isabella Kight and Brycen Crandall-Kwon are alternates. The Orchestra students are: Hannah Witmer, Shanthi Nzelibe, Henry Cannon, Sarah Mejia, Fiona Cheng, and Robert Burnett and our Chorus students are: Quinn Goldfarb, Michelle Gossett, Charlye Louden, Erin Taylor, Lainey Altmann, Ava Dembeck, Evie Key, Genevieve Zinkand, and Mason Knight. We are so proud of our AMS representation in these prestigious performing groups.

The Arbutus Wind Ensemble, Concert Orchestra and Adjudication Choir will be performing at the CHS Showcase on February 27th, 28th, and March 2nd. Students need to be at CHS at 6:30 and the concert starts at 7:00pm. We would like to see many AMS supporters at the concerts. Information letters have been sent home and need to be returned.

We will be participating in the Baltimore County Music Festival at the end of March at Dumbarton Middle School. We have not had the opportunity to offer this performance opportunity to our students since before the pandemic. We are very excited to be going to this adjudication. Permission slips will be sent home at the beginning of March.
We have sent home the final payment letter for the Music in the Parks competition June 3rd. The Arbutus Wind Ensemble, Adjudication Choir, Concert Orchestra and Jazz Band will all be competing. All payments for Hershey Park need to be submitted by March 31st.

P.E.
In P.E. class, we are finishing up our basketball unit and our first round of the table tennis unit. Students are looking forward to the upcoming volleyball unit and second round of table tennis. Please make sure students are coming to school with or bringing athletic clothing and sneakers on P.E. days.

Art
Student artworks will be on display in multiple venues this spring. 21 student artworks are on display at the Hollywood Movie theatre in Arbutus. A special shoutout to our award winners. Best in Show winner Celeste Banzhaf (6th grade), Manager’s Choice winner Auroura Harris(6th grade), and Cinema’s Choice winner Hassan Ali (7th grade). The Hollywood display will be up through then end of April. Student’s work will be on display during our Multicultural Night which will have our largest school-based art show of the year. Multicultural night will be in the evening of March 21st. Select student works will also be on display at the Arbutus Public Library for the month of April.

Students will be inspired by Black and African American artists during the month of February, and women artists in the month of March. Students will be exploring the themes of design and community as well in their work throughout quarter 3.

Project Lead the Way
6th and 7th Grade students will be taking a crash course in the PLTW Flight and Space Unit of study during the 3rd quarter. Activities will include learning about the forces of flight, creating an infomercial on a flying machine and creating a customized glider utilizing specialized design software. It’s time to fly PLTW Eagles!

8th Grade students will be working on content and projects based on the PLTW Flight and Space Unit of study in addition to the Design and Modeling Unit during the 3rd quarter. Activities will include creating an infomercial for a type of flying machine in addition to designing a customized glider utilizing specialized software to enhance their design.

Notes From Nurse Woody
It is that time of year when students start suffering with seasonal allergies. If your student has a history of seasonal allergies, make sure that they are taking allergy medicine such as Claritin or Zyrtec every day.

We continue to see COVID cases and other respiratory illnesses. If your child is ill, please keep them home. Please visit COVID19 - Baltimore County Public Schools (bcps.org) for detailed information about the BCPS COVID protocol.

Rising 7th graders will need updated immunization records before starting school in the fall. They will need a Meningococcal shot and a Tdap booster. If your child receives these shots from now until the start of the 2023 school year, please send in a copy to Nurse Woody.

Please make sure your child is eating breakfast and has a lunch for school each day. Nutrition is an important part of students’ health and effects their performance in school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s health, please call or email me at 443-809-6500 or ewoody2@bcps.org.
School Counselors

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free trainings to support you and your child!
Winter 2023

Making Up for Lost Time: Helping Children and Teens to Make and Keep Friends
Being social does not come easily to everyone. Additionally, delays in social development are more common given the challenges of seclusion during COVID and increasing use of electronics. This workshop aims to discuss social development; challenges to social development; and to teach skills and strategies to help children and teens improve in their social development. The workshop will not only address social skills, but identify opportunities to be social, and ways to encourage engagement with others when opportunities occur. Presented by Tana Hope, Ph.D. The Child and Family Therapy Clinic Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Register below.

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 12:00 - 1:30 PM
https://conta.cc/3XSkJVPW
OR
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:00 - 8:30 PM
https://conta.cc/3j11qgt

Being the Best Advocate for Your Child at School and in the Community
Parents and families play an important role in how well their children do in school and in the community. They are the first agents for identifying children's strengths and concerns, opening doors to support and services, and ensuring those doors remain open to meet their children's needs. Presented by Mirian Ofondu, PH.D., LCSW-C, Director of Training, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, Kennedy Krieger Institute. Register below.

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 12:00 - 1:30 PM
OR
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:30 - 6:00 PM
http://bit.ly/3wAqDL0

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
SERC PARENT WEBINARS
free trainings to support you and your child!
Winter 2023

Secrets of a Stressed-Out Brain: What Really Happens in There and What You Can Do to Help Your Child Conquer Their Anxiety
Ever wondered: “What’s going on in there?” when your child is overwhelmed, anxious and stressed-out? Are you curious about how and why stress often leads to troubling patterns of thinking and behavior? Interested in some new, practical, and enlightening ideas for shaping healthier behavior? This presentation will explore new research on the brain. Armed with this cutting-edge neuroscience, we now know in detail how our brains respond to stress and – more important – we can identify strategies to effectively avoid, reduce and even eliminate the negative consequences of stress. If you truly want to help your child “get away” from feeling tired, worried, and overburdened, this information is for you! Presented by Frank Kros, MSW, JD, Kros Learning Group. Register below.

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 6:30 - 8:00 PM
https://conta.cc/3j2hcYp

Ending the Silence
An informative presentation to help jumpstart meaningful conversations about mental health among youth. Ending the Silence (ETS) is designed to help individuals learn to recognize the warning signs of mental health conditions in youth, and what steps to take if a student or loved one are showing signs of a mental health condition. The goal of NAMI ETS is to create a generation of students, families, and school faculty who are well-positioned to end the silence and stigma surrounding mental illness. Presented by NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore. Register below.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:00 - 8:00 PM
https://conta.cc/3HAbBC3

All parent trainings are free and brought to you by the BCPS Special Education Resource Center! Register via links or QR codes and login information will be emailed to you one day in advance.
Questions? Email: SERC@BCPS.ORG

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!
WHO WE ARE?
We are a passionate team of healthcare professionals that believe in providing accessible, inclusive, personalized and comprehensive mental healthcare to families.

WHAT WE DO?
We provide individual and family therapy and medication management/psychiatry through telemedicine to children, teens, and families. We are currently accepting patients in Maryland and are in the process of expanding to other states.

BENEFITS
- We typically provide care in less than a week
- We accept most insurances and medicaid
- Our clinical team is diverse with >50% people being of color

THERAPY
Individual therapy with children will help address their specific needs through a variety of modalities including but not limited to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, DBT, Play, Art, Psychoeducation, Trauma Informed and Supportive Therapies

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT
Many behavioral and mental disorders require an approach that is a combination of medication and therapy.

FAMILY COUNSELING
We offer sessions exclusively for parents/guardians or caregivers, so you can get professional guidance and advice to help you counsel your child at home and reinforce the progress that is being made.

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- CareFirst
- Pricenor
- MedStar Family Choice
- Jai Medical Systems
- United Healthcare Community Plan
- Amerigroup Foundation
- Maryland Physicians Care
- Kaiser Permanente

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Emotional challenges:
  - Anxiety
  - Depression
  - Self-harm
- Behavioral challenges:
  - ADHD
  - ODD
  - Anger
- Autism
- Trauma:
- Identity:
- Socialization
- Navigating conflict
- Adjustment
- Coping with life events

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Community Resources for Families and Students:

Emergency emotional support: 988
United Way: 211
Crisis text line: Text the word "HOME" to 741741 for free 24 hour support
Maryland Suicide and Crisis Hotline: 1.800.422.0009
Baltimore County DSS: 410.887.TIME
Baltimore County Crisis Response: 410.931.2214
The Trevor Project: 1.866.488.7386 or text START to 678678
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): https://namibaltimore.org/find-support/
Free support groups and classes to help students and families living with mental illness

Food, Clothing, Household Items, and Emergency Financial Assistance:
Southwest Emergency Services: 1201 Maple Ave, Halethorpe; 410-247-8154; https://swes-md.org
Maryland Food Bank: 410.737.8282

Arbutus Middle Health and Wellbeing Hub with Resources: https://sites.google.com/view/ams-health-and-wellbeing-hub/home?pli=1
Easily accessible link located on the Arbutus Middle Website main page at the top

BCPS Family Resources Hub: https://scs.bcps.org/departments/social_emotional_support
Upcoming Dates:

**March 17:** Schools and Offices Close 3 Hours Early

**March 24:** Third Marking Period Ends – Schools close 3 hours early

**March 31:** Spring Break Begins at the End of the School Day

**April 11:** Schools Reopen from Spring Break

**April 12:** Report Cards Distributed

**April 21:** Systemwide Professional Development Day – No school for students

For more information on things happening in Baltimore County Schools please visit the county website at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org).

For more information on events happening at Arbutus Middle School, please be sure to visit our website at [https://arbutusms.bcps.org/](https://arbutusms.bcps.org/), and to like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/arbutusmiddleschool](http://www.facebook.com/arbutusmiddleschool).