9th Grade Newsletter
Western School of Technology and Environmental Science

Resources for Families

- **SCHOOLEGY PARENT ACCOUNTS**: For instructions on how to create a parent account please see the [instructions](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support) at https://www.bcps.org/tech_support

- **ACCESS TO FOCUS**: Looking for student schedules, attendance, and report cards? Log into **Focus** at https://baltimore.focusschoolsoftware.com or students can use access in the BCPS links on their Chrome browser bookmarks bar to access.

**TECH TIPS**

- Bring your CHARGED BCPS device with you every day. Loaner devices are not available.
- Restart your computer when you get to school and when you return home.
- Complete updates to Chrome and your device when prompted.
- Try troubleshooting using the tips on the side bar of the **Tech Support page** at [https://www.bcps.org/tech_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support)
- Get live help from the BCPS Help Desk by calling 443-809-4672 or you can submit a help desk ticket via [https://www.bcps.org/tech_support](https://www.bcps.org/tech_support)

**COUNSELORS’ CORNER**

Counselors will meet with 9th graders during the December and January to discuss 6-year plans.

**How to Succeed: Developing your Work Habits**

- Manage your time
- Create goals
- Be organized
- Meet deadlines
- Ask for help in a timely manner
- Be open to feedback, learn from failures/mistakes
- Keep open lines of communication (family, teachers, school counselor, friends)

**School Counselors**:

Ms. Monahan, last names A-G
jmonahan@bcps.org
Ms. Gould, last names H-O
rjuanteguy@bcps.org
Ms. Tavernia, Department Chair, last names P-Z
atavernia@bcps.org
Ms. Brumfield, College Counselor
dbrumfield@bcps.org

**Skills of Success!**

Each month 9th graders attend skill-focused workshops in their magnet classes.

**Next session**: Goal Setting

**Calendar Updates**

- Jan. 3- School reopens
- Jan. 16- School Closed- MLK Day
- Jan. 17- end of Q3-1/2 day
- Jan. 23- School Closed- PD Day/Lunar New Year
- Feb. 20- School Closed- President’s Day

9th Grade Team Contacts:

Ms. Bickerstaff, 9th grade team leader
kbickerstaff@bcps.org

Ms. Kutch, 9th grade administrator
tkutch@bcps.org

Ms. Osborne, library media specialist
tosborne@bcps.org
Upcoming Units/Projects
January-February 2023

Social Studies
Mr. Slepesky’s, Mr. Jackson’s, and Mrs. Streets’ American Government students will be learning about the legislative branch and public policy.

Math
Mr. Carlino’s Algebra II students are putting all mathematical representations together for quadratics. We are solving quadratics using graphing, algebra, and we are interpreting tables of values in order to determine the number of real and imaginary solutions. Students will have a cumulative mid-year exam at the end of the second quarter.

English
Mr. Conner’s will be finishing up Unit 2 PBAs (literary analysis focused on character development and theme) and moving into our main texts for Unit 3, the MARCH trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin.

Mr. Daudelin’s classes will be reading the Odyssey and studying various types of poetry and working on a narrative poem in the style of the Odyssey.

Science
Ms. Achar’s, Mrs. Bickerstaff’s and Ms. Cohen’s Biology/Living Systems classes will cover the unit “Decoding your Future” aka Genetics.

Mrs. Bickerstaff’s Ecology class will start our journey uncovering the Ecology of Maryland with the Appalachian Province in Western Maryland.

French
Monsieur Olive’s French I will be discussing activities in other countries and comparing them to activities in students’ current life.

Monsieur Olive’s French II will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

Monsieur Olive’s French III will focus on the changes people can make to impact the environment.

Spanish
Profesoras Confair and Casas’ Spanish I class will be discussing activities in other countries and comparing them to activities in students' current life.

Profesoras Owens and Casas’ Spanish II will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

Profesoras Confair and Owens’ Spanish Language & Culture/III will focus on the changes people can make to impact the environment.

Profesora Confair and Profesor Ruth’s Spanish Special Topics/IV will focus on social justice and what people can do to fight against injustices.

Engineering Principles & Applications
Mr. Renaud’s and Dr. Mercer’s classes will be covering structures of bridges and the engineering design process.

Automotive Services Technology
Mr. Cunningham’s class will focus on lift safety.

Physical Education
Ms. Swiecicki’s, Mr. Wagner’s, Mr. Junker’s, Ms. Rowe’s and Mr. McEvoy’s Fitness Foundations and Mastery classes will Skill Related Fitness Components and their relationship to physical activity and sports.

Cosmetology
Ms. Cooney’s students will be creating their fantasy displays for competition. Also, students will access chapter 4, communicating for success.

Resource
Mr. Feigelis’, Mr. Stigliano’s, and Ms. Haxel’s students will study advocacy skills.