



# SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1** 5th grade to Reginald F Lewis Museum
- Nov. 2** 1:00 Dismissal, all students
- Nov. 2** Student-Led Conferences, by appointment, 1:30 to 7:00 PM
- Nov. 3** School closed to students except for Student-Led Conferences, 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Nov. 6** School Closed to Students for Staff Professional Development
- Nov. 7** Miss B's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class to the Tool Bank
- Nov. 8** Picture Day
- Nov. 8** Ms. Courtney's Class to the Tool Bank
- Nov. 9** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to the Science Center
- Nov. 10** 4th grade to Banneker Historic Park
- Nov. 10** PTO Skating Party
- Nov. 14** SBCS Inc. Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Nov. 23-24** School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 1** School-Wide Meeting, 9AM
- Dec. 25** Winter Break Begins

## FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

### WHY CONDUCT SCORES MATTER:

#### Understanding Your Child's Report Card

This year, every child in every subject will receive both an *academic grade* and a *conduct score*. Each of these grades communicates something very important.

The academic grade tells you if your child's skills are where they should be for the grade level they are in. It does not represent an average of their assignment grades in class, but an estimate of how well they know the content and skills, based on those assignment grades. A test a student took half-way through a topic might have received a 50%, and the final test a 90%. The average

would be 70%, but the teacher would likely give the student a 90% on the final grade because the student demonstrated they had mastered the material by the final test.

The conduct scores represent how well students are following Habits of Scholarship (HofS) in each course. In most classes, the teacher has focused on one or two specific learning targets – really teaching and assessing, for example, students' ability to persevere, to stick with a math problem and try different ways of solving it instead of giving up when it looks too hard. The Report Card Cover Page will tell you what the focus in each class is, and what the Conduct Grade represents for this trimester.

During Student-Led Conferences and in conversations with your child, we hope you will spend *at least* as much time focusing on Conduct Scores with your student as you do the academic grades. Conduct Scores are what students have the most control over – they can show up prepared, work hard, ask good questions, and behave like serious scholars. Whether they learn and master the skills is more complicated – sometimes they could struggle because of previous missing skills, because of a learning disability, or because the teacher needs to find another way to reach that student – these things are not always in the child's control – but their behavior in the classroom is up to them. Praising your child's Habits of Scholarship and good conduct in the classroom ensures that they are rewarded for doing the right thing and working hard – the most important set of skills anyone can learn in life.

If you have questions about changes to our grading system, please feel free to contact me or anyone on the Admin Team.

Ms. Romey  
Academic Director

November, 2017

### **STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES**

Student-Led Conferences will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. All students will be dismissed at 1:00 on the Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and should only be at school during their conference time after 1:00 on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and between 7:30 AM and 1:00 PM on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **PTO UPDATE**

The PTO would like to thank all the families that came out to our first Family Movie Night and our first Family Tech Talk Night.

We are proud to announce that SBCS is now a new drop off spot for Toys For Tots! Bring in new toys from October 31<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> and they will go to children in need. Please continue to bring in your Box Tops. Make sure to put your child's name and the teacher's name on the bag so their class can get credit for participating.

Tickets for the Skate Party are on sale now. We strongly encourage you to buy your tickets in advance. The Skate Party is November 10, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Hot Skates on Whitehead Road in Woodlawn. Tickets are \$8.00 for everyone.

### **CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES**

Elementary Fitness and Adventure: As the weather turns colder please help to ensure that your student has sneakers to wear to the gym on days he/she has Fitness. Wearing sneakers helps students stay safe (reduces falls) and perform at their best (it is difficult to run fast in boots). If the weather is really wet or cold consider packing sneakers in your student's backpack so they can change into them when it is time for class. Also, skirts and dresses are challenging clothing options for working in the gym. Please have your student wear a skort or shorts under their dress or skirt so they can fully participate in all our activities.

---Coach Hunter

Middle Grades Dance: Hi Dance Family! We are getting started on our next unit, "Dancing Through My World." In this unit, students will be learning how to create their own movement phrases. We will also be doing some work outside so remind your students to dress warmly and bring their

dance clothes daily. Participation is the biggest part of their grade. ---Ms. Kutia

### **KINDERGARTEN UPDATE**

Hi Kindergarten Families! This month please be on the lookout for a new snack calendar and upcoming fieldwork permission slips. Picture day is November 8<sup>th</sup>. Students may wear their regular (non-uniform) clothes to school that day. Also, the weather is getting colder so please make sure your scholar is dressed appropriately for morning and afternoon recess. Thanks for all you do! We appreciate you!

### **1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

First graders are continuing our study of tools and work, and are talking about habits that help us accomplish work--initiative, perseverance and collaboration. We are working on strategies and fluency in adding and subtracting. We are also working to use our decoding and comprehension strategies in reading.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

This month in Expedition, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is going to continue to work to answer the question, "Why are schools important?" They will be choosing and studying a school from another country, and preparing to give a presentation at Culminating Event. Ask your scholar what country his/her school is located in, and see if he/she can tell you facts about the country.

In Math, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is continuing with addition and subtraction. We are learning different strategies to help us to add and subtract within 100. This can be extremely challenging for some students. Try not to get frustrated as your scholar works to figure out which strategy is best for him or her. If you need any help or have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your scholar's crew leader. In Literacy, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are continuing to work on decoding and comprehension. They will be learning different comprehension strategies to help them to better understand the text they are reading. Students will continue to get spelling lists, so please remember to work on sounding out and spelling these words at home!

### **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

Third grade has enjoyed delving deeper into learning this past month. In math, we are

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developing multiplication fluency skills by using patterns and properties to solve equations more efficiently. In literacy, we are beginning to master the close reading process and are reading stories about students from all over the world. We work to determine the lesson of stories and answer questions using ample evidence from the text. Expedition has been really exciting as we have broken off into our expert groups to do deep research into human body systems. We can't wait to apply this knowledge to our final product and to spread awareness about health to our community!

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

In fourth grade, students have been working hard! In ELA, the students are continuing their poetry unit, and have been learning about how poets become inspired. In Math, the students started their unit on multiplication, and have been learning about multiplying a multi-digit number by a single digit number. In Expedition, the kids began to learn about colonial times. They will be traveling to the Banneker Museum to learn more on November 10.

#### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

Unit 2: Elements and Theme of Mythology in The Lightning Thief

In this second unit of module 1, students will delve deeply into mythology: its purpose, elements, and themes that align with themes in *The Lightning Thief*. While they continue to read *The Lightning Thief* independently, students will closely read multiple myths. In the first half of the unit, they will use the informational text "Key Elements of Mythology" to better understand the elements and themes of the myths they read. In their mid-unit assessment, students will read the myth of Prometheus and write an analytical mini-essay identifying the elements of mythology present in the myth, describing a theme of the myth, and explaining how key details contribute to the theme. In the second half of the unit, students will read, think, talk, and write the myths alluded to in *The Lightning Thief*. They will determine the themes of myths and how the themes align with themes in the novel. As students build toward writing a literary analysis, the teacher will model writing skills using the myth of Cronus. Students practice these skills using myths they are reading in small,

expert groups. For their end of unit assessment, students will write a literary analysis summarizing the myth of "Cronus," identifying a common theme between the myth of "Cronus" and *The Lightning Thief*, and explaining why the author chose to include this myth in the novel.

#### **7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE UPDATE**

In Humanities we are switching back and forth between French Language Exploration and Medieval History for Social Studies. Please stress with your scholar the importance of keeping up with work for both subjects! Early in November two guest teachers from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) will teach the students how to create symbolic art.

In Science students will be going on fieldwork to Silver Spring as they learn about bacteria. They will be visiting the National Museum of Health and Medicine in mid-November.

In Literacy, students are planning for and looking forward to Student-Led Conferences and are looking forward to seeing you there.

As winter weather approaches, scholars still need to be in uniform for every class.

#### **SUPPORT SBCS**

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start your search at our website, [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.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 SBSCS can earn cash through the Rewards Program. All you have to do is log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://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 Sbcschool and keep up to date on SBSCS news through our website at [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.org).

#### **REGULAR DISMISSAL**

Elementary grade students who are picked up late

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. They are open to the public. Please check the calendar in this newsletter or at [sbcschool.org](http://sbcschool.org) for applicable dates.