



SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 12 SBCS Inc. Board Meeting, 6:30 PM**
- Sept. 20 PTO Chick-Fil-A Night, 5:00 PM**
- Sept. 21 8th Grade Parent and Student Meeting, 6:00 PM**
- Sept. 26 Back to School Night, 5:00 PM, Grades K-6 only**
- Sept. 28 6th Grade to the Walters Art Museum**
- Sept. 28 7th Grade Parent and Student Meeting, 6:00 PM**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello SBCS Trailblazers and Families,
Welcome to a new year at Southwest Baltimore Charter School!

Tuesday was a bittersweet day as we welcomed our entire SBCS family back into the building and shared about and remembered Mr. Chris. Although a bit sad, I was thrilled to welcome all our Trailblazers and their families. It feels great to kick off what I know will be a successful school year, filled with joy and learning.

This past summer, our teachers, secretaries, nurses, custodians, and other critical support staff worked diligently to ensure SBCS was ready and welcoming for our children. Kudos, SBCS Staff!

Our skilled, highly qualified and devoted staff is just as excited as I am to welcome our Trailblazers back to school. They are very enthusiastic and dedicated to meeting the individual needs of each and every student. They have thought about, researched, planned and ultimately created lessons and activities that will engage our students in meaningful learning. We know this will motivate our students to be, according to our school's vision... ***Thinkers ready to navigate our world.***

At SBCS, the parents, teachers, and support staff are all part of a unified family working hard to ensure the safety and well-being of all children, while providing them with a challenging and rewarding educational experience. As parents, you play an integral role in the education of your child.

Your involvement in your child's education will help him/her achieve more success and have a positive outlook on school. Please be sure to read the monthly newsletters and calendars that are sent home with your children, emailed to you, and posted on our school's website. Get to know your child's teacher and stay updated on classroom and school events. I'd also like to encourage you to join our Parent Teacher Organization that actively supports our staff in providing our children with the best educational experience and learning opportunities possible. Visitors are always welcome at SBCS, and I encourage you to stop in. When visiting, please enter through the main doors and obtain a visitor's pass in the office.

I look forward to sharing this upcoming school year with you and your children and can't wait to see the excellence that we will produce together. I would love the opportunity to get to know you all, so please feel free to stop by the main office to introduce yourself. Building a strong home-school partnership is important to me and vital to your child's successful educational journey. Thank you for entrusting us to nurture, encourage, challenge, and enjoy your precious ones as we embark on the 2017-2018 school year together!

Here's to an AWESOME new school year as we work together to make our school a great place to work and learn each day through honoring our mission... ***To create extraordinary learning experiences that inspire the thoughtful, courageous, compassionate citizen in every child.***

Sincerely,
Mrs. Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin
Principal

FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Schoolwide Norms: Be Safe! Be Kind! Be Productive!

You may have noticed Schoolwide Norms posters all over the school this year. They are our way of communicating to the whole school community

exactly what is expected in each shared area of the building. If you see students doing something they are not supposed to be doing—running in the hallways, getting up and wandering around the cafeteria, or being loud in the bathroom—please kindly let them know that running is not Safe and being loud prevents others from being Productive. Or, let a staff member know so he or she can address the issue.

You will even notice Schoolwide Norms for **Parents!** Please read below to be sure you are aware of parent expectations for dismissal.



**SOUTHWEST
BALTIMORE**
CHARTER SCHOOL

PARENT DISMISSAL NORMS

BE SAFE

- Let your child's teachers know you are taking your child, so they can sign him out.
- If you wish to stay in your car, arrive on the SCHOOL side of Herkimer St.
- Front entry is rainy day waiting area.

BE KIND

- Introduce yourself and say hi! We want to know our families!
- Treat teachers, students, and other families with respect and kindness during dismissal.
- If you are upset, ask to speak with an administrator inside the building or make an appointment for a meeting to express concerns.

BE PRODUCTIVE

- Make sure your child brings a backpack home. Check it daily for homework and teacher communications.
- Respect end of day learning time by waiting for your child to come outside.
- Go to the office, not to classroom, if you are picking up early.
- Students may not be picked up between 2:30 and 3:00 without advance notice.
- Please arrive on time for dismissal. Late fines may apply!

SCHOOL NEEDS

- Lunchtime volunteers (see Ms. Romey or email romeypittman@gmail.com)
- Working iPod/mp3 players
- Working rechargeable drill, screwdriver, circular saw
- Hammers, hand saws, screwdrivers, Allen wrenches
- Yarn and knitting needles
- Face –sized mirrors
- Hour-glass style egg timers
- Glue sticks
- Washable markers
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Cleaning (Clorox) wipes
- Hand sanitizer

PTO UPDATE

Welcome back all Parents and students. This year the PTO will be hosting a number of exciting events and fundraisers. We are asking for all parents to get involved. Our first event is Spirit

Night at Chick-Fil-A at 3599 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, 21227 on September 20th starting at 5:00 PM. Please come out and have a good time meeting new parents and be sure to mention SBCS when you order. The PTO will have a table set up at Back to School Night with more information on upcoming events and how you as great parents can help. Let's make this year a great one for our scholars! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Marita King at [443-415- 0489](tel:443-415-0489)

CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES

Hello! My name is Ms. Jes and I am the new elementary school art teacher! (But don't worry Ms. Siobhan is still a part of the SBCS family, in a new position!) I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful school! And can't wait to get to know you all! In the art room, we learn to communicate and talk with our art. We will explore, manipulate and discover new materials and techniques in order to express our thoughts and feelings!

The art room is always looking for donations of:

- large t-shirts to use as smocks
- cereal boxes
- toilet paper / paper towel tubes

Let's make it a great and colorful year!!!

Jessica Walther

The middle grades art studio is off to a great start! We're spending time in the beginning of the trimester to zero in on the norms and set expectations for this space before we dive into our art investigations. This trimester our 7th and 8th graders will be creating paintings in response to the idea of survival. Our 6th graders will be exploring the art, beliefs, and practices of ancient Egypt and experience an extremely fun art process to create their final products. And, 5th graders will be applying the elements of art to create artist trading cards for change.

Ms. Sanders

Express yourself! This is the most important theme we will explore in elementary grades music class this year. Scholars will have the opportunity to play a number of musical instruments, sing, and dance to express their inner most creative selves. They will also have a chance to perform original songs

September, 2017

and raps written during our creative writing block in music class. We hope to see you at our performances! They're going to be awesome!
Ms. Smith

Hi SBCS Family! I'm the new dance teacher and I'm so excited to be here. For this first unit, we are focusing on getting our routines down for how we enter class and start our set warmup. The students are also getting used to some new classroom norms. For safety reasons, the students are not allowed to wear socks during dance class and some of them are having trouble with this. You can help by talking to them about how their feet are NOT UGLY. Help them do whatever they need to do to be comfortable taking their socks off. We are diving right into our introduction to West African dance with Funga, a welcoming dance from Liberia, which the students will be performing at the first School-Wide Meeting. I am looking forward to getting to know my students better and helping them grow!!
Ms. Kutia

We have hit the ground running in Elementary Fitness & Adventure class. Students have already learned several new games and activities that help classes grow into crews while promoting physical health. Please check in with your students about days they have Fitness class to ensure they are wearing sneakers so they can safely participate. Students have already had their first take home assignment, a letter inquiring about what games and sports they and their families like to participate in. This information is really helpful for me to learn more about your student and to assist in the flow of the information, work, and knowledge between what we do in the gym and home. Be on the lookout for more Fitness assignments coming home soon.
Coach Hunter

In middle grades Fitness and Adventure class, we are excited to kick off the fall trimester with a deep dive into basketball. We will use this sport to increase physical fitness, make connections to our habits of scholarship and develop basketball skills. We are looking forward to a lot of hard work and growth in the gym this trimester!
Mr. Jeremy

KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Welcome new and returning Kindergarten families! We are so excited for this school year. We're spending the first couple of weeks getting to know one another, our classrooms, and the school. Please be sure to check your scholars' take home folder nightly for important news and announcements. Please reach out to your classroom teacher if any extra information is needed. Soon we'll begin our math and literacy curriculum, and will launch our first expedition-Toys and Play! If you are an "expert" in toys of any sort (or have a unique, interesting toy to share) we'd love to hear from you! We look forward to a rewarding school year.

1ST GRADE UPDATE

Welcome back! The 1st grade team is so excited to begin our year-long adventure with our new scholars. We're spending the first couple of weeks getting to know one another, our classrooms, and the school. We're practicing caring for each other and our community, and learning what it means to be our best selves. Soon we'll begin our math and literacy curriculum, and will launch our first Expedition—all about tools and work! If you are an "expert" in tools of any sort (or have a unique, interesting tool to share) we'd love to hear from you! Stay tuned for many adventures and opportunities in the months to come.

2ND GRADE UPDATE

Welcome to 2nd grade! The 2nd grade team is so excited to work with you this school year. In the beginning of the year we will be working to build a routine and structure in the classroom. We will focus a lot on making sure your scholar builds their independence. We will also be talking a lot about the Habits of Scholarship. We will start math with addition, subtraction and review of what was learned in 1st grade. In Expedition, we will start with learning about schools from around the world. Letters will be coming home with your scholar to give you more information about these topics. Be sure to ask them questions about what they are learning about; the letters will also give you sample questions that you can ask them. If you would like any additional support, please reach out to your child's teacher for this and we will happily help you!

September, 2017

Please remember to join us for Back to School Night on September 26th at 5:00 PM! We can't wait to inform you of all the amazing things your scholar will get to do this year!

3RD GRADE UPDATE

We are so excited to dive into 3rd grade! We have a lot to accomplish during these first couple of weeks, like getting to know one another, practicing classroom procedures, and understanding all of our school wide norms. When we start math next week, we will begin working on multiplication and division. We will start off building conceptual understanding by using strategies like repeated addition or subtraction, drawing pictures of equal groups, and using arrays to show multiplication and division problems. In literacy, we will begin with a unit about how people around the world get books and learn. We'll focus on learning about different kinds of people, on answering "Wh" questions about a fictional text, and on explaining the moral or lesson of a story. In Expedition we will launch our unit on health and the human body. If there are any families with nurses, doctors, dietitians, or other health specialists, please reach out to become one of our community experts!

4TH GRADE UPDATE

This month, the 4th graders will be getting to know each other and learning about their classrooms. They will be introduced to their new units in all their subject areas, and will be taking beginning of the year tests to show their current academic levels. The fourth grade teachers are excited for a wonderful year with their new students!

5TH GRADE UPDATE

The 5th grade team is delighted to have new, bright minds this year in our Math, Literacy, and Expedition classes. We are only a few days in, and we already recognize the genius that lives within each of our students. As a reminder, there will be many important forms, letters, and surveys coming home within the first few weeks. Please be on the lookout, ask your students to check their book bags when they get home, and return all paperwork as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you all at Back to School night on September 26th! Feel free to reach out to us by email if you wish, Mr.

Albert at aphillips124@gmail.com and Mr. Hoffman at wesjaho@icloud.com.

6TH GRADE UPDATE

The 6th grade team is bursting with excitement for this upcoming trimester. Be on the look-out for communication folders that will contain important information, graded work, homework assignments, and weekly agenda sheets. We are also thrilled to be taking off with our 6th graders for their first field work as Middle Grades Trailblazers to the Walters Museum this month. More information on this trip will be shared at Back to School Night on September 26th and also through communication letters with permission slips. We cannot wait to see new faces and old as we welcome families back to the SBCS community!

7TH/8TH GRADE UPDATE

Welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year! We are looking forward to seeing you all at our mandatory parent meetings.

8th Grade Parent Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 6-7 PM

We will discuss Home and School Communications, Middle Grades Expectations, Outward Bound, High School Choice, 8th Grade Passage Portfolio Presentations, and Criteria for the 8th Grade Passage Ceremony. You will also have the opportunity to meet all your child's teachers.

7th Grade Parent Meeting, Thursday, September 28, 6-7 PM

We will discuss Home and School Communications, Middle Grades Expectations, CWI - Camping Trip, and the High School Choice Process. You will also have the opportunity to meet all your child's teachers.

Please make sure you have given the main office your email address so you can receive all our home school communications. Your child's Crew Leader should have been in touch with you via text by now. If you have a new phone number please let us know.

September, 2017

SUPPORT SBCS

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start at our website, www.sbcschool.org. On the bottom 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 SBSC 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 Sbcscschool and keep up to date on SBSC news through our website at www.sbcschool.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. Please look for a letter detailing dismissal procedures.

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.

SBSC INC. BOARD MEETINGS

SBSC, 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 sbcschool.org for applicable dates.