



**SOUTHWEST
BALTIMORE**
CHARTER SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 4 Student-Led Conferences by
appointment only**

**Nov. 6 5th/6th Grades to the Walters Art
Museum**

Nov. 7 Picture Day

Nov. 7 7th Grade to see Harriet

Nov. 7 8th Grade to Center Stage

Nov. 28-29 School closed for Thanksgiving

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SBCS families,

There is a chill in the air, and it feels like our warm weather season has come to an end. The leaves on the trees are beginning to change colors, and Thanksgiving is right around the corner!

It has been great so far this year to see so many family and community members participate in our school events, such as fieldwork, volunteering in the class as lunch buddies, and our first PTO meeting of the year. SBCS administration, staff, and teachers truly value your parental involvement. There will be many more opportunities to support your child's school experience throughout the remainder of the year.

I know the unpredictable weather this time of year and unpredictable temperatures in the building make dressing your child for school a challenge. It is important that the students continue to wear their uniforms every day. They are permitted to wear long-sleeved t-shirts or thermals below their uniforms and wear/bring a coat or jacket, so they can enjoy the outside time at recess without being cold.

Your child's teacher should have already contacted you to schedule your scholar's SLC on November 4th. I hope that you will be able to take time from your busy schedules to meet with your child and his/her teacher to review and discuss his/her academic progress and performance at school. Your input and involvement are key to your child's success, and we value your partnership.

You will receive your child's 1st Progress Report Card at the conference.

Talking to your child about his or her progress at school can be filled with emotions: joy, excitement, pride, frustration and disappointment, to name a few. I am including these tips to help guide your conversations this year.

- Try to talk to your child about school throughout the trimester, rather than waiting until you receive their progress report or report card.
- Look at this time as an opportunity to reflect and set goals.
- Focus on the positive aspects of the progress report card – a favorable comment, perfect attendance, academic accomplishment, etc.
- Start the discussion by asking questions like, "What do you think about this grade? Do you understand why you got this grade? Is there some specific area that's causing you to struggle?" Answers to these questions will help you know what to include in your plan.

With your child, set goals and create a plan for improvement before report cards are done. It is important that he/she is part of this process. Things to consider are establishing a routine for reading and reviewing notes and flashcards, a process for

keeping track of dates for tests or projects, a plan for studying for tests, and asking for help when something is not understood.

Thank You for your continued support.
Yours in education,
Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin
Principal

PRE-K UPDATE



We had such a great time at the pumpkin farm! Thanks to all the parents and guardians for supporting us on our field trip. Please look for another field trip coming up soon. Student-Led Conferences are also coming up, November 4, 2019. Please look for a sign-up for that. We are still looking for donations for our centers such as towels, empty containers of soap etc. Also please check the snack list for your snack week and thanks to everyone who has donated already :).

KINDERGARTEN UPDATE



Kindergarten is hard at work in all subjects. Right now we are working on counting and identifying numbers 1-10. Please continue to support your scholars at home with counting! We are also working hard at identifying sight words and putting those identification skills to practice in our reading. Please also continue to read every night with your scholar! Before you know it they will be reading books to you!!

1ST GRADE UPDATE



First graders had a great time exploring the harbor and taking a boat ride on our first fieldwork experience! Please be sure to sign up for a student-led conference this week.

3RD GRADE UPDATE

Third grade is finishing up our Expedition unit on healthy and unhealthy choices by completing a hike to test our endurance and strength skills in nature! Next we will move into our Expedition unit on becoming experts on human body systems in expert groups. Please let us know if you have any health, diet, exercise, or medical experts you know who would like to come visit third grade as an expert!



4TH GRADE UPDATE

In 4th grade we are putting our poetic licenses to work! We are putting our rhyming skills to the test as we discuss our favorite (and least favorite) things. We are also learning about other poetic devices in our first expedition.

5TH AND 6TH GRADES UPDATE

In 5th grade Crew, students are “tangled” together. The task is to untangle themselves using calm voices, teamwork, and communication.



CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES

Elementary Grades Fitness and Adventure

During Fitness and Adventure, students have learned the rules and techniques of *Ultimate Kickball*. During each class, students learned key skills in order to be successful in a competitive *Ultimate Kickball* game. Before students were able to play a game, they had to learn all the important rules that would allow them to be safe and have a better understanding of the game. Students learned how to work in teams and discussed how they would be successful on defense. While learning and playing, students were able to build stamina and endurance. They learned how to catch, throw and kick. In teams, students were able to work together safely and successfully to ensure that everyone on their team understood and participated to their fullest potential.

Elementary Grades Art:

In art, 3rd grade learns the skill of gesture drawing and visits the dance room in order to draw real dancers!

Thank you Ms.Kutia for letting us visit!



Kindergarten students are learning about each season and its weather, and in art, they explore the use of falling leaves in order to make an authentic Fall Scene!



Middle Grades Fitness and Adventure:



Speedball games have officially begun! Students are now working on refining their skills and strategies.

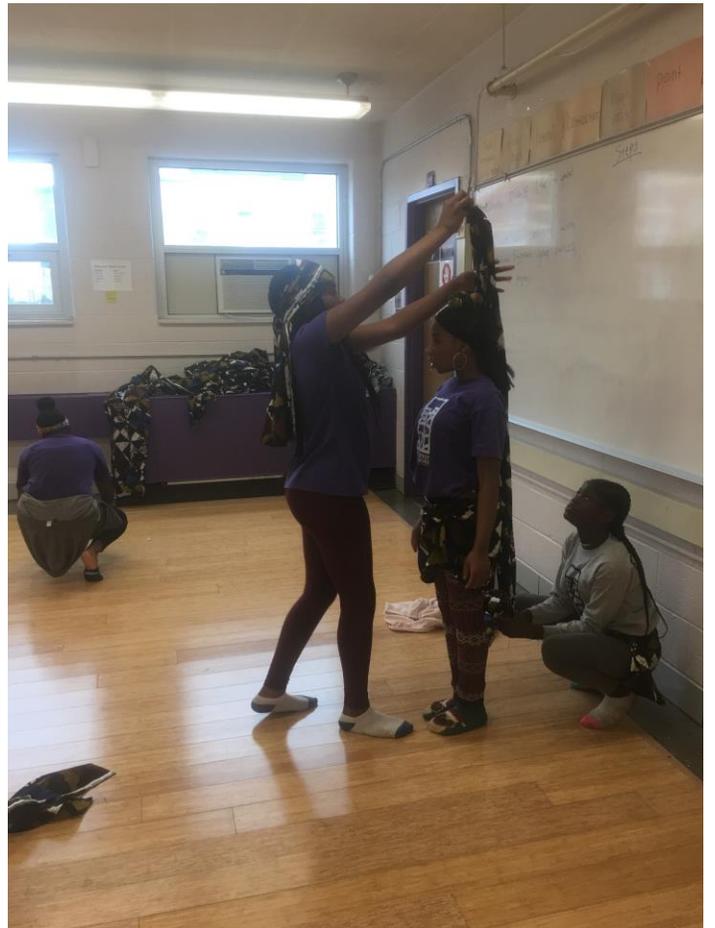
Middle Grades Art:



The brainstorming of ideas and planning for our final products have begun across grade levels 4th through 8th.

Middle Grades Dance:

Students are working on their group projects which is always a fun time. This week we started our choreography for African dance and 8th grade worked on a project to express how they feel about their communities



Tanay L. Harris, Community School Coordinator
THarris@elev8baltimore.org
667.229.7461

FROM THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

We had a wonderful PTO meeting on October 23, 2019. There were over 15 participants who all want to see the best for our community school. The group would like to meet bi-weekly until January 2020 to ensure we are meeting our collective needs. The next PTO meeting dates are Wednesday, November 6th & 20th. The meetings will be from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and food and childcare will be provided. We would love to get more participation from our families to ensure everyone has a part as we work to set goals and have solution-oriented outcomes that center on the whole child. As mentioned at the PTO Meeting, "Children come from families and families are part of communities." That is why we center on the whole child, and the understanding that it takes the entire school community.

Ready to take Action?

We are looking for parents and caregivers who are interested in going to Annapolis for the last Kirwan Hearing on November 12th at 5:30 PM. Transportation can be provided for those who need it. This is a great opportunity for parents and families who want to take action and have their voices heard on behalf of our students, schools and community as a whole.

Ways you can support.

Lastly, we have a pantry to help support our school community. We are looking for items to ensure that everyone has nourishing meals as the weather gets colder. Please feel free to bring your non-perishable items to the Community School office.

I am here to be of support to our entire school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me, as I am happy to be of assistance.



SUPPORT SBSCS

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start at our website, www.sbcschool.org. On the bottom 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 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.

EARLY DISMISSAL

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 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.

