



SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 30** **6th Grade to North Bay until May 4**
- May 3** **1st Grade to the Zoo**
- May 7** **Kindergarten Field Work**
- May 8** **Lacrosse Semi-Finals**
- May 9** **Lacrosse Finals**
- May 11** **School-Wide Meeting, 9:00 AM**
- May 18** **Middle Grades Skating Trip**
- May 25** **8th Grade Farewell, 9:00 AM**
- May 25** **Middle Grades Cookout**
- May 28** **Memorial Day, School Closed**

FREE SUMMER LITERACY PROGRAM

If you are interested in your child (entering grades 3 or higher in the fall) have individual or group literacy tutoring this summer, check out the program at Loyola. See below or go to <https://www.loyola.edu/department/clinical-centers> and click on Literacy.

BE A SUMMER LITERACY SCHOLAR
AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

JUNE 27 - JULY 27, 2018

The Literacy Scholars Program at Loyola University Maryland offers a unique opportunity for graduate students in Loyola's reading specialist master's program to participate in individual and group tutoring sessions with children in grades 3 to 12. Openings are limited so please register early!

All students are assessed using both formal and informal assessments in order to support a balanced literacy approach where students gain literacy skills, confidence, and an enthusiasm for learning.

LOCATION:
Loyola-Notre Dame Library
200 Winston Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21212

For more information or to register:
[loyola.edu/clinical-centers](https://www.loyola.edu/clinical-centers)
Phone: 410-617-1200
Email: theclinics@loyola.edu

- Individual and Small Group Tutoring
- 1-hour individual one-to-one sessions and 1-hour group sessions available
- The Scholars Program is offered Monday through Friday

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 2 - 3 p.m.	GROUP SESSIONS: 11 a.m. - Noon or 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
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Loyola Clinical Centers

MIDDLE GRADES PARTNERSHIP

Middle Grade Partnership Families, Here are a couple reminders for you as we head into the end of the School Year Programming with Center Stage. On May 12th all MGP students that participated in the last and final session are invited to attend Center Stages Culminating Event. There will be transportation for the event from SBCS

that Saturday at 11:00am. MGP kids will participate in the performance celebration, workshops, and a reception for them that day. We will get to meet and work alongside more than 350 other kids from the various MGP partnerships! We will return to SBCS at 4:30 PM.

Our summer programming will kick off June 25th and run until July 20th. The MGP bus will depart PROMPTLY from SBCS at 8:15 and head to the Gilman campus. If you are late for the bus departure you may drop your MGP student off at the Lumen Center on the Gilman campus to participate for the day. The bus cannot be held for your student. We have a tight timeline this year with many more participants. The bus will return to SBCS around 4pm for pickup. Please be timely, as there is no coverage for pickup if you are not on time. Please contact Mrs. Blymiller to coordinate any vacations that will take place during the summer programming to ensure that your child is still eligible for participation in the program. A communication letter will be sent home with your student the first week of June with important information, the schedule and personal contacts for the program. We are very EXCITED for our MGP kids and what we have planned in out of this world! (hint hint, NASA is involved!)

Best Regards,
Mrs. Blymiller and Mr. Thompson

PTO UPDATE

The PTO would like to thank all the family and staff who came out to support our last Spirit Night of the year. Please join the PTO in celebrating the wonderful staff at SBCS for staff application week. We will have different activities for staff the week of May 14th - 19th. If you would like to help in any way please contact Mrs. King at 443-415-0489. Please continue to send in your Box Tops.

CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES

May, 2018

Middle Grades Fitness and Adventure: The third trimester is flying by and the students in Fitness and Adventure are working hard to improve their physical fitness and develop the skills of lacrosse. Students kicked off the trimester with a series of assessments to evaluate their speed, agility and endurance. These assessments provided an opportunity for students to understand the importance of the math term, "median." They were timed by several of their peers and used median to determine their most accurate times. This approach minimized human error. These assessments have provided a great starting point as we learn a variety of techniques and strategies to improve our times as we challenge our physical fitness in Fitness and Adventure. Mr. Jeremy

Elementary Grades Fitness and Adventure: Students have just begun their final investigation of the year. To aid in your student's success, please ask them regularly about what they are working on in Fitness. Excellent follow-up questions are, "What skills are you working on in that game," and, "What are the parts of high quality work for that skill?" Also, as the weather gets warmer and warmer please ensure that your student has sneakers the days their crew has Fitness. Sandal, flip-flops and other "summer" shoes are not safe to wear when moving in the gym. Coach Hunter

Middle Grades Art: As the end of the trimester and school year approaches, our SBCS artists are well on their way to creating final products. 7th and 8th grade are planning out their street art to represent what they believe is worth fighting for. Our 6th graders are finishing up their designs and plans to handbuild ceramic pots that celebrate spring. Our 5th graders just finished exploring the moods of natural disasters and will be applying this knowledge to create prints for the front of cards that will be on sale soon. These proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross. Ms. Sanders

Middle Grades Dance: Right now in dance we are fully engaged in developing choreography for the two shows that will end our trimester. Our Culminating Event dance is based on the book Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters. Telling Stories, featuring student choreography, will be performed on a date TBD. If anybody has any traditional

African garb that they could either donate or loan us that would be really helpful. Also I need four people to work backstage. Please contact me for more info. Last but not least some of our students will be taking a workshop with internationally known hip hop dancers Les Twins next Friday, May 4th. Ms. Kutia

Elementary Grades Art: In art, Kindergarten is continuing to explore new materials and techniques in the art room! We are connecting to the expedition that explores plants and trees, and are creating our own trees using chalk, paper, oil pastel, glue, and paint. We noticed in order for a tree to grow lots of things must happen to the earth including rain and sunshine! We manipulate pieces of paper by tearing them into different shapes and creating a garden of flowers. Kindergarten will continue to explore tree texture, height, shape, and more throughout the trimester. We focus on what it looks like to be a responsible student in the art room, in order to keep our materials safe, and our space beautiful.

2nd grade is linking their expedition focus of gardens, and different types of pollinators to the art classroom by designing their own farm/garden. We are also investigating the math skill one point perspective in order to draw the farms realistically. We learned the vocabulary horizon line and vanishing point while learning this important skill. We are focusing on the HOF responsibility in the art classroom. We are responsible for our drawing tools, our supplies and for our conduct in the art room.

In 3rd grade we are exploring different materials and techniques in the art room. We are working on a long term project that asks us to explore a new material and technique each day. Students are using ink and straws to blow organic shapes on a paper, then transform those shapes into creatures with a sharpie. We are exploring a new way of painting with marker and water in order to add color to the creatures, and adding a background with color pencil while using perspective in order to create depth. We are also connecting to the literary arts by observing how illustrators and authors use words and pictures to tell a story together. With this information we take our artwork and turn it into a book. The HOF that 3rd grade is focusing on

is quality. With each material we are exploring we emphasize using it to the best of our abilities, for a clean and finished product that clearly communicates our ideas.

In 4th grade we are exploring art techniques that teach us everyday skills. Our first assignment is a self-portrait that uses perspective in order to create depth. Students are asked to observe the world around them and to notice times when things appear smaller when they are farther away. This concept is used in their self-portrait to give the illusion that they are falling. Fourth grade will continue to investigate materials throughout the year in order to have a better understanding of material manipulation, and management. During this trimester we will focus on the HOFs of perseverance and empathy. We encourage each other to empathize with those who lack confidence and encourage them to persevere. We also make sure that we persevere through our own challenges in the art room, whether it's learning a difficult skill, or working productively as a crew. Ms. Jess

KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Happy May Kindergarten Families! We will continue to practice encoding and decoding, addition and subtraction, as well as our study of trees. Please remember we have field work on May 7, Culminating Event is June 1, and the last day of school is now June 19. Thanks for all you do!

1ST GRADE UPDATE

In math, first graders are learning to apply their knowledge of tens and ones when adding and subtracting! We will soon work on measurement as well. In literacy, we are working on less-common vowel patterns, and giving extra attention to practicing using our spelling patterns when we are writing. We are also working on identifying the main idea and details in what we are reading. In expedition, we are learning all about how birds' body parts help them survive, as well as how to be researchers!

2ND GRADE UPDATE

Happy May, 2nd grade families!! Believe it or not our time together is coming to a close! We are so excited to finish out the rest of second grade with you all. Please be on the lookout in your scholar's folder for a permission slip because we have a field

work happening soon. Your scholar will also be participating in the planting of a pollination garden at SBCS this month! Ask them about the flowers that will be in the garden, and what pollinators they attract. By the end of this trimester we hope that your scholar will be an expert gardener and know why plants and pollination are important to Earth! Please continue to read with your child each night and ask them questions about what they are reading. Also continue to work on adding and subtracting to build fluency. We will be taking a closer look at place value during the month of May. We can't wait to show you everything we have learned at Culminating Event in June!

3RD GRADE UPDATE

Testing season is here for third grade! Math PARCC testing will run from Tuesday, May 1 through Friday, May 4. Reading PARCC testing will run from Monday, May 7 through Wednesday, May 9. Please make sure your student is present on those days, is well-rested, and eats breakfast at home or school. Then, MAP testing will run in late May or early June. We will have reading first, then math, and finally language usage. Outside of testing, we will be working on a lot of other skills in school. In Literacy, we will be working on researching wolves in fables and in nonfiction in order to develop our own high-quality narrative writings with wolves as the main character. In Math, we will finish out unit on comparing fractions and then will complete a geometry unit on attributes of 2-dimensional shapes. In Expedition, we are completing research on water usage, access, demands, and pollution around the world, and then will write opinion pieces explaining what we think the best solution to these issues is. We will then record our opinions as Public Service Announcements. If you have experience or ideas for recording these, please reach out to third-grade team!

4TH GRADE UPDATE

The 4th graders have been learning all about voting! In Expedition, they are studying the history of voting, and they have been learning about voting issues for why people vote. In ELA, they have been using voting texts to compare and contrast primary and secondary sources. In Math, they are working with fractions, decimals, and line plots to display data.

May, 2018

7TH/8TH GRADE UPDATE

In Humanities students are studying the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. It is the 200th anniversary of Douglass's birth, and we are looking at how important literacy was to Mr. Douglass, and how reading and writing helped him develop from an escaped slave into a powerful orator and writer. His skills as a writer made him rich and famous, and his work as an Abolitionist was absolutely vital in informing Northern whites about the evils of slavery. Douglass of course went on to become friends with President Lincoln and other famous politicians and Abolitionists. Students are analyzing Douglass's purpose and style closely as they read his book.

Mr. Geoff is stepping down from his position as Humanities teacher at SBCS effective the end of April. After 8 years in the middle school he is moving to a new location and a new challenge. He and his wife have accepted teaching positions at the International School of Panama beginning this summer. They are relocating internationally the first week of June! He considers it an honor and a privilege to have worked at SBCS with the most creative, innovative, caring, and intelligent staff in Baltimore City. He wants to express his best wishes for continued success to all SBCS students as they transition to the next level.

In science, 7th and 8th grade scholars are continuing to explore Health Science topics. Throughout the month of May they will be counting the data they collected from their community health surveys and creating both hand drawn and digital graphs. Students will also be responsible for researching local health resources for teens that will be promoted on our own Teen Health website hosted through the library's website. A variety of health-related laboratory experiments will also be conducted. Due to the important and sensitive nature of many of the topics in Health your child might come home with important questions. Please be prepared to discuss these issues. At school we have a variety of resources we can recommend if your child is struggling with their physical or mental health.

SUPPORT SBCS

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start your search at our website, 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 SBCS 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 SBCS 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.

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 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.