



# SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE

CHARTER SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 4**      **Pre-K to Adventure Dental and Vision**
- Apr. 4**      **4<sup>th</sup> grade to Mergenthaler Vocational Technical HS**
- Apr. 4**      **Just for Moms (and Female Guardians), 5:30-7:30 PM**
- Apr. 5**      **School-Wide Meeting, 9:00 AM**
- Apr. 10**     **Spring Fling Dance**
- Apr. 11**     **1:00 Dismissal**
- Apr. 11**     **Student-Led Conferences by Appointment, 1:00-7:00 PM**
- Apr. 12**     **Student-Led Conferences by Appointment, 7:00 AM-1:00 PM**
- Apr. 12**     **PTO Skate Party, 6:00-8:00 PM**
- Apr. 15-22** **Spring Break**
- Apr. 23**     **School Resumes**
- Apr. 25**     **Just for Moms (and Female Guardians), 5:30-7:30 PM**
- Apr. 26**     **Crew Friday (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** SBCS does **not** follow the BCPSS schedule regarding half day Wednesdays. We are in session for full days every Wednesday.

### CAN YOU DONATE TO SBCS?

We are in need of paper towels, tissues, and hand sanitizer. If you can donate any of these, please bring them to the front office. Thank you!

### STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. All students will be dismissed at 1:00 on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Students should only be at school during their conference time after 1:00 on April 11<sup>th</sup> or between 7:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### SUMMER READS

SBCS will have a SummerREADS program here this summer for five weeks. SummerREADS will run Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm July 1, 2019, through August 2, 2019 (except Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5). The program

is being operated by Young Audiences / Arts for Learning.

For more information about the program or to register, [click here](#).

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The program is geared toward students who are entering grades K-3 in the fall, though students entering grades K-5 may register.
- Children must be Baltimore City Public Schools students.
- Those currently attending the host schools will be given priority.
- If registration is full at a site, you will be notified and placed on a wait list.

Transportation to and from sites is not provided.

### SCHOOL SURVEY!

We need all families to complete the yearly school survey **by April 5<sup>th</sup>**! Your answers affect our evaluation and our charter renewal. You should have received a paper survey but if you prefer to complete it online, you can scan the QR code below which will take you to the survey or you can click on this link:

<https://survey.k12insight.com/r/SchoolSurveyParentSY1819>.

Thank you!



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SBCS Families,

The winter months are rapidly coming to an end, Spring is in the air and Daylight-Saving Time has arrived. We have been extremely fortunate as we have endured a relatively mild winter and I'm sure

April, 2019

you'll join me in welcoming Spring and shortly thereafter summer.

As we enter into the month of April and warmer weather, children should be encouraged to spend time outside having fun and enjoying nature.

I know it is also the time of year when we all transition into wearing Spring/Summer clothing. Please be mindful that uniforms are required at SBCS and when scholars come to school without a uniform, they will be required to 'borrow' uniforms from the school for the day or have their uniforms dropped off by a parent or guardian.

As part of our school's culture we love to enjoy nature. Our young Trailblazers will go for walks, play on the playground, and take part in activities around the building as part of their educational day. Please remember to have your child wear sneakers or any closed toe shoes to school so she/he has a safe experience outside.

It is also the time of the year when schools share information about their summer programs and various summer opportunities for kids. Please check the SBCS and Baltimore City Public Schools' websites as well as our information table here at the school for current information on some of these offerings.

A special thank you to our PTO and all the parents who continue to support our academic, culture and adventure program in the form of volunteering time, attending fieldwork, making donations, attending PTO meetings etc. We are very appreciative of your continued support.

Happy Spring.

Yours in education,

Mrs. Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin

Principal

### **PRE-K UPDATE**

Hello Pre-K parents and guardians! Our hospital unit is up and running and we are having the best time in centers. We have a dentist's office, a waiting room, a pharmacy, an exam room, and a NICU! Coming soon is an emergency room. Please make sure that you fill out your child's \*updated\* permission slip for April 4<sup>th</sup>, and be on the lookout for a Student-Led Conference sign-up sheet.

### **KINDERGARTEN UPDATE**

Welcome Spring! Even though Spring means warmer temperatures are coming, it can still be

cold for our scholars during morning Recess.

Dressing them in layers can ensure they're comfortable throughout the school day. Student-Led Conferences are coming soon. Be on the look-out for a sign-up sheet. We also want to give a shout-out to all our parents for all you do. Finally, remember if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's crew leader.

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

First graders have wrapped up their studies on the sun, moon, and stars, and are beginning our final expedition of this year: All About Birds! We'll first be focusing on how a bird's body helps it to survive (feathers, beak, feet, and habitat). Students will visit Marshy Point later in the trimester for field work! In math, we are working with place value and using tens and ones with other strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. In literacy, we're working on long vowel and r-controlled vowel spelling patterns. Parents please try your best to get students to crew by 8:20am, math begins promptly at 9:00am and some students are missing parts of crew/math. Be on the look-out for Student-Led Conference sign-up sheets!

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

Second Grade has begun their final expedition -- Plants and Pollinators! After studying the stages of a plant and the different types of seed dispersal, students are researching different pollinators. Students will be writing an informational paragraph about a chosen pollinator and will share this writing at their Student-Led Conference (SLC). Please remember to sign up for a time to complete your child's SLC! In Math, students are working on measurement and data. They have learned how to use a ruler and are practicing different ways of representing data. We have also learned how to tell time. Please continue to practice this at home and make sure to send your child to school in uniform every day.

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

Third-grade is excited to be in the midst of our final stretch of the year. As many of you know, third-graders take the PARCC test for the first time! So, in April, we will be spending time preparing our test-taking skills and reviewing for that exam.

April, 2019

Please be sure to talk with your student about the importance of this test. In literacy, we are studying wolves in fact and fiction. We are reading a variety of wolf folktales and fables while analyzing elements of narratives, including setting, plot, and characters' actions and motivations. Then, we will begin to use informational texts to research wolves in preparation to write our own wolf narratives as our final project in literacy. In math, we will be focusing on fractions! We are learning what fractions are, how to represent them with parts of shapes and on number lines, how to compare them, and how to put them in order. We will also work on measuring to the nearest half and quarter inch, and will review our data skills by making line plots with our measurement data. In Expedition, we are continuing to study problems with water for people and ecosystems, focusing in April mostly on the problems people around the world face to getting clean water. We will end the month by writing our own multi-paragraph essays detailing our opinions about the biggest problem people face with water as well as potential solutions with the goal of turning this essay into a Public Service Announcement recording. Please make sure you are continuing to support your student with their homework and are also reading every night! Thank you for all of your support.

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

Fourth grade has been in heavy voting mode! We have learned all about the history of the Voting Rights movement, and learned about who has had the power and who has not had the power to vote in our country's history. We are interviewing high schoolers about their voting intentions, and we are going to write letters to them about what we have learned and about what we thought about what they said about voting. In math we are learning all about fractions; we have done fraction addition and subtraction and are moving into fraction multiplication. The big tests are coming up, and the fourth graders will be ready!

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

In 6th grade literacy, students are involved in a study of how an author develops point of view and how an author's perspective, based on his or her culture, is evident in his or her writing. Students will begin reading Laurence

Yep's *Dragonwings* (870L), a high-interest novel about an eight-year old boy from China who joins his father in San Francisco in the early 1900s. As they read the novel, students will also read excerpts of Laurence Yep's biography *The Lost Garden* in order to determine how his culture and experiences have shaped his perspective, and how his perspective is evident in *Dragonwings*. Through the close reading of these texts, students will learn multiple strategies for acquiring and using academic vocabulary. At the end of Unit 1, having read half of the novel, students will write a literary analysis explaining how being brought up in a Chinese family in San Francisco affected Laurence Yep's perspective of Chinese immigrants living in San Francisco, supported by details from *Dragonwings* that show evidence of his perspective.

#### **7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES UPDATE**

Parents/guardians of 7<sup>th</sup> graders: Please choose a date and time to attend Student-Led Conferences on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 7 pm or Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 1 pm.

During Spring Break (April 15 – 22) please remind students to read daily.

Crew Friday occurs on April 26. Ask your child what their crew has planned for that date.

PARCC and MAP assessments are quickly approaching. On April 29 through May 10<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the PARCC assessment. Please ensure that your child is prepared for these tests by encouraging proper sleep and nutrition each morning and night as well as arriving to school on time. The PARCC assessment is especially important for 7<sup>th</sup> graders since it impacts high school choice.

The last round of the MAP assessment will be administered May 20-24.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade families: We are about to begin working long and hard on 8th grade Passage Portfolio Preparation (P3). Students will be writing, collecting, practicing and supporting each other as they prepare for their P3's and the Passage Ceremony. Below you will see the list of criteria for

April, 2019

taking part in the 8th Grade Passage Ceremony on June 7th, 2019.

- Students must hold a 70% average (2.2 or better) in all four core academic classes.
- Students must hold a 2 average across the six Habits of Scholarship - (Conduct)
- Students must come in an SBCS uniform every day: khaki bottoms and an SBCS logoed shirt and or hoodie.
- Students cannot visit CRC more than 3 times in 3rd trimester.
- Students must have no suspensions in the 3rd trimester.
- Students must pass 8th Grade Passage Portfolio Presentations (P3). Eight (8) tickets to the 8th Grade Passage Ceremony will be issued at the completion of a successful 8th Grade Passage Portfolio Presentation (P3).

Please ensure that all students arrive to school on time, dressed in the SBCS uniform, and with the supplies they need to be successful each day. Thank you for all you do.

### **CULTURAL ARTS UPDATES**

**Middle Grades Fitness and Adventure:** It is officially softball season as we have just completed a month of class where we learned and improved upon the major skills required to play softball. In April, we will be taking advantage of the baseball fields at Carroll Park to start going outside during days when we have nice weather, and implementing all the skills we have been practicing into our first scrimmage matches. Students can feel free to bring a change of clothes and shoes for F&A class now as we can expect the matches to become competitive! Coach Z

**Elementary Grades Fitness and Adventure:** This spring classes have begun working on catching activities in the gym. A great way to support your scholar is to play catch with them (any ball will do). Better still, ask them to "teach" you how to catch - this helps them clarify their new learning. Student-Led Conferences are coming up soon. 3rd & 4th graders will have data to show you to prove if they have improved their catching. Pre-K thru 2nd graders will be explaining one of our catching

games and how it has helped them get better at catching. One final note, please be sure that students are dressed to run, jump, stretch, and move lots on days they have Fitness & Adventure class. Coach Hunter

**Elementary Grades Art:** Pre-K is using their imaginations and building their fine motor skills by creating paper torn monsters!

Kindergarten is starting their investigation of trees and will design their own tree in an Eric Carle style!

First graders are creating their own birds for their bird investigations! They will explore map making in order to show where their bird will be flying!

Second grade is exploring one point perspective by creating their own farm! After that, they will start their pollinator and observational drawing investigation, in order to make flower seed packets to better our earth!

Third grade is learning how to create art by using chance! They started by creating organic shapes by blowing ink and slowly turned these organic shapes into creatures that will soon have a life of their own!

Fourth grade is exploring perspective by drawing themselves as if they were falling. They are asked to be creative and explore a bird's-eye-view in order to create a realistic interesting environment for them to fall on! Ms. Jes

**Middle Grades Dance:** In dance we are going to be taking a walk down memory lane with our music choices for Culminating Event. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th graders are working on dance maps. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th graders are working on tools of choreography. If your student is in dance, please help them to remember their clothes daily and to practice good personal hygiene.

SBCS Dance Company: Parents and guardians, please be on the lookout for a letter about the company fundraiser. Full participation is required. We are getting ready for the end of the year concert. Attendance and communication is required. Please do not pick up your child early

April, 2019



unless it's absolutely necessary. Thank you  
Looking forward to seeing the babies shine. Ms.  
Kutia

**Middle Grades Art:** In the middle grades art studio, we kicked off our investigation units. Grades 5th through 8th have uncovered their long-term learning targets and have begun the learning needed to meet them. 5th grade is currently investigating natural disasters and visually documenting them. 6th grade will be exploring unconventional materials in order to make garments and accessories. 7th and 8th grades are learning about the empty bowls project and gaining an understanding that art can be both art and activism.

#### **PTO UPDATE**

The PTO would like to thank all the families and staff that came out to our annual dance. We would also like to congratulate our two dance contest winners Brittany Barney for the girls and Mykhi Henry for the boys!

The PTO skate party is on April 12th from 6 PM to 8PM at Hot Skates at 1716 Whitehead Rd. in Woodlawn. Tickets are \$8.00 and are on sale now. See Mrs. King after school.

Please keep sending in your Box Tops. We are very close to reaching our goal for the year.

The PTO will be offering support to the SBCS Dance Company. We are trying to raise funds to hold a dance recital in June. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please see Mrs. Kutia or Mrs. King to donate.

#### **SUPPORT SBCS**

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start at our website, [www.sbc school.org](http://www.sbc school.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 SBCS 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 Sbc school and keep up to date on SBCS news through our website at [www.sbc school.org](http://www.sbc school.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 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 [sbc school.org](http://sbc school.org) for applicable dates.