

9th Grade Newsletter

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science

Resources for Families

- **SCHOOLOGY PARENT ACCOUNTS:** For instructions on how to create a parent account please see the [instructions](#) at https://www.bcps.org/tech_support
- **ACCESS TO FOCUS:** Looking for student schedules, attendance, and report cards? Log into [Focus](#) at <https://baltimore.focusschoolsoftware.com> or students can use access in the BCPS links on their Chrome browser bookmarks bar to access.

TECH TIPS

- Bring your CHARGED BCPS device with you every day. Loaner devices are not available.
- Restart your computer when you get to school and when you return home.
- Complete updates to Chrome and your device when prompted.
- Try troubleshooting using the tips on the side bar of the [Tech Support page](#) at https://www.bcps.org/tech_support
- Get live help from the BCPS Help Desk by calling 443-809-4672 or you can submit a help desk ticket via https://www.bcps.org/tech_support

9th Grade Team Contacts:

Ms. Bickerstaff, 9th grade team leader
kbickerstaff@bcps.org

Ms. Harris, 9th grade administrator
tharris4@bcps.org

Ms. Osborne, library media specialist
tosborne@bcps.org

COUNSELORS' CORNER

Counselors will meet with 9th graders during the December and January to discuss 6-year plans.

How to Succeed: Developing your Work Habits

- Manage your time
- Create goals
- Be organized
- Meet deadlines
- Ask for help in a timely manner
- Be open to feedback, learn from failures/mistakes
- Keep open lines of communication (family, teachers, school counselor, friends)

School Counselors:

A-G	Ms. Brumfield (dbrumfield@bcps.org) Mr. Moody (dmoody2@bcps.org)
H-O	Ms. Gould (rjuanteguy@bcps.org)
P-Z	Ms. Tavernia (atavernia@bcps.org) Department Chair
College Counselor	Ms. Monahan (jmonahan@bcps.org)

Skills of Success!

Each month 9th graders attend skill-focused workshops in their classes.

Next session: Goal Setting

Calendar Updates

Dec. 22- Asynchronous instruction, Winter Break begins
Jan. 2- School reopens
Jan. 15- School Closed-MLK Day
Jan. 19- end of Q2-1/2 day
Feb. 8- School Closed- PD Day
Feb. 20- School Closed- President's Day

Upcoming Units/Projects Winter 2023-2024

Social Studies

Mr. Sleplesky's, Ms. Jackson's, and Mrs. Streets' American Government students will be learning about the executive branch.

Mr Pagliarinis' AP US

Government class is learning about the role and functions of political parties over time and the different types of elections and political strategies used for election purposes.

Math

Geometry classes are working through units 3 (before winter break) and 4 (after winter break). Unit 3 covers similarity of figures and unit 4 introduces right triangle trigonometry.

Algebra 2 classes are working through units 3 (before winter break) and 4 (after winter break). Unit 3 covers complex numbers, rational exponents, and the quadratic formula. Unit 4 works with exponential functions.

English

Mr. Conner's will be finishing up Unit 2 PBAs (literary analysis focused on character development and theme) and moving into our main texts for Unit 3, the *MARCH* trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin.

Mr. Daudelin's classes will be reading the *Odyssey* and studying various types of poetry and working on a narrative poem in the style of the *Odyssey*.

Science

Ms. Achar's, Mrs. Bickerstaff's and Ms. Lee's Biology/Living Systems classes will cover the unit "Decoding your Future" aka Genetics.

Mrs. Bickerstaff's Ecology class will start our journey uncovering the Ecology of Maryland with the Appalachian Province in Western Maryland.

French

Monsieur Olive's French I class is finishing their identities unit and will begin their unit on school (classes, classroom objects, activities). Culturally we will learn about schools in the Francophone world. We will continue to focus on the geography of France.

Monsieur Olive's French 2 class has begun their food unit. We will be focusing on life in Belgium.

Monsieur Olive's French 3 class has begun their study of what it means to be a digital citizen (social media, use of technology, etc). We will focus on Martinique and also the geography of France.

Spanish

Profesor Alfonso's Spanish I class will be discussing activities in other countries and comparing them to activities in students' current life.

Profesoras Alfonso's Spanish II will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

Profesoras Owens' Spanish II will focus on technology in daily life and past and future tenses.

Profesoras Confair and Owens' Spanish Language & Culture/III will focus on the changes people can make to impact the environment positively.

Profesora Confair and Profesor Ruth's Spanish Special Topics/IV will focus on social justice and what people can do to fight against injustices. Students are learning the five past tenses in Spanish and using (direct object, indirect object, & reflexive) pronouns.

Engineering Principles & Applications

Mr. Renaud's and Dr. Mercer's classes will be covering structures of bridges and the engineering design process.

Automotive Services Technology

Mr. Cunningham's class will focus on lift safety.

Physical Education

Ms. Swiecicki's, Mr. Wagner's, Mr. Junker's, Ms. Rowe's and Mr. McEvoy's Fitness Foundations and Mastery classes will Skill Related Fitness Components and their relationship to physical activity and sports.

Cosmetology

Ms. Cooney's students will be creating their fantasy displays for competition. Also, students will access chapter 4, communicating for success.

Resource

Mr. Feigelis', Mr. Stigliano's, and Ms. Haxel's students will learn strategies to improve their organization.

Environmental Technology

Mr. Kather's Environmental Technology we will be examining Earth/Sun relationships and topographic map interpretation.

Academy of Health Professions

Mr. Payne's AHP students will be finishing the Muscular system. Followed by the Endocrine and Nervous systems. Students will also participate in their 1st dissections during these units.

Sports Science

Mr. Payne's sports science students will be completing the muscular and nervous systems.

IT – Artificial Intelligence

Mr. Sierakowski's students will be finishing their programming units and starting to work on their Create Performance Task component for the upcoming AP exam in May.

Guidance

Will be visiting 9th grade classes during month of December. Topics: Academics, Activities, 6-year plan, Accessing School Counseling Office and Resources, Bullying-definition and how to report and receive assistance. PowerPoint will be posted in 9th grade Schoology group