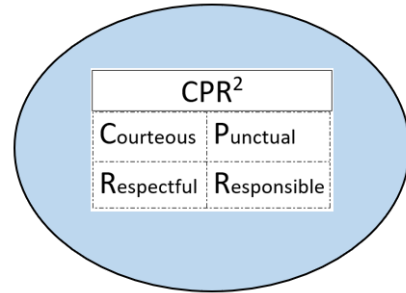


# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science

## PARENT CORNER

- Be Informed and Involved
- Be a good listener with your children. Discuss what is being learned, any challenges being faced, clear expectations for completing responsibilities (school and home) and how you can support them
- Encourage your child to self-advocate and keep open lines of communication with teachers, counselor and administrator. Assist in creating appropriate and professional emails to send to Western Tech staff. In WT School Counseling Schoology Group (Join/ Access Code: ZJ9B5-N78ZR) examples of how to write an email. Once in the WT School Counseling Schoology Group: Resources PowerPoints Communication Skills.
- Review Schoology on a regular basis for school information and your child's academic progress.
- Go over teacher feedback on assignments with your child. Emphasize mastery of skill rather than earning a good grade. Once a skill is improved/mastered the grades will improve.



## GENERAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Create a workspace that is quiet, well-lit and with limited distractions. School supplies readily available.
- Attend class daily and attend coach class if need
- Use your calendar/planner to keep track of assignments
- Develop and maintain Time Management Skills/Routine: sleep routine, a time to shut down all electronics, complete schoolwork, extra-curricular activities, eat, exercise, time with family and friends, etc.

### School Counselors:

Ms. Monahan, A-G ([jmonahan@bcps.org](mailto:jmonahan@bcps.org))  
Ms. Gould, H-O ([rjuanteguy@bcps.org](mailto:rjuanteguy@bcps.org))  
Ms. Tavernia, Department Chair, P-Z ([atavernia@bcps.org](mailto:atavernia@bcps.org))  
Ms. Weston, College Counselor ([lweston@bcps.org](mailto:lweston@bcps.org))

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Contacts:

Ms. Bickerstaff, 9<sup>th</sup> grade team leader  
[kbickerstaff@bcps.org](mailto:kbickerstaff@bcps.org)  
Ms. Kutch, 9<sup>th</sup> grade administrator  
[tkutch@bcps.org](mailto:tkutch@bcps.org)  
Ms. Osborne, library media specialist  
[tosborne@bcps.org](mailto:tosborne@bcps.org)

# Upcoming Units/Projects

## September-October 2020

### AVID 9

**Mr. Olive's** AVID 9 class has been focusing on personal organization, Focused Note Taking and writing thesis statements around the study of colleges. Guest speakers from CCBC spoke about that institution and Guilford College in Greensboro NC will be meet with students to talk about private four-year education.

### Social Studies

**Mr. Sleplesky's and Mrs. Streets'** American Government students will study the executive branch and start the legislative branch

**Mr. Pagliarini's** American Government students will study the executive branch.

**Mr. Pagliarini's** AP American Government students will identify interaction among the three branches of government beginning with legislative, followed by executive, the bureaucracy, and judicial.

### Math

**Mr. Carlino's** Algebra II students will work with properties of exponents, monomials and operations on polynomials.

**Mr. Saulsbury's** Algebra II students will work with function transformations, square root functions, and quadratics.

**Mrs. Wilson's** Algebra I students will review prealgebra skills and begin to explore algebraic topics.

**Mrs. Wilson's** Geometry students will study foundations for Geometry, transformational Geometry and geometric reasoning.

### English

**Ms. Higgins'** students are learning the myriad ways author's develop theme. Through the reading of poems, speeches, short stories, and the novel Kindred, students can understand how author's specifically develop different themes related to identity.

**Ms. Williams'** classes will read a variety of short stories in order to develop themes, understand and state author's purposes and apply literary devices in writing in order to write short narratives and analysis'

### Science

**Ms. Achar's and Mr. Helcoski's** **Biology/Living Systems** classes will study interactions of body systems and biochemistry.

**Mrs. Bickerstaff's** Ecology class will finish up basic ecological concepts and progress through Unit 2: America in Miniature by studying the geography and geology of Maryland

**Mr. Kather's** Ecology class will explore water flow and ecosystem diversity.

**Mr. Payne's** Anatomy class will finish the skeletal system and start the muscular and nervous systems

## French

**Monsieur Olive's** French 2&3 (combined) are currently finishing topic 3 of unit 1 "My favorite activities." We will begin talking about important people in our lives, our fears and our dreams. Students are responsible for using the present tense and imperfect tenses of all 3 regular verb groups and selected irregular verbs. Students should memorize key questions and answers and spend time practicing pronunciation of all vocabulary.

## Spanish

**Profesora Casas'** Spanish I class will complete unit one titled "It's who I am" and begin working on unit two "It's what we celebrate".

**Profesora Confair's** Spanish II classes will be finishing talking about their childhood and transition into talking about their communities.

**Profesora Owens'** Spanish III classes will complete the unit on travel destinations and recommendations, and then study climate change, other global concerns and their possible solutions.

## Automotive

**Mr. Cunningham's** class will learn about safety in the shop, OSHA, SP2, Lift safety and tools.

## Cosmetology

**Mrs. Cooney's** class will work on résumé writing and portfolio development.

## Culinary

**Chef Tomecek's** class will study food safety and nutrition and workplace safety.

## Engineering Principles & Applications

**Mr. Renaud's and Dr. Mercer's** classes will be covering optics, electronics, fluids and materials.

## IT/Programming

**Ms. Jeffers'** class will complete Understanding Computer Concepts and move on to Understanding File Management.

## Physical Education

**Ms. Swiecicki's, Mr. Wagner's and Mr. McEvoy's** Fitness Foundations and Mastery classes will work on health and skill-related fitness components.

## Art

**Mrs. Hamilton's** Data Self Unit transforming data visualization by creating abstract works of data using data we collected for 5 days. Units upcoming: Object Representation (Found Object Art and Observational Drawing)



Each month 9<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend skill-focused workshops. If you missed any of our previous workshops, go to the Schoology course: Skills of Success and find resources, lessons, and more.

Live Workshops are held once a month on asynchronous Wednesdays.

Sept.- Professionalism Oct.- Organization

Nov.- Professional Communication