Important Dates

December 2
SPP Review
FAM Meeting
See page 4
4:00 – 6:00
We are looking for feedback to help improve our school!

December 3
Picture Retakes

December 16 @ 6:00
Winter Concert

December 19
Interim Reports
Grades 4 and 5

December 20
Winter Break begins at the End of the Day

January 2
School Reopens

January 20
Martin Luther King Day
Schools Closed

January 24
Early Dismissal @ 12:45

February 10
SPP Review
FAM Meeting
See page 4
4:00 – 6:00
We are looking for feedback to help improve our school!

February 11 @ 6:00
PTA Meeting

February 11 @ 6:30
Dancing with Dads
Climate, Math & Reading Event

February 17
President’s Day
Schools Closed

A Message from Mrs. Hutchison & Mrs. Burch

We can’t believe that 2020 is almost here! We have just a few weeks before our winter break begins at the end of the day on Friday, December 20th. Our 1st semester has been filled with fun and learning and we are looking forward to a great 2nd half of the year. School will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.

With the winter months and more severe weather conditions of winter we wanted to review our inclement weather to both reassure and help parents and families prepare and plan.

- In the event of a major weather event (severe storm, power outage...) please watch our local news stations, visit [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) and/or download the BCPSNow app. In addition, you MAY receive an automated phone call, text, or email. For this information to reach you, it is important that you keep your contact information current within the online SIS system. If your contact information has changed, please visit the office in order to update.

- Please be considerate and safety conscious as you drop off and pick up students at school. The winter months see an increase in the number of cars. Remember to: not block the flow of traffic, not block cross walk area, and use the crosswalk when crossing.

We thank each of you for all that you due to support the safety and learning of our school family. On the next page, you can find our December Spirit Days. This will begin this Thursday. We wish all our school friends and family an amazing, healthy and happy December. We are looking forward to a wonderful December and an even better 2020!
Who are MES HEROES?

Middlesex Elementary

I pledge to be a HERO today!

- I am helpful to my school family.
- I work toward excellence as I learn.
- I am resilient when things do not go my way.
- I am orderly with my space and my actions.

HERO REFLECTION JOURNAL

Each day, after every subject, students are prompted to self-reflect based on if they believe they demonstrated the following virtues –

Helpfulness
Excellence
Resilience
Orderliness

Students will record their personal reflections on their HERO chart. Each night, they will take this chart home and share with you.

Please sign and return the chart daily.

12 Days of December Spirit Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12/5/19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12/13/19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spirit of the Season!</td>
<td>Wear your red and green to start the countdown!</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12/6/19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12/16/19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter Wonderland</td>
<td>Wear blue and white!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tree Topper</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dig out your favorite holiday hat, headband or tree topper to wear!</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12/9/19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12/17/19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday Socks!</td>
<td>Wear your favorite holiday socks or leggings!</td>
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<td>Tacky Tuesday</td>
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<td>Break out your tackiest ugly holiday sweaters!</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12/10/19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12/18/19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candy Cane Day</td>
<td>Wear red and white!</td>
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<td>Santa vs. Elves</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dress like Santa or an elf. Who will win??</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12/11/19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12/19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shine Bright like a Light!</td>
<td>Light up your wardrobe with holiday lights, glitter, tinsel, light-up necklaces, etc.</td>
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<td>Disney on Ice!</td>
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<td>Dress as your favorite character or wear Disney gear!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12/12/19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12/20/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grinch Day</td>
<td>Wear green like the Grinch!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dream a Little Dream</td>
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<td>Wear school appropriate pajamas!</td>
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REMININDERS

The weather is cold. Please remember to send your child to school in appropriate seasonal wear. Our students will continue to enjoy the fresh air if there is not precipitation or extreme cold.

We continue to ask for your help with regards to arrival and dismissal. Students should NOT arrive at school prior to 9:00am. This is because we do not have supervision prior to then. Please help us ensure ALL students safety by making sure they do not arrive until 9:00am (not before).
National Hand Washing Week
December 1st - 7th

CDC states hand washing can save lives and prevent illness. Wash hands before and after eating, after using the bathroom, before and after preparing food, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing and after touching the garbage.

How to properly wash hands: wet hands, lather with soap, scrub for 20 seconds or sing “Happy Birthday” twice, rinse and dry. You can also use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and rub for 20 seconds.

A look ahead: Hearing and Vision screenings will be taking place on January 8-10 and January 13-15 for Pre-K, 1st and 4th grade, along with any kindergarten students not previously screened.

SAFE SPACE
In order to assist students with developing self-regulation skills every classroom has a SAFE SPACE. This is an area within the classroom where students self-select to go and regulate their emotions. A place with tools that can be used to change their inner-state. A place where students can get composed. A place where students can change their emotions from upset to composed and maximize their learning. Within the Safe Space there are materials for students to utilize. For example, there may be visuals to help student utilize breathing strategies to calm their mind. There are fidgets to help students calm their body. Staff teaches the students how to appropriately utilize these tools and how to use not abuse Safe Space. Please ask your child to share strategies that they have learned about and/or utilized at Safe Space.

VIRTUE LANGUAGE
What is it?

At MES, we utilize virtue language to help develop positive traits within our students’ character. Above is a list of virtues. Discuss with your family which virtues are your strengths and which are growth virtues.
Students, teachers and adults experience conflict and need to identify strategies to effectively problem solve at school and in life. Conflict is an opportunity for growth. Conflicts are utilized as teaching opportunities at Middlesex Elementary.

We do this through conversations with students, witnesses, peers and others that were involved. When discussing situations, we pose the following questions to help problem solve and learn:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at that time?
- What have you thought about since?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

At MES, everyone will be welcomed to our MES Family and encouraged to do their best! We believe in each other, we will do our best in school, in life and in our future!
In order to keep informed of your 1st – 5th grade students work completion and grades, please make sure to join BCPS One.

To join:
1. Go to BCPS.org
2. Click on Parents
3. Click on BCPSOne
4. Click on create account

Attendance

“Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.”

Each month we monitor ALL student’s attendance. We provide several interventions to support regular daily attendance. We will provide a phone call home, a letter to inform you of days missed, opportunities to speak with the teacher, school counselors, or administration. Our goal is to work together to ensure all students attend school at least 94% of the time.

For more information - http://absencesaddup.org/importance-of-school-attendance/

Winter Concert

Join us Monday, December 16th at 6:00 in the gym to celebrate the diligence of our Middlesex Musicians as they present the 5th grade band Winter Concert and 2nd grade Chorus Concert. 5th grade band will perform first followed by 2nd grade.

Contact Ms. Cobb with any questions: Kcobb2@bcps.org
Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce an upcoming field trip opportunity! Your student is invited to a special daytime performance of “The Nutcracker” presented by Patapsco High School’s Dance Magnet Program/Music Program. The trip is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th and buses will depart Middlesex at 10:00 AM. The program concludes at 12:00 PM. This field trip is free to attend, but your student must return a permission slip to their homeroom teacher to attend.

Below is important information to make this trip a success:

- Please sign and return the permission slip to your student’s homeroom teacher.
- Please return the Lunch Form along with the permission slip. This lets the teacher know if your child needs a bagged lunch from the cafeteria.
- All chaperones must complete Online Volunteer Training once per school year. Chaperones should complete the training at least 2 days prior to the scheduled field trip.
- Volunteer training can be completed at:
  
  https://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info

For Volunteer Information, please visit...

https://www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info