Important Dates

October 31st
Halloween Parade @ 2:45

November 8th
End of 1st Quarter
Dismissal @ 12:45
NO PM pre-school or pre-k

November 18-21
American Education Week
Visit your child in school to see what a day is all about!

Monday, November 18
Kindergarten & 3rd

Tuesday, November 19
1st, 4th, Preschool & Pre-K

Wednesday, November 20
2nd & 5th

Thursday, November 21
Grandparents Day

November 21
Report Cards Distributed

November 22
Conference Day
NO SCHOOL

November 25
Conference Day
for Pre-School and Pre-K
NO SCHOOL for Pre-School
and Pre-K ONLY

November 28 & 29
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL

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

December 16
Winter Concert

December 20
Winter Break begins
at the End of the Day

A Message from Mrs. Hutchison & Mrs. Burch

It is hard to believe we are about to enter November and almost our 2nd quarter! November brings some very exciting events. Students will receive their first report cards of the year; parent teacher conferences will be conducted, and American Education Week will be here before we know it!

With all this excitement, the weather is beginning to become colder. 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.

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).

We had originally shared that October’s newsletter would be the last paper newsletter, however, we would like to have you RSVP for American Education Week. This will allow us to expedite signing-in, and the possibility of some light refreshments for visitors.

We hope to see you during American Education Week! Remember while visiting, it is important for students to continue to engage in their regular instruction. Therefore, we ask that you find alternatives for younger siblings and do not use your cell phones during the visitation as both may be additional distractors to our students. We appreciate your support and understanding.
Our 1st PTA Meeting of 2019-2020

We held our 1st PTA meeting of the 2019-2020 school year on Tuesday, October 22 prior to the fall festival. It was a great success. Many families attended and had many wonderful questions.

As administrators, we were asked about field trips. Our goal has always been simple, just two things – we will:

- Keep our students safe
- Make sure our students learn

Field trips provide excellent learning opportunities that must support our curriculum and be cost effective, while of course maintaining student safety. As discussed during the meeting, there are specific parameters around which activities/places may be visited for a field trip. In addition, we are to utilize specific bus companies aligned to BCPS.

We are looking for volunteers to help Ms. Clark research new and exciting field trip locations. Our goal would be for each grade level to attend at least one trip per year. Please contact Ms. Clark at mclark11@bcps.org to collaborate to identify new and exciting venues for our students.

Halloween at Middlesex Elementary

We are excited to continue our Halloween Parade tradition for the 2019-2020 school year. We ask that students wear costumes that are not going to scare their younger schoolmates or siblings. For example, no masks, look alike weapons or gruesome attire. If your child is not participating in the parade, we will provide alternative activities for them. Please let your child’s teacher know by October 30th in order to allow us to plan accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming our visitors. We remind you that you will need to have your photo identification scanned in our office before partaking in festivities.

At 2:45, our 3rd grade students will lead the parade out the front door, followed by 2nd, 1st, kindergarten, 4th, 5th, pre-kindergarten and pre-school. The students will exit our main doors turn left and proceed to walk around the bus loop. Students will then walk along the side of the building and back through the 1st hallway doors. Students will sit in the hallway to watch as their schoolmates’ parade by. All visitors will need a pass to enter through the back-exterior door.
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.

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.

HALLOWEEN

We look forward to welcoming our visitors. We remind you that you will need to have your photo identification scanned in our office before partaking in festivities. If it RAINS, we are asking spectators to begin arriving at 2:10. You will walk through the conference room and have your ID scanned. You will then go to the gym, as the students will parade through the gym instead of going outside.

RAIN PLAN

5th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd grade will sit in an assigned location in the hall to watch the parade.

Pre-school, Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and 1st grade will enter the side door of gym and parade through (in grade order). They reenter the gym and sit to watch the parade (across from parents). Upon reentering, 2nd grade follows, 3rd, 4th and 5th. When exiting the gym, 2nd can sit to observe in the main lobby (forming a tunnel). 3rd, 4th and 5th can return to classrooms upon exiting. 2nd grade will then follow back to their classroom. Pre-kindergarten, pre-school, kindergarten and 1st will exit gym with their teacher. Once students are dismissed to their classrooms, families with badges can follow (only after students have returned to their classrooms).

NO RAIN PLAN

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1st Quarter Report Cards

On November 21st, students in grades 1-5 will receive report cards. Students’ grades continue to reflect a body of evidence (multiple work samples). This body of evidence demonstrates how a student is progressing towards a specific GRADE level standard. To learn more about the standards please visit [http://www.corestandards.org/read-the-standards/](http://www.corestandards.org/read-the-standards/). BCPS has posted a guide to help you understand your child’s elementary report card. This guide can be found at [http://www.bcps.org/academics/grading/](http://www.bcps.org/academics/grading/).

Please remember -

- Teacher comments will be written only during 2nd and 3rd quarters. So, please make sure to schedule a conference with your child’s teacher, if you did not have an opportunity to meet already.
- Only 4th and 5th grade students will receive letter grades (3rd grade will receive achievement codes).
- Achievement codes cover a WIDE range. If your child is progressing, it is a range from approximately a D-B. Therefore, it is imperative to schedule a conference with your child’s teacher in order to gain a deep understanding of your child’s academic strengths and needs as well as their social emotional learning behaviors.
- Special Area grades and achievement codes will be completed based on semesters (2nd and 4th quarter).
- Kindergarten, pre-kindergarten and pre-school continue to receive a fall and spring progress report only.
Grade 5 Students!
If you are interested in applying to a magnet program for next year, don’t forget the deadline date. ALL magnet applications MUST be submitted to BCPS Magnet Programs by NOVEMBER 15, 2019, in order to be considered. Check out the information in the brochure and on the posters, you’ll see around the school.

Applications are available online at the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site. Applications can be submitted online or downloaded from the BCPS Magnet Programs’ Web site. Paper applications must be mailed to BCPS Magnet Programs by the deadline date.

Remember, ALL magnet applications MUST be submitted to BCPS Magnet Programs or postmarked by the November 15, 2019, deadline in order to be considered. Remember, paper applications that are postmarked after the deadline will not be considered. Don’t be late!

If you need more information about the magnet application process, please see Ms. Tyler, School Counselor.

News from the Health Suite
As the fall and winter seasons arrive, so do colds and flu. There are a few simple steps you can follow to help keep you and your family well and prevent the spread of infections. Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Don’t touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Stay at least 3 feet away from other people who are sick. Keep children home for fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Children must be fever free, without medication, like Tylenol, for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Children should be kept home from school for a full 24 hours after vomiting or diarrhea stops before returning to school. Please remember children are not allowed to bring medications, including over the counter medications to school. All medications must be brought in by an adult and require a written doctor’s order sheet. Also, it’s not too late! Consider getting a flu shot if you have not gotten one already. If you have questions please email me at nmiller5@bcps.org, call the Health Suite @410-887-0494, or stop in.
Help Kids Fight Cyber-bullying and Other Mean Online Behavior

Most kids will encounter mean behavior at some point in their digital lives. For some kids, this experience is a blip that's easily forgotten, while for others it can have deep, long-lasting effects. For parents, the key is staying involved in kids' lives -- both online and off -- so they can step in and offer help if necessary. With guidance from parents and educators, kids can learn how to dodge the drama and stand up for others.

Check out these 6 tips

**Define your terms.**

Make sure kids understand what cyber-bullying is: repeated and unwanted mean or hurtful words or behavior that occur online (through texts, social media posts, online chat, etc.).

**Check in about online life.**

Just like you'd ask your kid about their sleep, exercise, and eating, stay on top of their online life. Who are they chatting with? How do people treat each other in the games and on the sites, they're using?

**Role-play.**

If kids feel like they might have trouble removing themselves from digital drama, experiment with some different ways they can make a graceful exit. Talk through words they can use, ways they can steer conversations in positive directions, etc.

**Encourage upstanding.**

Let kids know that supporting a friend or acquaintance who is being bullied can make a big difference. If they feel safe confronting the bully, they should. If not, a private message to the victim can be enough to help someone through a tough time. Speaking up against hate speech is important, too.

**Take breaks.**

If you notice your kid getting pulled into digital drama, help them take a break. It's great if they can determine for themselves when they need to step back, but they might need some help setting limits. Putting devices to bed at a specific time, plus breaks for mealtimes and face-to-face connection, can help kids' recharge.

**Review worst-case steps.**

Walk through what to do if your kid is being bullied online. First, step away. Ignoring a bully can be very effective. If the bullying continues, take screenshots or print out evidence. Then block the person. If it gets worse, report the behavior to a trusted adult. Talk about who those people are and make sure your kid has their contact information.

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Please see the November MES Bulletin for more information or contact Ms. Tyler, School Counselor.
RSVP for AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

MIDDLESEX
AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

WHEN
Monday, Nov. 18th—Thursday, Nov. 21st, 2019

WHERE
Middlesex Elementary School
142 Bennett Road, Baltimore, Md 21221

Please RSVP by Thursday, November, 14th, 2019

Please return bottom portion

We are looking forward to your visit during American Education Week!

STUDENT’S NAME: __________________________

STUDENT’S NAME: __________________________

VISITOR’S NAME: ___________________________

VISITOR’S DATE OF BIRTH (WE CAN PRE-REGISTER YOU): ___________________________

VISITOR’S NAME: ___________________________

VISITOR’S DATE OF BIRTH (WE CAN PRE-REGISTER YOU): ___________________________

TEACHER’S NAME(S): _______________________

CIRCLE DAY(S)- MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY