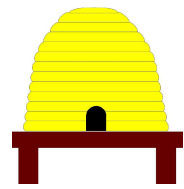


PRINCIPAL NOTES FOR THE BEEHIVE



November 13, 2009

Edition 10-6

Dates of Importance

November 16, 2009 – November 20, 2009	American Education Week 11/16 – Grade Five 11/17 – Grade Four 11/18 – Grade Three 11/19 – Grade One & Two 11/20 – Grandparents Day
November 16, 2009	Action Team Meetings 3:45 P.M.
November 17, 2009	Parent Mobile 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
November 18, 2009	Paraprofessional's Day (Thank You Ms. Crockett – You're the Best!!)
November 19, 2009	Report Cards Go Home
	PTA Evening Book Fair 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.
November 20, 2009	All Pro Dads Breakfast 7:00 – 8:30 A.M.
November 23, 2009	Elementary Conference Day – School Closed for Elementary Students
November 26, 2009 – November 27, 2009	Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools & Offices Closed
November 30, 2009	Faculty Meeting 3:45 p.m. All Staff – Personally Identifiable Information Compliance Training Best Practices – Candice and Barbara

Just a few notes and reminders.....

American Education Week: When parents are visiting next week, they need to be observing regular instructional. It is important for parents to see how their child(ren) are progressing.

Data Monitoring Tool: Now that we have gathered assessments for the first quarter, teachers need to complete the attached Data Monitoring Tool and submit it to the office no later than November 30th. Teachers in grades 3 – 5 need to submit Short Cycle one for reading and math and teachers in 1st & 2nd grade reading and math data.

We will have data discussions during grade level:

Gr. 1, 2, & 4	December 9
Gr. 3 & 5	December 10

Please see that attached Data Monitoring Tool. If you have any questions, please see LaVerne or Cindy.

EYE: Now that Extended Day has ended we are looking for ideas for before and after school program to enhance the instructional program. Be creative – The programs can be sports related, game related, clubs, etc. as long as it ties into reading, writing, and math. We are also looking for family involvement ideas

If you have not already done so, please see Teresa to sign out your Strategies That Work Resource Book.

Please review the expectations for fire drills and other drills with your students.

From The Superintendent's Bulletin:

JURY DUTY: Instructional staff are reminded that their school-based duties will not provide an automatic exemption from serving on juries. In order to prevent undue inconvenience to the court, schoolbased staff who reside in Baltimore County have the option of requesting that they be called for duty on non-school days. Staff members are strongly encouraged to use this option in order to fulfill their civic responsibility. Further information about jury duty in Baltimore County can be found at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/circuit/jurycomm.html>.

FOLLOW-UP REGARDING LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM AND LINGUISTICS STRAND: The BCPS' linguistics resources are available to all teachers online through the Office of Language Arts Intranet Web site and the Articulated Instruction Module (AIM). Hard copies of the Linguistics Scope and Sequence have also been provided to schools.

These linguistic units represent a collaboration of individuals from BCPS with expertise in language arts that spans over two decades. The linguistics units are not a new curriculum, but are a continuing strand of the complete language arts curriculum. Instruction in language, grammar, usage, and mechanics has been part of the language arts program for many years. The linguistics strand resources are intended to provide teachers with additional support and instructional activities to use in this instruction.

The 2009-2010 school year is the initial phase for the implementation of the linguistics strand resources. Accordingly, members of the Language Design Workgroup as well as language arts department chairs in the school system are introducing the resources. During this phase, teachers responsible for language arts are encouraged to employ and infuse the linguistics resources throughout the school year, since the strand is a component of the curriculum and will enhance instruction.

In the spring of 2010, surveys will be available to language arts teachers allowing them to express their opinions related to the resources and to voice further needs. This feedback will help guide revisions and updates to the linguistics resources during the summer of 2010. Thus the total ELA curriculum, including the linguistics component, will be implemented systemwide in 2010-2011, accompanied by appropriate staff development.

To support the implementation of the linguistics strand of the curriculum, teachers will be provided with desktop references to include *The Little, Brown Handbook* and the *Giggly Guide to Grammar* as appropriate. These texts and other materials have gone through scrutiny by Language Arts staff and the LDW members who designed the linguistics strand. Principals are asked to add these reference materials to their inventories of instructional materials.

In addition, the system is working with Harcourt to produce texts to be used with students throughout the system. The "new" texts are derived from texts that were used in BCPS previously and include instruction in grammar, usage, and mechanics, which were established as the components of linguistics years ago.

Professional development is embedded throughout the linguistics resources and materials. Additional support will be provided through professional development opportunities during the year.

To clarify several points of discussion:

- The linguistics curriculum is a strand, not an entire curriculum. It will not be piloted in the same way as a regular curriculum.
- Two facts must be made clear regarding *Language!*
 - *Language!* is not a linguistics program. It is a reading intervention and was not intended to replace the linguistics strand of the English language arts curricula.
 - *Language!* was to be implemented for a specified time. That time comes to a close this year.

Clearly much work has been done to augment language arts instruction in BCPS.

SICK LEAVE BANK ASSESSMENTS:

TABCO Sick Leave Bank: Employees who are members of the TABCO sick leave bank will be assessed their annual contribution on Friday, November 13, 2009. The assessment will appear on employee pay stubs.

Unified Sick Leave Bank: In order to replenish the Unified Sick Leave Bank, the bank's governing committee agreed to assess its newly eligible members one additional day and to assess its current members two days. The assessment will occur on the appropriate payroll schedule, either Friday, November 13, 2009, or Friday, November 20, 2009. The assessment will appear on employee pay stubs.

TECHNOLOGY LITERACY MEASUREMENTS: TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS: The Maryland State Department of Education is once again measuring teacher and school-based administrator technology literacy in order to report to the U.S. Department of Education the number of teachers and administrators who have met proficiency goals.

Both measurements will be accessible online from Monday, November 16, 2009, through Friday, January 15, 2010. The measurements and responses are completely private. Last year's participation rates for BCPS were 57% for teachers and 77% for administrators. Last year's information was baseline information only. The following information specifies who should complete each measurement and how to access it:

- The *Maryland School Administrator Technology Measure* is to be completed by all school-based administrators. To logon to the *Maryland School Administrator Technology Measure*, administrators should click on this link: <http://www.checkbox.msde.state.md.us/Survey.aspx?s=68c2dea6f5384a7b9edd9e1f19198d61>.
- The *Maryland Teacher Technology Measure*, containing a completely new set of questions, is to be completed by all school-based personnel that hold a teaching certificate. The staff categories for this measurement are defined as follows:
 - **Teacher:** Full-time professional school staff member who provides instruction to students and maintain daily student attendance records.

- **Library Media Specialist:** Professional staff member and/or supervisor assigned specific duties and school time for professional library and media service activities such as, selecting, acquiring, preparing, cataloging, and circulating books and other printed materials, planning the use of library and media services by students, teachers, and other members of the instructional staff, and guiding individuals in their use of media services and library materials.
- **Other:** Professional staff member holding a teaching certificate who does not fit either of the above definitions.

To log on to the *Maryland Teacher Technology Measure*, eligible staff members should click on this link:

<http://www.checkbox.msde.state.md.us/Survey.aspx?s=b3c3876a508945069e77a1da6048dcfc>.

All school staff are expected to discuss options for taking the measurements during school hours within the timeframe of November 16, 2009, through January 15, 2010. A faculty meeting may be designated for both teachers and administrators to complete the online measurement from a lab or using other computers in the school.

The information above will also be available on the Office of Instructional Technology's Web site at <https://intranet.bcps.org/offices/oit/>.

NEW SPRING 2010 COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME COHORTS: BCPS, in partnership with the College of Notre Dame, will offer cohorts for a Post-Masters Certification in Administration and a Master of Arts in Leadership in Teaching for Administration and Supervision beginning in spring 2010. Attached are informational flyers for the Post-Masters

https://intranet.bcps.org/superintendent/bulletin/2009/1113/377_Post_Master.pdf Certification and the Masters

https://intranet.bcps.org/superintendent/bulletin/2009/1113/377_Master.pdf of Arts Leadership.

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS: Members of the BCPS' staff are prohibited from bringing domestic pets into school buildings or onto school property. Animals that are allowed in school buildings and/or on grounds are those used for ADA compliance such as service animals that perform some functions that the individual with a disability is unable to perform, or those used in science programs, as approved by the principal and Office of Science. Animal guidelines are available on the Office of Science's Web site at

www.bcps.org/offices/science/.

DELETION OF POLICY AND RULE: Policy 1301 – *Community Relations*: At its November 3, 2009, meeting, the Board of Education approved the deletion of Policy 1301. The current procedures regarding the use of school facilities are addressed in Policy 1300, *Use of School Facilities*. The policy has been removed from BCPS' Web site.

"Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers."

-- Josef Albers

