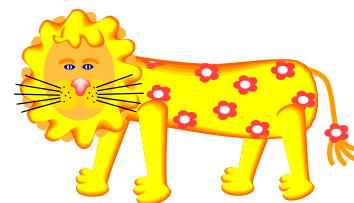


The Lion Speaks.....Parent's Newsletter

Principal's Message

- > Welcome back to a wonderful school year. We look forward to all being intelligent, respectful, responsible, and achieving.



Feature Article: Back 2 School Readiness

As students are heading back to school, as a parent, our things to do list seems to double in size. Don't worry, we "got your back". Below are some tips to help you.

- Ensure that your child wakes himself/herself up on time.
- Implement and stick to a sleep schedule and study schedule.
- Teach your child to prepare numerous meals and snacks on their own without burning down the house.
- If your child walks to school or the bus stop, you want to take a couple of walks during your free time to go over the path that you expect them to walk.
- Discuss your rules and expectations for your child during these walks, as well as any obstacles that may arise.
- Obtain a grade-level appropriate list for school supplies from your child's teachers if possible.
- Visit your child's school and learn where the classrooms, the cafeteria, the gym, the bathroom, the office, and the nurse's office are.
- Ask staff members for the quickest ways for your child to move from one class to another and which hallways are appropriate for your child to use.
- Have your child lay out their clothes for the week and pack their book bag.
- Make sure your child is engaged in a calm activity one hour before bedtime, no video games and no loud music.
- Provide your child with a healthy breakfast.
- Set up a day to volunteer at your child's school. Building a good relationship with the teachers can go a long way
- Model the core values of your child's school: Be intelligent, respectful, responsible and achieving.
- Be thankful that a school building exists.



August 2008

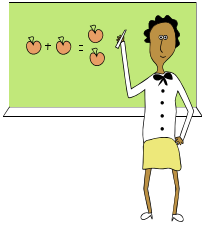
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
25 1st day for students	26 Math diagnostic placement test	27	28	29	30

September 2008

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 School Closed	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12 Interim #1	13
15	16	17	18	19	20
22 OCMS skills testing weeklong	23	24	25	26	27
29 School Closed	30 School Closed				

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OCMS August 2008

Monthly Math Musings



Keeping You in the Loop – J. Henschen

Welcome to our first issue of OCMS's monthly math newsletter. Our goal is to keep all members of our school community informed of all happenings in our school in the mathematics classes. Each month, we want to spotlight our math students of the week in all of the classes, highlight a course or math teacher, provide dates of special activities and assessments, and include some fun and fascinating math information for you. We hope that by "keeping you in the loop" we will be able to foster an interest in mathematics and mathematics education here at OCMS. Feel free to provide comments and suggestions to your mathematics department chair – Ms. M. Hayes – at mhayes3@bcps.org

And we look forward to seeing all of our students working hard in their various math classes. Please come up and visit us any time.

Quote of the Month: Mathematics is the science that uses easy words for hard ideas – Edward Kasner



Spotlight on...Who: Algebraic Foundations Thinking programs

What: An algebra preparation program geared toward students who have traditionally struggled obtaining, recalling, and applying mathematical skills and concepts. This program was developed as a three-year cycle of courses that teach students skills beginning with the concrete concepts and bridging to the abstract mathematical ideas. The program is scaffolded so that students have time to master skills since topics are revisited over and over in new situations. This program is geared toward student success as success breeds confidence.

When: Students are typically identified for the program in elementary school or through diagnostic testing at the middle grades level.

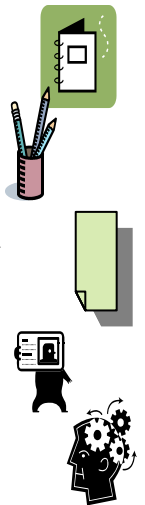
Why: Students are required to take Algebra I as the minimum course in 9th grade. Passing Algebra and the HSA is a requirement for a high school diploma in Baltimore County.

How: to get more information? Contact your child's teacher, or Ms. Hayes, or go to www.algebraicthinking.com to see information about the program.

Ready for school?

- A daily checklist

- For math class I need:
- _____ Notebook and textbook
 - _____ Pencils with erasers
 - _____ Test summary Sheet in the page protector
 - _____ Planner and ID
 - _____ My brain engaged and ready to learn



Important Dates

- ✦ 08/26/2008 Diagnostic - Placement Testing
- ✦ 09/12/2008 Interim #1
- ✦ Week of 09/22/2008 OCMS MSA skills testing
- ✦ Math night will be on 10/15 or 10/22, 1/7, 3/11, and 5/13 (HAS specific)

Check it out

See the next page for a fun logic puzzler that reminds you to read your 25 books. Return all work by 9/30/08 for extra credit.

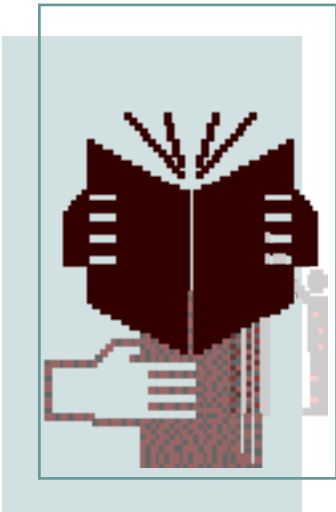
Name _____

Date _____

Eric, Kayla, Jessica, Natalie, Julia, Sean, and Alexis each have a different number of books (117, 134, 150, 131, 100, 109, and 114).

How many books does each person have?

1. Sean has an even number of books.
2. The digit in the number of books that Kayla has is even.
3. Jessica has an odd number of books.
4. Alexis does not have an odd number of books.
5. The digit plus the digit in the number of books Eric has is even.
6. Kayla does not have an odd number of books.
7. The digit plus the digit in the number of books Kayla has is even.
8. Natalie has an odd number of books.
9. The digit in the number of books that Kayla has is odd.
10. Kayla is not the one with 117 books.
11. Natalie is not the one with 109 books.
12. The digit in the number of books that Alexis has is even.
13. The digit in the number of books that Jessica has is odd.
14. Julia is not the one with 131 books.
15. Eric has an even number of books.
16. The digit in the number of books that Sean has is even.
17. The digit plus the digit in the number of books Sean has is even.
18. The digit plus the digit in the number of books Jessica has is even.
19. The digit in the number of books that Eric has is odd.
20. The digit in the number of books that Eric has is even.
21. The digit in the number of books that Julia has is odd.
22. Natalie is not the one with 131 books.
23. Sean is not the one with 114 books.
24. Sean is not the one with 134 books.
25. Kayla is not the one with 134 books.



LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING

- The star reading diagnostic will be given three times—September, January and May— as a way to monitor overall student body progress.
- All language arts classes will be regularly scheduled for library use. Please ensure that your child returns all library books by the due date by monitoring the books that your child brings home.
- The **25 book campaign** will begin in September. Be ready to rumble (readable?).
- Character education will be held on the fourth Friday of each month.

Reminders:

All summer packets must be completed.

School Wide Grading :

Classwork: 55% - 5% Drill

50% Classwork

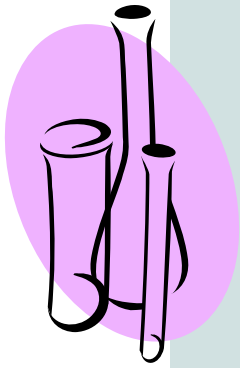
Homework: 5% - A completion grade will be given only if the student has no less than 70% of the homework completed. Any thing less will not be graded. When homework is reviewed, students that answer questions correctly will receive extra credit points towards their quiz grades.

Quizzes: 15% - Extra will only be given to students when earned through homework.

Tests/Projects: 25% Check the newsletter for upcoming dates for projects, as well as the teachers' websites.

Revised I Program : Students will have 10 days to make-up work, only if they submitted work in the beginning. Morning, lunch and after school coach class will be offered, in accordance with the teacher's schedule. Classwork, quizzes and tests are the only items that can be made up. Mandatory coach class will be required for an assignment that has been made up twice with unsatisfactory results (results that does not meet the teacher's level of quality work).

SCIENCE



All students will to complete a **science fair project**. This is a home based project. Please check Baltimore County Public Schools — **Office of Science** webpage for instructions. Your child will need to submit **an approved topic** to the teacher **by the end of September** and the project is due in **February**.

MATERIALS

- Tri-fold board
- The textbooks used can be purchased from Prentice Hall. Be sure to get the name of the textbooks from your child's science teacher.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We would like to remind everyone of the

... and the



OCMS LOCKER POLICY...



OCMS HALLWAY PASS POLICY.

1 Planner



+ 1 ID



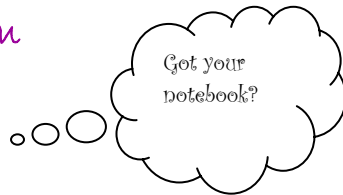
= 1 hallway pass



Questions? Ask your administrator.

No passes will be given during first and last MODs.

- Before Homeroom
- Before Lunch
- After School



ART

CHORUS

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

HEALTH

MUSIC

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PBIS stands for positive behavioral interventions and supports. In order to qualify for PBIS rewards, you must meet the Old Court Middle School Code of Conduct. Rewards consist of certificates, small prizes, and eligibility to participate in trips. There will be at least six trips this school year. The average cost for the trips is approximately \$30.00. Start saving your money so that you can join us in these fun activities. Don't forget that the code of conduct states the following:

I am intelligent. I am respectful. I am responsible. I am achieving.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT



Don't forget to take some time out for yourself, during these first couple of weeks. You will have to do an enormous amount of juggling to get your family settled into this change in routine. We thank you and appreciate everything that you do. To show our appreciation, we will have an awards ceremony for our parents, grandparents and caregivers. More information will be provided. We also need for every parent, grandparent and caregiver to pick a day to volunteer. We know that your children are older, but they still need your helpful and watchful eye.

GUIDANCE CORNER

High School Magnet Applications

If your child is entering the 8th grade this school year and he/she expresses an interest in applying to a high school magnet program, it is time to start preparing for the magnet application process. All the information on the magnet programs, the process, requirements and applications can be found at www.bcps.org/offices/omp/. The magnet school application will be available on the above site as of September 16, 2008 until November 26, 2008. The magnet school application deadline will be on November 26, 2008, no exceptions!

High School Magnet Fairs (*Anyone can attend*)

Magnet Fairs allow you the opportunity to meet with several magnet school representatives at one spot. This year, Baltimore County will have two High School Magnet Fairs so do not miss these important dates.

Saturday, October 4 at Lansdowne High School 9am – 12pm

School's attending: Carver, Kenwood, Lansdowne, Milford Mill, Randallstown, Towson, Western, Woodlawn.

Saturday, October 11 at Chesapeake High School 9am- 12 pm

School's attending: Carver, Chesapeake, Eastern, Kenwood, Overlea, Parkville, Patapsco, Soller's Point, Sparrow's Point, Towson

Open House Dates (*Anyone can attend*) Each magnet program will have an "Open House" at their school. At that time, you may visit the school and find out information about the programs.