THE BALTIMORE HIGHLANDS MISSION STATEMENT

The BHES community meets the individual needs of the whole child while providing a safe and nurturing environment. We establish high expectations to create a foundation that inspires students to become lifelong learners.

We believe the following:
- Collaboration among staff, parents, students and community members is necessary to achieve academic excellence.
- All community members serve as role models and should be valued.
- Students should be challenged academically and socially to achieve their personal best.
- Differentiated instruction is essential for our diverse learners.
- All community members should show respect for self and others.
- That teaching our students to think, dream, believe and achieve is vital to their future.
- Our students will be responsible citizens and productive community members.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!! We hope everyone had a restful and relaxing holiday break!

As we move into the beginning of January, I would like to remind everyone that we only have three weeks until the end of the second quarter. The second quarter ends on Friday, January 24th. It is hard to believe that we have gone through half of the school year already. We are so proud of the progress our students are making both academically and socially, and we are excited about the things that will happen for our students and families during the second half of the year. Our teachers are working hard to meet the needs of our students and to provide a rigorous academic program that will challenge our 21st Century learners. As a staff we are working to increase the time students are engaged in independent reading, providing more writing opportunities that focuses on the writing process, and integrating the CRA model in every Math lesson.

Guardians, we ask for your help to ensure your students get to school on time each day. When students arrive to school late this causes them to miss valuable instructional time. Please remember that students need to be to school by 8:25. Any student that arrives after the 8:40 bell will be marked tardy. In addition, our school is focusing on increasing our attendance rate. Currently, our goal is to have 96% or better attendance each day.
As we enter winter, please listen to the weather reports each morning for any school closings or delays. If schools are on a 1-hour delay, BHES will open at 9:25. We will still serve breakfast to students. If schools are on a 2-hour delay, BHES will open at 10:25. We will not serve breakfast to students during a 2-hour delay. In case of an early closing, BHES will close at 12:10 for a 3-hour early dismissal, 1:10 for a 2-hour early dismissal, and 2:10 for a 1-hour early dismissal. If you have any questions, please call the office.

I would like to remind guardians of our early dismissal policy. If you plan to pick up a student early from school, you must do so before 2:50pm. Students will not be released after this time because we are preparing for our dismissal, and it gets very busy in the office. Additionally, you should present photo ID every time you visit a BCPS location. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with these requests.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **Thursday, January 2\textsuperscript{nd}:** Schools reopen
- **Thursday, January 9\textsuperscript{th}:** TEAM BCPS DAY (WEAR BLUE!)
- **Monday, January 20\textsuperscript{th}:** Schools closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.
- **Friday, January 24\textsuperscript{th}:** 2\textsuperscript{nd} Marking period ends. School closes at 12:10 this day.

**HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS: IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!**

Beginning January 13-22, technicians from the Baltimore County Health Department will be conducting Hearing and Vision Screenings at Baltimore Highlands. The following groups of students will be screened during this time:

- All Pre-K, 1st and 4th grade students
- All Kindergarten students who were not already screened in Pre-K
- All students new to Baltimore County Schools in the 2018-19 school year (regardless of grade)
- Students who were absent or unable to be screened last year
- Any students referred due to suspicion of hearing and/or vision deficit

Students known to be under care for hearing or vision concerns will not be screened. If you DO NOT want your child to be screened, please contact Nurse Grisley at (410) 789-0848 to opt out. After your child has been screened you will be notified of the results. Letters will go home with students who have passed screenings, and Nurse Grisley will follow up with letters and phone calls for students who will need further care.
ATTENTION: 2ND AND 3RD GRADE PARENTS:
CAVITIES ARE THE PITS--- SEAL THEM OUT!

A dentist from the Baltimore County Department of Health will come to Baltimore Highlands Elementary School between January 31 and February 3-6 to place dental sealants in children in the second and third grades. Dental sealants help prevent tooth decay on the chewing surfaces of molar teeth where most cavities are formed. Dental sealants protect these areas by sealing out plaque and food that cause tooth decay. Parental consent forms will be coming home with all second and third grade children on January 3th. **Students will not be able to participate without a signed parental consent form.** If you have any questions about the Dental Sealant Program, please call the Baltimore County Department of Health at (410) 887-2780 for more information.

Dental sealants are only one of the ways to promote oral health. **Children who participate in the Dental Sealant Program at Baltimore Highlands should still see their own dentists regularly.** Your dentist will examine and clean your children’s teeth. Your dentist will recommend a program of brushing, flossing, and other home treatments that you can teach your children and help them with. Children with untreated dental problems can experience pain and infections.

Regular dental visits, regular brushing, and flossing will give your children a lifetime of healthy teeth. If you need help finding a dentist, please contact Nurse Grisley at (410) 887-0919.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION REMINDER

If any of your contact information has recently changed, please notify the front office in writing. We must make sure that all information is current in our system so we may contact you in an emergency.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL-TO-COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Happy New Year! Just a reminder for parents, grandparents, guardians, friends of BHES to stop by the front lobby and check out our wonderful Family Lending Library. The library is filled with titles that help with continued parent learning and student achievement. Also, check out Parent University on bcps.org. You may find it under the Parents Section. Here you will find Homework Helper Tips and all kinds of resources to help you out. You may complete both portions of your Volunteer training under the Parents section of bcps.org. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ms. Marti, Family Engagement Liaison at (410) 887-0919.
A NOTE FROM THE CAFETERIA

When a reminder is sent home with your student stating a balance is due on their lunch account, please submit the payment as soon as possible. If the balance due exceeds $5.80, your child will receive cereal and milk until the balance is paid. You may also go to www.mylunchmoney.com to place money on your child’s account.

GIANT A+ SCHOOL REWARDS

Baltimore Highlands Elementary School is participating in the Giant A+ Rewards Program. Please help our school by completing the information below so we will have the opportunity to earn cash for our school through the Giant A+ School Rewards program. You may log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online or call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card on the phone (phone numbers cannot be accepted in place of GIANT CARD numbers.) Our ID number 01549 should be used.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We can earn cash for our school when we collect, clip and return the Box Tops from participating products. Happy Collecting!