



Middle School Parent Letter

BCS Middle School Curriculum and Instruction

Due to the recent school closure, we would like to offer some educational activities to engage our scholars at home. We at Birmingham City Schools fully embrace our parents as our partners in education and are here to support you during this unprecedented time. Therefore, we have provided engaging learning activities and online resources for you to use at home. These documents can be accessed on the BCS District's website under the Curriculum and Instruction Department link (www.bhm.k12.al.us).

What Can Parents Do Now?

- Engage your child in daily instructional activities to keep them engaged in learning
- Continue to monitor effective study habits at home.
- Help your child understand social distancing (avoid close contact with others to prevent spread of disease).

If technology is available in the home:

- Go to the Birmingham City Schools Website and click on Enrichment Resources. We strongly recommend that students use these district-wide curriculum programs to extend their learning at home.

If technology is not available in the home:

- Solve puzzles and math problems
- Measure ingredients for a recipe
- Measure items around the house and find the area, perimeter, and/or circumference etc.
- Play card or board games that involve literacy and numeracy
- Discuss and explain charts, graphs, and tables from the newspaper or magazine
- Locate science articles in the newspaper or a magazine and write a summary
- Classify objects by putting them in groups based on their characteristics
- Read a novel and write a summary
- Read the newspaper or a magazine and write a letter to the editor in response to an article
- Write a letter to your future self- ten years from now.
- Create an action plan for solving a pandemic that has occurred in your community.
- Create a word personality by personifying a word.

Word Personalities (see example below)

- **Facebook:** Create a Facebook poster based on a word.
- **Twitter:** Create a Twitter profile and feed for a word.
- **Instagram:** Create a scrapbook or Instagram posts for a word.
- **Pinterest:** Creating a Pinterest profile for a word, including a list of boards and pins that would relate to that word.



Guidance for Multilingual Families

- Encourage listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities in English and other languages used in the home. Your participation in learning experiences in any language has a direct impact on the successful performance of your child. Multiple activities, experiences, and literature are best practices for encouraging the joy of learning in any language.
- It is encouraged to use bilingual resources such as books, flash cards, dictionaries, online tools, and other materials.

General Music and Art

General music cultivates a student's ability to carry out the processes of creating, performing, responding, and connecting. In General Music, standards are organized by grade level, taking into consideration the students' increasing level of maturity and intellectual growth. These concepts will be experienced through the following skills: performing (singing and playing instruments), creating, reading, writing, listening, responding, and evaluating.

- Play a recording and distinguish high/low, loud/soft, same/different.
- Explore and achieve awareness of music contrasts in a variety of music selected for performance.
- List 3 of your favorite songs and 3 of your least favorite songs and explain your preference.
Online Resource: <https://youtu.be/ixV42D5QVSA>
- Identify and compare ways in which art influences cultural values and trends. Examples: World War II propaganda, advertising, or political comics.
Online Resource: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_propaganda_during_World_War_II
- Identify how visual imagery affects one's perception of the world. Examples: Western art and Eastern art, Middle Eastern art, African art, and Early Colonial art.
Online Resources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_art
- Describe the effectiveness of expressive and meaningful communication in selected works of art.
- Analyze the formal organization of subject matter, elements of art, and principles of design in determining structural relationships in selected works of art.

Physical Education

- Challenge your students to stay active while at home and build their sports techniques through fitness-based components with the fitness calendars that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and S & S sports created together.
- Action for Healthy Kids developed the 40 Tips for an Active Family to get families moving together. The idea is that you would cut out each tip and place them in a bag or jar. Then every evening, the children would draw an activity from the bag or jar and that would be the family's activity the next evening.

