Parent Letter

BCS Middle School Curriculum and Instruction Response to COVID -19

We at Birmingham City Schools believe that education continues at home and parents are our partners in education. Therefore, links for online resources and learning opportunities will be on the District’s website (www.bhm.k12.al.us).

What Can Parents Do Now?

- Know your child’s username and passwords to technology programs used at school. They will need this information to sign on at home.
- Know your child and teacher’s email addresses.
- Read all information provided to you by your child’s school and teacher.
- Check in with your child’s teacher regularly.
- Continue to monitor effective study habits at home.
- Help your child understand social distancing (avoid close contact with others to prevent spread of disease).

In the event that schools are closed, here are educational activities that could be done at home to ensure that learning continues.

If technology is available in the home:

- Go to the Birmingham City Schools Website and click on COVID-19 Curriculum and Instruction 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
- Graph scores or stats for a favorite sports team
- 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
- Assign a topic based on what you are studying in social studies or science and have students do a research project on that topic.
- Create a list of writing prompts for students to write about in their daily writing journal.
- Give each child a reading log to complete each day with their parent’s signature showing they are reading for 20 minutes per/day.
- Read a novel and write a summary
- Read the newspaper 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](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](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](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.