

The Blue Ridge Banner



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School Hours: 8:50 - 3:38 p.m.

February 2020



Administration	Dean	Counselor
Principal: Brion Bell	House A Grade 8: Megan Baird	Penny Cohen
Assistant Principal: Matt Bolen	House B Grade 6: Caroline Milne	Eryne Racino
Assistant Principal: Nancy Griffith-Cochran	House C Grade 7: Steve Morris	Danielle Savastano

A Message From Our Principal...

Semester Two

Welcome to semester two, and welcome to February! Blue Ridge students are showing great focus by finding a quick rhythm as we move into the second semester. February brings many school and community events. Families are invited to an evening of fun and prizes at a social event of BINGO here at Blue Ridge; many of our music groups participate in district competition and other events. Interims are February 24th. As you can see, we are busy, but busy in positive, academic ways.



Writing SOLs

The 2020 spring administration of grade 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) writing assessments is upon us. Early in March, (3/5-3/11), Blue Ridge Middle students will complete all writing SOL testing online. There are two parts to Virginia's writing test: a multiple choice component, which is similar in format to the reading tests that students have completed online in the past, and a direct writing component, called the short paper. The Virginia Department of Education has released a list of potential writing prompts along with helpful resources for students. Our 8th grade teachers are actively preparing students for this assessment.

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Equity at Blue Ridge

Under the leadership of Dr. Eric Williams, Loudoun County Public Schools has solidified its ongoing commitment to an inclusive, safe, caring, and challenging learning environment. LCPS actively denounces hateful language and actions based on race, religion, country, of origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or ability because such language and action encourage discrimination, hatred, oppression, and violence.

Every individual is valued in Loudoun County Public Schools and LCPS encourages us to celebrate the diversity that helps define us as a school division. One way Blue Ridge celebrates diversity is by our annual recognition of the national Black History Month. This year the national theme, as determined by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), is African Americans and the Vote. 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. In addition, 2020 marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme highlights the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. Our Social Science teachers will explore this struggle and deliver lessons via History and Civics classes.

Upcoming Events...

FEB



February 1st
February 4th
February 5th
February 5th
February 6th
February 7th
February 10th
February 10th
February 11th
February 12th
February 12th
February 13th
February 14th
February 17th
February 19th
February 19th
February 20th
February 21st
February 24th
February 25th
February 26th
February 27th
February 28th

All District Band @ JCHS
Band 8 Woodwind Sectionals
Clubs/ Battle of the Books
Band 8 Brass Sectional
All A's Skating Trip/ Band 8 Percussion Sec.
All District Chorus/ All County Guitar Aud.
WIDA Test
Character Counts/ Orchestra 8 Violin Sec.
PTO Meeting/ Orchestra 8 Viola Sec.
WIDA Test/ Battle of the Books/ Clubs
Cornerstones/ Orchestra 8 Cello/Bass Sec.
PBIS/ Band 8 Rehearsal
Valentines Day
Presidents Day/ NO SCHOOL
WIDA Make-up/ Clubs/ Battle of the Books
Band 8 Pre-assessment Rehearsal
Orchestra 8 After School Rehearsal
WIDA Make-up
6th Grade Field Trip/ Q3 Interims
Orchestra 8 Pre-Assessment Rehearsal
Clubs/ Battle of the Books
Chorus 8 Pre-Assessment Rehearsal
BINGO Night!

A Word From Our Counselors...



Ms. Cohen
Ms. Racino
Ms. Savastano

Scheduling for the 2020-2021 School Year

All students and parents can view teacher recommendations in StudentVue/ParentVue. When you are logged in, click on **course requests** in the **left column**. Parents and students will be able to edit their choices until March 2nd. ****After March 2nd, all course selection changes must be made through your grade level counselor.**

Grade level counselors are meeting with students to guide them through this process during the designated weeks below. Counselors will also be sending out a Connect Ed message with a course selection sheet attached for parents to view.

Rising 9th Grade: LVHS Counselors visited 1/28 & 1/29 for course selection

Rising 8th Grade: Ms. Savastano will meet with students February 3rd-7th

Rising 7th Grade: Mrs. Racino will meet with students February 10th-14th



From the Unified Mental Health Team ..

Diversity & Acceptance

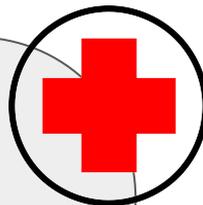
“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

- Maya Angelou

It is important to understand what makes us different in order to embrace these differences and celebrate what makes each individual diverse and unique. Talking about diversity with your children can be uncomfortable, however it is important to have these conversations in order to promote positive feelings about diversity.

Tips for Talking About Diversity

1. Talk to your student - Engage in conversations and teach your student to value all forms of diversity.
2. Promote Inclusive Language - Teach your student how to use inclusive language by discouraging and avoiding labeling.
 - a. Example of non-inclusive language: “An Autistic child” Inclusive Language: “A child who has Autism”
3. Seek out diversity in Media - Exposing your student to positive media about diversity and inclusion will promote more understanding and acceptance.
4. Model Inclusive Language/Behavior - Children learn a lot of their behavior and attitudes from watching you.
5. Don't discourage questions - Discuss issues of diversity openly and allow your student to ask questions to help them gain a better understanding of differing points of view.



From Nurse Stetter...

Health information concerning coronavirus and other Viral illnesses. .

A statement has been shared with the community on LCPS.org and social media regarding coronavirus. Currently, the concern is only for people traveling from Wuhan, China. However, this could change in the future. LCPS has not been given instructions from the Health Department to take any specific action. We continue to encourage:

- sick people to stay at home
- staying away from people who are sick
- avoiding touching one's face, nose, mouth
- frequent and thorough (at least 20 seconds) hand washing with soap and water and the use of hand sanitizer.
- coughing/sneezing into the elbow or tissues
- disinfection of frequently touched items and surfaces

Any questions can be directed to Student Health Services.

Tech Talk



Would you like to help your student troubleshoot their Chromebook? Here are some tips and tricks to keep it running...as long as they don't drop it!!

1. Weekly, students should be doing the following tasks:
 - a. Clear browsing history and cookies (cache). This is done by clicking Control h (when in the browser), selecting Clear Browsing History, then From All Time, then enter. This will help with any slowness or lags when loading websites.
 - b. Power off the device. Closing the lid is not the same thing as turning it off. Students should select Power Off from the settings menu. The button on the side is poorly designed, so avoid using it if you can. Powering off the CB allows for Chromium OS to receive updates. Microsoft sends out updates 3 times a year...Google sends them out all the time. This will ensure your student has the most updated version of the operating system, as well as any safety pushes from LCPS.
 - c. Using a Lysol wipe or an equivalent, wipe the keyboard and the screen (GENTLY). This is more for your kid's health rather the CB's, but gross....look at what is wiped off the device!

Tech Talk



¿Te gustaría ayudar a tu estudiante a solucionar problemas de su Chromebook? Aquí hay algunos consejos y trucos para mantenerlo en funcionamiento ... ¡¡¡siempre y cuando no lo suelten !!

Semanalmente, los estudiantes deben hacer las siguientes tareas:

Borrar el historial de navegación y las cookies (caché). Esto se hace haciendo clic en Control h (cuando está en el navegador), seleccionando Borrar historial de navegación, luego Desde todos los tiempos, luego ingrese. Esto ayudará con cualquier lentitud o retraso al cargar sitios web.

Apaga el dispositivo. Cerrar la tapa no es lo mismo que apagarla. Los estudiantes deben seleccionar Apagar desde el menú de configuración. El botón en el lateral está mal diseñado, así que evite usarlo si puede. Apagar el CB permite que Chromium OS reciba actualizaciones. Microsoft envía actualizaciones 3 veces al año ... Google las envía todo el tiempo. Esto asegurará que su estudiante tenga la versión más actualizada del sistema operativo, así como cualquier impulso de seguridad de LCPS.

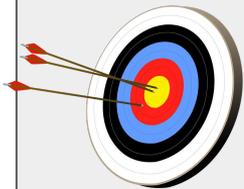
Usando un paño Lysol o un equivalente, limpie el teclado y la pantalla (SUAVEMENTE). Esto es más para la salud de tus hijos que para los CB, pero asqueroso ... ¡mira lo que se borra del dispositivo!



From the PBIS Team ..

Blue Ridge Middle School is not only committed to excellence in academics but also in character development and that is achieved through PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System). One way we help students develop great character is through PBIS lessons. Following are the PBIS/Character Development lessons for February. The focus for February is:

GOAL SETTING



RESPONSIBILITY:

Goal Setting as an Act of being Responsible (February 13th)

&

Making Good Choices as an Act of being Responsible (February 27th)

*Connect-Ed Messages will be sent out explaining the details of each lesson.