

Shady Side Elementary School

November 2020

Newsletter



Contact Us At:

Shady Side Elementary
4859 Atwell Road
Shady Side, Maryland 20764

Principal: Mrs. Melissa L. Brown
Asst. Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Ahrons
Phone: 410-222-1621/410-867-1981
Fax: 410-867-4921
Health Room: 410-222-2955

Principal's Message:

Happy November Shady Side Families! We have turned our clocks back to Eastern Standard Time, but here is certainly nothing standard about our current times. As we prepare and post this newsletter, there is still much uncertainty in what will happen in the days and weeks ahead. Please know that the teachers and staff at Shady Side will continue to provide consistent, solid instruction as we navigate November and the expected transition to some students returning to the building. Mrs. Ahrons and I are also working hard, along with our office staff and Chief Custodian, to plan for the return of students from both an instructional and safety standpoint. Pending final decisions from the Board of Education Meeting this evening, families will be notified about teacher assignments for the shift to Hybrid and the adjusted schedule following the timelines we are provided. As there is much work involved in this process, I cannot guarantee a great deal of lead time for PK-2 families; however, we will complete this process and provide notification in as timely a manner as possible.

All Kindergarten through Fifth-Grade students have completed i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments in Reading and Math, and teachers are using this data to help plan for classroom instruction. One of the most impactful components of the i-Ready program is the individualized, differentiated, targeted practice for students to do outside of school. In grades K-2, we are technically not assigning homework in the virtual setting. However, spending 10-15 minutes in either i-Ready Reading or i-Ready Math is strongly encouraged. I-Ready Reading and Math practice should be a nightly part of homework for students in grades 3-5. Research shows that by completing these practice games and activities, students can accelerate their growth toward mastery of standards beyond what typically occurs with daily instruction and homework practice. I-Ready practice is not just for students who are struggling with concepts as it allows students to accelerate their skills as well. As a school, we are monitoring the time students spend engaged in these activities and hope your child is accessing i-Ready daily.

Attendance expectations have not changed in the virtual environment. All students are expected to "attend" school, all day, every day per the published schedule. Students should be logged in, with cameras on, actively participating in all Google Meets per their schedule – this includes content areas and Cultural Arts. Our report Card/Progress report process has returned to normal, and students are earning grades/codes per Board Policy, and participation in non-graded subject such as Media and EEE are reflected in the Expected Student Behavior grades. The only exception to attending class is if a student has applied and been approved for an Alternate Attendance Plan. When your child is absent, please submit an absence note, as has always been required. This year, however, these are submitted electronically at:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FGGvg1HFPcBiW7TrDA&sa=D>. (This link has also been provided by teachers, is on our website, and is on my Google Site.)

We are rapidly nearing the end of the first marking period, and we appreciate all the ways families have worked with us to make this first 25% of the school year successful. Our teachers and staff love your students, believe in your students, and are working every day for the benefit of your students. Together, we can make an amazing difference in the lives of our Shady Side Scholars!

*****Important Information*****

Students Attending School for Hybrid

It is imperative that parents conduct the [Daily Symptom Screening for Parents/Guardians](#) (included in this newsletter) every morning prior to your child heading to school. If your child shows any symptoms on the list, they ***SHOULD NOT*** attend school as indicated on the screening checklist.

School Office/Access/Materials Drop Off

The school office is open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (when students return to the building, those hours will extend to 4:20 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). However, the school office continues to be BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Even with the return of students we will not return to parents/families entering the school office. We will also be limiting the number of things that can be dropped off at the school. For the safety of individuals in the building, we cannot have staff handling a multitude of items being dropped off from various places, nor, in our effort to keep cohorts of students separated and monitored in the building, can we have students leaving the classroom to come to the office to pick up items. We are asking parents to please ensure students leave the house with all necessary items for the school day, including lunches, fully charged devices, instruments, and learning backpacks with all materials provided in them. At this time, all students in the building will be provided with free meals, so lunches do not need to be brought to the school if forgotten.

Should you need to drop off paperwork or medication for the Health Room, you must call and make an appointment. Health Room staff will be alerted to your arrival and will meet you in the vestibule to take care of paperwork/accepting medications.

Student Drop Off/Pick Up

We are encouraging all students to arrive at school on time due to the safety procedures in the building as well as the shorter AM instructional block. If your student must arrive to school late, you will walk your student to the door, verify that your child is showing no symptoms of COVID, and then your CHILD ONLY will be buzzed in to the building. The office staff will take care of documenting the tardy arrival of your student.

If you need to pick your child up early, you will come to the door and state your reason. The office staff will call for your child to come to the office while you await them outside. The office staff will document your child's early dismissal on our log. If your child is being picked up from the Health Room, the Health Room will notify the office you are coming, you will ring the bell and state your purpose, and then await your child outside as Health Room staff escorts them to the vestibule. On occasion, the office staff may direct parents to head along the breezeway toward the exterior Health Room door to meet your child outside where they will be escorted by Health Room staff.

Arrival/Dismissal

When students return, we will need to modify our arrival and dismissal procedures due to both staffing and safety concerns. Students will not be entering through the front door. Final plans for entry points are still being worked on and will be communicated to students by staff on duty once students return. Car rider procedures for dismissal will be our biggest change during our Hybrid model. Parents will enter the front parking lot, just like for drop off, and students will be brought to your cars. If there are any changes to these procedures as we get closer to the return of students, this will be communicated through Blackboard Connect.

Important Reminders

Dates to Remember

- 3 Elections – All Schools & Central Offices Closed.**
- 12-13 End of first marking period.
- 16 Beginning of second marking period.
- 16-20 American Education Week.
- 24 Report card distribution for students.
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday – All Schools & Central Offices Closed.**

Health Room Reminder

If you received information from the Health Room requesting your child's Health Inventory or updated Immunization Form, please return the forms back to Shady Side Elementary Health Room as soon as possible. Thank you.

Chromebooks

Parents,

If your child's Chromebook needs to be serviced by the Computer Tech, please disinfect the Chromebook before dropping it off at the school. When dropping off the Chromebook, please do not forget to bring the power cord with you.

Please notify the office before dropping off your child's device.
410-222-1621

School Meals @ Curbside

AACPS is serving free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack to children, ages 2–18. **There are no income restrictions.**

Meals are served Monday through Friday. Meals are available curbside from noon–12:30 p.m. at Shady Side Elementary.



Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11th.



Guidance News

Ms. Blandford

Happy November!



Guidance lessons are looking a little different in the virtual learning world this year. Currently, I have been visiting classes once a month. During the month of October, we defined stress, identified how it affects our body, and identified and practiced stress reduction strategies. Ask your child which strategy he/she will use the next time he/she feels stressed. This month our lesson will focus on Social Justice. Beginning next week, I will be posting follow up activities to these lessons on my google classroom page. The activities are optional but would be a great way for you to follow up on our lessons. The access code for my google classroom is xhfysm7.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is participating in the Kids Helping Kids Harvest for the Hungry Food Campaign. This year the program will encourage students to ask for donations and raise money for their hungry peers. By participating, this will teach our children a valuable lesson about hunger, encouraging them to give, and shows them that they can make a difference not only in their community, but within our county. For every dollar raised, eight pounds of food can be purchased. To donate go to www.aacps.org/harvest. Proceeds directly benefit the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Currently, Shady Side Elementary has collected \$125.00 in donations. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this worthy cause.

Please know that I am here to support your child academically, socially, and emotionally. I can be reached via email at lblandford@aacps.org or through google voice at 301-539-9519.



Congratulations October Scholars of the Month!

Mrs. Shryock (Pre-K) – Cassandra Cook
Miss Taylor (Kind.) – Richard King
Mrs. Kaye (Kind.) – Brooke Volta
Mrs. Mitchell (Kind.) – Alice Gardner
Mrs. Auth (Kind.) – Lydia Hall
Mrs. Pannell (Kind.) – Noah Meese
Mrs. Sturgell (1st gr.) – AJ Lanham
Mr. Witmer (1st gr.) – Charli Kannegiser
Ms. Connolly (1st gr.) – Luella Bressler
Mrs. True (1st gr.) – Brian Jones
Mrs. Anderson (2nd gr.) – Makenzie Twigg
Mrs. Fladung (2nd gr.) – Madeline Viverette
Ms. Brown (2nd gr.) – Daniel Yuhas
Mr. Tuttle (3rd gr.) – Christopher Holland
Ms. Maloney (3rd gr.) – Jackson Boquel

Mrs. Duval (3rd gr.) – Logan Marsters
Ms. Paolitto (4th gr.) – Madison Lanham
Mrs. Parks (4th gr.) – Antonio Romano
Mrs. Langford-Howell (4th gr.) – Steven Hardy
Mrs. Weckel (5th gr.) – Bentley Fowler
Mrs. Howell (5th gr.) – Joshua Larrimore
Mrs. Flanders (5th gr.) – Gavin Frazier
Mrs. Bacon (PE) – Isabel Gould
Miss Shryock (Art) – Kamdyn Hopkinson
Mrs. Kochanski - (Triple E) Kaylee Cook
Mrs. Wolfstone-Smith (Triple E) Justin Lane
Mrs. Witmer (Music) – McKenna DiMarco
Mrs. Guy (Media) – Makenzie Twigg
Ms. Walsh (P/T) Media – Cullen Davis
Dominic DeAngelis, Taylor Henkensiefken



Literacy News

Mrs. Blundell & Mrs. Whalen



RESOURCES FOR READING & LITERACY

EBOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS & ONLINE RESOURCES

- o Anne Arundel County Public Library has a collection of [eBooks](#) that includes titles to pique any young reader's interests.
- o Audible announced a free [Audible Stories](#) website with audiobooks for students of all ages. Everything on the site is free, with no login or membership required.
- o SimplyE app is a convenient way to access library eBooks and audiobooks.



- o **Scholastic Literacy Pro** is an online platform that provides our Elementary students a virtual bookroom where they can choose books based on their interest and set and monitor their reading goals, while continuing to build their love of reading. This online tool can be accessed through Classlink.

TUTOR SUPPORT AT HOME

- o [AACPS Tutoring](#) for students and families
- o AACPL [HelpNow \(Live Tutor\)](#) Chat live with a tutor, 1 pm - midnight, 7 days a week. Kindergarten through Adult Learner. Spanish-speaking tutors available.
- o [Khan Academy](#) offers exercises, quizzes, tests, and instructional videos so students can practice and master skills.

The Young Author's Contest has ended. Shady Side winners will be announced next month!



I-Ready News

We are using i-Ready for Grades K-5 to determine our student's strengths and needs in reading and math and to provide a personalized individual learning path for students to work through during homework and asynchronous learning time. This personalized path will allow students to get support with any content/skills that students need to review as well as content/skills both on grade level and above grade level.



i-Ready FAQ's

How will the data from I-Ready impact instruction?

*After the Diagnostic, i-Ready becomes a learning game. The program creates personalized lessons and games that students will be asked to complete during homework and asynchronous learning time. Research suggests that students who use i-Ready 10-15 minutes a day for reading and 10-15 minutes a day for math have **above-average growth** in these subjects by the end of the year.*

What is the Personalized Learning Path and how do students use it?

The Personalized Learning Path is a computer-generated series of lessons and games that students will complete for homework or during other individual/asynchronous learning times. Teachers may choose to have students work on i-Ready during class if they finish with other instruction or during Flex times. Students will spend 10-15 minutes per day/evening on reading and on math.

Cultural Arts- November 2020



Media- Mrs. Guy

Students in Grades 2-5 have been learning about Digital Citizenship and how to be responsible, safe, and kind when working and playing online. This is especially important now while we are eLearning! They have also learned to use MackinVia to access Shady Side Elementary eBook collection. Let's keep reading!

Our younger students have been learning about fiction and nonfiction and the role of author and illustrator. They are especially enjoying sharing books about autumn, Halloween and Thanksgiving!

Art – Miss Shryock

Hi there SSES artists and families!

I am constantly seeing the students' art skills improving and everyone adjusting to distance learning. Please continue to store your art in a safe place and have materials ready after our waiting room time. In the case you are absent, use your Weekly Work Menu (in our Google Classroom) for step by step instructional videos.

EEE- Mrs. Wolfstone-Smith/Mrs. Kochanski

We have been enjoying getting to know your children. We are impressed by the high level of engagement in EEE class. An important part of our lesson launch begins when we ask students to join us in mindfulness breathing techniques, quickly followed by a fun checking-in interactive moment so that students have an opportunity to share how they are feeling. Students are exploring the Arts through thinking routines, literature, visual arts, and listening closely to the world around them and to each other's ideas. Additionally, Mrs. W-S's students are applying artistic processes to design and create art that communicates something they want the world to know about their unique interests (inspired by public art installations around the world; specifically an artist known as Mows510). Mrs. Kochanski's students are either creating soundscapes or exploring what makes a place special. We are so proud of our Shady Side Scholars!

Music – Mrs. Witmer

We are busy interacting with music in many ways in our Music Classes! Students in Kindergarten are working on steady beat, using their singing voices, and recognizing instruments. First grade is reading rhythms and responding to the high and low pitches. Second graders are singing, reading, and writing short melodies. Third graders began playing the recorder and we will continue this in the coming month! Fourth graders have worked a lot with reading rhythms and most recently, identifying pitches on the staff by letter name. 5th Grade has begun their second project of the year, a "Soundscape" set to a poem, which they will complete using WeVideo. Although we will not have homework assignments in Music, any graded classwork (denoted by a star) that has not been turned in during the allotted class time will need to be completed. Please help your child check their "To Do List" to see if they have any missing assignments. Our Chorus students are working to develop their singing voices and are excited to begin a song in preparation for our Winter "Virtual Choir" showcase. As a reminder, 4th Grade Chorus meets Mondays at 11:20 and 5th Grade Chorus meets Fridays at 11:20. I am looking forward to another fun-filled month of music making with our Shady Side students!

Band and Strings- Dr. Orr

Performing and Visual Arts Magnet is hosting two events for students considering PVA in middle school. PVA is a remarkable program that focuses on the individual needs of students while providing outstanding instruction and enrichment in the arts. The application window is October 12-November 24th, and the audition window is scheduled from November 1st-December 11th.

Please contact:

Dr. Kirsten Taylor, Music Department Lead Teacher and Strings Prime ktaylor1@aacps.org

Dr. Maximus VanDerbeek, Band Prime

mvanderbeek@aacps.org Mr. Alex Scott, Band Prime
arscott@aacps.org

Mr. Tim Kurtzberg, Vocal Prime tkurtzberg@aacps.org



ELEMENTARY MATH

VIRTUAL FAMILY SUPPORT
AACPS now offers Elementary Math Virtual Family Support to parents, guardians, or other adults who help students learn virtually.

Come with questions about Pre-K through grade 5 math concepts or in search of help understanding current problem -solving teaching/ technique. If the question cannot be answered on the phone, a Google meet code will be shared where a math teacher tutor can provide a response visually.

Primary Link [HERE](#)

Intermediate Link [HERE](#)



Open Tuesday and
Thursday evenings
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

English and
Spanish support

STRINGS



MIDDLE SCHOOL PVA PROGRAM 2020-2021

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The PVA Middle School Magnet program offers an arts-infused curriculum for students interested in achieving their maximum artistically. Located at Bates and Brooklyn Park Middle Schools, this program is designed to engage students in focused arts instruction with qualified teachers and professional artists to foster creative inquiry, artistic excellence, and community engagement.

PRIME OVERVIEW

The PVA Strings Program focuses on developing students as artists who are able to effectively communicate ideas through their instrument. The importance of the artistic process in relationship to the final performance will be emphasized. Over the course of the three years in the program, students will focus on and build upon their instrumental technique, with emphasis on tone, articulation, rhythm and meter. Students will expand upon their musical literacy with extensive study in music theory and ear training and develop their performing repertoire with expression and movement. Students will work on composition individually and collaboratively and demonstrate aesthetic criticism while learning to organize their musical ideas and sounds creatively.

COURSES

PVA students will be enrolled in a double period of PVA Strings every other day, all year, every year in the Middle School program.

PVA Strings Level 1: 6th Grade

PVA Strings Level 2: 7th Grade

PVA Strings Level 3: 8th Grade

This Strings program is an intensive program of study that introduces students to string techniques including instrument care, intonation, posture, bowing, tone production, shifting and vibrato. Students will learn relevant music history, theory, ear training and melodic and rhythmic dictation with multiple performance opportunities. Students are exposed to new musical concepts in theory, composition, technology, and improvisation. Classes will engage in the reflective process by evaluating individual and ensemble performances to make future improvements, including leadership roles within the ensembles. Personal expression is explored through one on one work with the instructor in solo repertoire and chamber music ensembles.



BAND

MIDDLE SCHOOL PVA PROGRAM 2020-2021



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The PVA Middle School Magnet program offers an arts-infused curriculum for students interested in achieving their maximum potential artistically. Located at Bates and Brooklyn Park Middle Schools, this program is designed to engage students in focused arts instruction with qualified teachers and professional artists to foster creative inquiry, artistic excellence, and community engagement.

PRIME OVERVIEW

The PVA Band Program focuses on developing students as artists who are able to effectively communicate ideas through their instrument. The importance of the artistic process in relationship to the final performance will be emphasized. Over the course of the three years in the program, students will focus on and build upon their instrumental technique, with emphasis on tone, articulation, rhythm and meter. Students will expand upon their musical literacy with extensive study in music theory and ear training and develop their performing repertoire with expression and movement. Students will work on composition individually and collaboratively and demonstrate aesthetic criticism while learning to organize their musical ideas and sounds creatively.

COURSES

PVA Band students will be enrolled in a double period of band every other day, all year, every year in the Middle School program.

PVA Band Level 1: 6th Grade

PVA Band Level 2: 7th Grade

PVA Band Level 3: 8th Grade

This Instrumental Music program is an intensive program of study that introduces students to instrumental music techniques including instrument care, posture and positioning, tone production and quality. Students will learn relevant music history, theory, ear training and melodic and rhythmic dictation with multiple performance opportunities. Students are exposed to new musical concepts in theory, composition, technology, and improvisation. Classes will engage in the reflective process by evaluating individual and ensemble performances to make future improvements, including leadership roles within the ensembles. The program is a gateway to high school musical programs and beyond.

