

BAMS Panther Prep Q & A

2020-21

Question: Standardized testing was not completed this last year due to the stay at home order. How is math placement decided for students? Can math placement be adjusted later in the year or will this put a child behind?

Answer: Placement is determined by your child's previous school record. We also look at the available standardized scores. Even during a typical year, Spring testing results do not come until the mid-Fall, so we look at the scores from 2 years ago.

If you feel the placement is incorrect, reach out to the teacher sooner than later. We can move their class but typically a large part of their schedule will change to accommodate a math class change.

Question: Will students be assigned homework?

Answer: As per the Superintendent's directive, there will be no homework assigned during virtual learning at this time. The Superintendent will be re-evaluating that policy before the end of 1st quarter and will seek input from the community before making a final decision.

Question: We are new to Harford County and don't know anything about the Home Access Center (HAC) and how we can find our student's assignments and grades. Where can we learn more about this program?

Answer: Here is a parent presentation on YouTube to give you information about HAC:
https://youtu.be/R5gG9wU_3WI

Question: Are there negative consequences associated with the PRIDE program?

Answer: We encourage all of our students at BAMS to show pride on a daily basis whether we are meeting in person or virtually. If there are instances when a student does not adhere to the expectations of our school then there are consequences which are outlined in the HCPS [student handbook](#). (https://www.hcps.org/aboutus/docs/calendars/Handbook_Calendar_WEB.pdf)

Question: How will P.E. be done virtually?

Answer: We will be utilizing itsLearning to begin and/or end classes. When students are on itsLearning we will share our learning objectives and activities/directions for the day. After directions are given, depending on the activity, teachers may encourage students to complete P.E. activities outside—with parent permission. Teachers will give you a variety of options/modifications to fit your virtual situation. The only material that you will need is a jump rope.

Question: What are some of the P.E. activities we can expect during virtual learning?

Answer: In our virtual instruction we will need to modify our typical P.E. activities. Some of the P.E. activities planned for virtual learning include wellness/fitness, jump-rope, juggling, throwing & catching, striking, and line dance.

Question: Will students need to shower after P.E. when in-person school returns?

Answer: You will not need to shower during the school day.

Question: Can you decorate the outside of your locker?

Answer: You cannot decorate the outside of the locker. You may decorate the inside with items that can easily be removed.

Question: How long do you have to use your locker during a locker break?

Answer: Typically, you will have 2-4 minutes during your locker break. It looks like a short amount of time, but it isn't once you get the hang of things. When you come back to the building, your teachers will be very flexible because you are new to the school.

Question: Will every teacher in the building know your locker combination?

Answer: Only your homeroom teacher has your combination. If your homeroom teacher is not available to help you, ask permission to visit the main office and they can look-up your locker combination.

Question: Can I change my locker combination once I receive it?

Answer: *You cannot change the combination. Our lockers are not designed to allow students to change the combination.*

Question: Will I use my personal laptop when we get back into school or the Chromebook?

Answer: *You will be using your HCPS issued Chromebook when you return to "in person" school.*

Question: Do students get to select their own classes and schedules?

Answer: *Much like elementary school, your schedule is designed for you by the school. However, students can elect to join a musical group as one of their special area classes (Band/Chorus/Orchestra).*

Question: When will we know which teachers we have?

Answer: *Schedules have been posted to Home Access Center. When you sign into your account you can access your schedule. The schedule includes the names of your teachers.*

Question: How can students contribute to the newsletter team, and what material goes into the newsletter?

Answer: *The newsletter club will be run virtually at this time. An application will be available from the school website at the end of September for interested students to complete and submit. Applications will be reviewed, and students will be selected to participate in the club. The Panther Print (BAMS newsletter) displays articles about our BAMS community and important/interesting topics that our students will enjoy. Check out last year's edition to see what types of articles are displayed in the Panther Print: <https://www.smores.com/ujk6s>*

Question: What kinds of musicals do students perform at BAMS?

Answer: *BAMS typically does a different musical each year and we try to pick shows with lots of variety. Some of our past performances include: Willy Wonka, Legally Blonde, Shrek, Aladdin, and Seussical the Musical.*

Question: Does BAMS have a soccer club?

***Answer:** Unfortunately, we do not currently offer a soccer club.*

Question: How competitive is Math Counts? Do you compete against other schools?

***Answer:** The face to face competition is competitive in a good-spirited way. Students take this competition seriously and strive to do their best. In the past, BAMS did not go against other schools/counties head to head. Instead, everyone competes as a team (or individually) and your scores are totaled—that's how you advance. All participants get the problems to solve at the same time, complete them and then turn them in for scoring.*

Thank you to everyone who submitted a question.

We are looking forward to an [AMAZING](#) school year!