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B.E.S.T. Academy at Benjamin S. Carson

1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway

Atlanta, Georgia 30318

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<http://srt4.atlantapublicschools.us/best>

“Molding Boys into the B.E.S.T. Men”

Happy Holidays!



Instructional Focus

Please be on the lookout for reminders that you may use to help your child be prepared for the various tests that will be administered this school year. You are reminded of the importance of having your son well rested and mentally motivated to do well on tests and to have a great day each and every day. Make sure that they eat a good breakfast, either at home or school, to begin each day. Finally, please remind your son each day that they need to follow the rules given to them by all adults here in the building and to do their very best to learn to work with and appreciate all individuals peers and adults who work here at B.E.S.T. Academy Middle School. Please continue to make sure that your son is at school every day and on time. We met our attendance target last year set by the superintendent and we are intent on making our attendance target again this school year but we need everyone's assistance. We need every young man here every day so that he won't miss important learning activities. I look forward to seeing you often this month! Here's to a great beginning of December! Our focus is... **ACCEPTING NO EXCUSES IN OUR JOURNEY TO BE THE BEST!**

P.S. Winter Break Work Packets for your son can be secured in the main office beginning on 12/14.

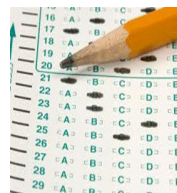
Principal's Message

“ACCEPTING NO EXCUSES IN OUR JOURNEY TO BE THE BEST”

Dear Parents,

As we move into the month of December it is critical that your child continues to attend school each and every day ready to do an outstanding job each day in learning the curriculum. With only 15 days of school for the month of December it is critical that your son stays focused and uses their time wisely in following directions and completing all assignments. Students in all grades levels will be administered various weekly assessments until the end of the 1st semester. Continue to be on the look out for various projects and homework assignments sent by your son's teacher to assist them with information about the skills that your son will need to work on to do well on the Criterion Reference Competency Test (CRCT) to be promoted to the next grade.

THE BEST ACADEMY AT BENJAMIN S. CARSON



As you know, success on these tests is related to promotion to the next grade for some students on specific grades. Eighth graders cannot be promoted to their respective next grade if they do not pass particular sections of the CRCT; this is a state requirement. You are encouraged to set up a conference with your son's teacher to find out additional ways to help your child be successful. The only way that we can truly reach our maximum is with your commitment in helping us improve your son's education. Working together we accept no excuses in our journey to be the B.E.S.T.!

PTSA and Parent Night

We hope to see you at our Parent Night on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 from 5:00-6:30. Our Winter Program will take place following the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

LaPaul E. Shelton

8th Grade >>>

Math: Mrs. Gabriel
ELA: Dr. Milledge
Social Studies: Ms. Odom-Mitchell
Science: Mr. Leonard

Math



As the semester comes to a close, the 8th grade boys will be focused on finishing Unit 4, Functional Relationships. They will be working with more real life word problems and also CRCT Preparation questions. On December 17th they will have their first semester Final Exam. This exam will cover Units 1-4.

Furthermore, The boys will also receive a CRCT packet over the standards that they have already mastered. The packet is due when they return from the Winter Break.

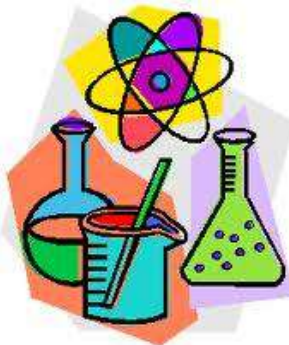
ELA

The Grade 8 Georgia Writing Assessment is literally twenty-one days away. We are working persistently and strategically in our endeavor to meet our writing target. We are currently focusing on the three major components of the writing process editing, revising, and finalizing writing documents. Our 8th grade young men have just completed their second major novel study, as well as constructing and presenting their Character Analysis Project.



Science

Currently, physical science students are working towards understanding the relationship between force, mass, and the motion of objects.



While matriculating towards the mastery of these standards, students will use labs to apply Newton's Laws of motion, differentiate between velocity and acceleration, as well as understand the various advantages of simple machines. Students will also use math skills to analyze

Distance vs. Time and Velocity vs. Time graphs. In this unit, students will discover that speed and velocity are not the same things. Students will also learn the important role that gravity plays on our entire universe!

Social Studies

The students from the Georgia Studies class represented the 8th grade very well in the Academic Fair this year. I would like to thank all the faculty and staff members that worked very hard in helping the students and myself in completing their projects.

I would also like to congratulate the following students for participating, and I hope they look forward to their wing party before the Christmas break. The participating students were: Andre Jackson, Malik Valdez, Quintavious Terrell, Machale Jones, Amadou Bah, and Torrance Moore. I would further like to wish good luck to Machale Jones, Amadou Bah, and Torrance Moore who will be going on to the area fair.



7th Grade >>>

Math

Mr. Miles & Mr. Evans

Social Studies

Ms. Blair & Ms. James

ELA

Mrs. Brinson & Mr. Blackmon Mrs. Edwards & Mrs. Cusmeer

Science

Mathematics



Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn how to identify, describe, and work with plane figures in geometry. The plane figures include lines and angles, as well as closed figures such as circles, polygons, triangles, and quadrilaterals. Your child will also determine whether plane figures are congruent, and will learn about symmetry. The applications in life for geometry are numerous. Your child will recognize geometry in art, sculpture, carpentry, architecture, geology, and more.

Your child will learn about congruence and symmetry. Two plane figures are congruent if they have the same size and the same shape. A plane figure has line symmetry if it can be folded over a line so that the two parts fit exactly. A plane figure has rotational symmetry if it can be turned less than a full turn and look exactly like the original figure.

Your child will also work with the position of plane figures. A translation slides a figure along a straight line. A reflection flips a figure across a line. A rotation turns a figure around a fixed point.

For additional resources, visit go.hrw.com and enter the keyword MS7 Parent.

ELA

As we finished the expository unit, our 7th grade students enjoyed a hand on visit and presentation with a herpetologist and his Boa constrictor snake. Students made the connection between the story Rattlesnake Hunt and observing a real snake to make a text- to- world connection.

This month 7th grade students have begun the Persuasive unit by learning the elements of persuasion and backing up their opinions with facts. We began incorporating Factual statistics of the best NFL teams to determine who will be in the 2011 Super bowl. By incorporating math the students support their opinions with statistical evidence thus effectively producing a persuasive product that influences their peers and audiences. While Learning how to effectively conduct research, students learned how to analyze and interpret data. They worked on identifying text features, bar graphs, and they used tally marks to represent data about their favorite Football teams. Additionally, students were busy learning about comparative and superlative adjectives, adverbs, proper nouns, and punctuation. In the upcoming week students will produce a writing piece and project that



Social Studies

Our 7th grade Social Studies classes have combined and are one “Big Happy Family!” It has been a transition that our young men have done well with, and I am extremely excited about teaching all them and challenging their minds. We are now studying the continent of Africa and have several programs in the works, to peak their enthusiasm.



Emory University will visit in the month of December, and will bring several artifacts from the Carlos Museum.

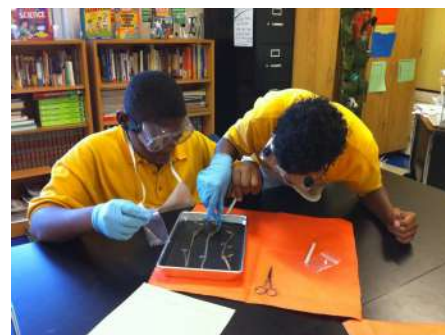
Science



In 7th grade Life Science we have been studying the classification of living things. We learned how scientists have many levels of classification starting from the largest level, Domain, moving to the smallest level, Species. We were able to dissect earth worms to get a

more in-depth, hands-on approach to seeing exactly how some organisms are classified based on their body structure and functions. We also had a visit from a special guest that brought a live red tailed Boa snake for all of us to see and

touch. We were able to learn the different levels of classification of the snake and see how scientists put snakes into different groups based on physical characteristics. We



are now entering the study of body systems now and learning about the various systems in our body that help us function, such as the respiratory system, digestive system, circulatory system, and many more.

6th Grade >>>

Math

Mr. Smart & Ms. Beatty

ELA

Ms. Bell & Mr. Hunt

Social Studies

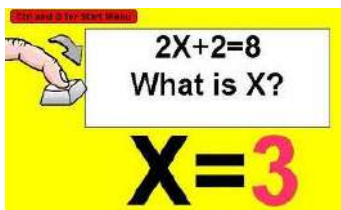
Mr. Barton & Mr. Beers

Science

Dr. Brown & Mr. Diggs

MATHEMATICS

6th grade Mathematics is blazing with Algebra. Students have been exploring the world of ratios, proportions, variables, inverses operations, substitution, evaluation, expressions, and equations. Parents and guardians, please look for nightly homework assignments and encourage your students to record which road blocks (if any) that they have so that all misconceptions can be cleared. Ms. Beatty, Mr. Smart, and Mrs. Sharpe are holding high expectations for students to study and increase retention of previously mastered concepts over the Winter Break, because it will be full speed ahead once we bring in the new year and new concepts!



SOCIAL STUDIES

The 6th grade Social Studies team is getting knee deep in Latin America. Mr. Barton's class has begun tackling the mixing of ethnic cultures, and Mr. Beers' class is learning all about the history of European colonization. Both classes are trying to build a strong foundation on how European expansion influenced the history and cultures of Latin America, so much that it is still strongly pronounced today! Be sure to ask your child some probing questions at night, to make sure that they are retaining all of the information!



ELA

The 6th grade English/Language Arts teachers, Mr. Hunt and Ms. Bell along with Ms. Reddish, are guiding the students through expository reading and writing. Students are exploring the intricate similarities and differences of each structure of exposition. Students are using real-life experiences to help with the understanding of learned concepts. As students continue to work hard and press forward, they will use the skills developed in this unit to apply to our next unit, persuasive reading and writing. Please assist us in developing your child's skills by having them read a literature each night; no matter what it may be. Thank you



SCIENCE



Did you know that water covers about $\frac{3}{4}$ of Earth's crust? Almost all of Earth's water is saltwater. Most of that saltwater is in the oceans. Over the past month, our students have been learning about the water cycle.

Students have illustrated their own water cycle. Many of which have been displayed in our classroom and hallway. This hands-on activity has assisted them in learning the water cycle process. In November, we began learning about the ocean and are continuing to explore them throughout the month of December. Please encourage your child to continue to read about the ocean floor and how are tides a source of energy?

Business & Technology

Students in the business and technology class are creating their own business. Some examples students have chosen are computer companies, restaurants, athletic stores, and construction companies. Students are using word processing and desktop publishing software to complete several tasks to this project:

1. Research the type of business to own and write a paper describing the type of business, giving startup costs for the business, and developing a plan for marketing the business.
2. Using desktop publishing software and desktop publishing online sites, create a logo and slogan, an opening flyer/brochure, plan an opening party, construct a realistic business check, create a business gift certificate, design a memo and fax cover sheet, create a stylish company letterhead, and envelope.

Once the projects are complete students will upload the document to their own website.

To the right is a logo created by Jnani Crawford for his company, Big Three Computer Graphics. He used an online paint program, SumoPaint, to create it.



Submitted by A. Hartry

Spanish

As the semester comes to a close, I would like to thank my first group of students B.E.S.T. Academy Middle for a great first semester.

The students will close the semester with a celebrity family tree project. The students will choose celebrity parents and siblings. Using their creativity, either with the help of a computer or by hand, the students will draw and then present the family trees to their classmates in Spanish.”

Submitted by Y. Stubbs



Art

Eleven students participated in the Georgia PTSA Reflections Visual competition. The topic this year was "Together We Can". Also, two students will participate in the Istanbul Center's Southeastern Regional Art Contest—Empathy: Walking in Another's Shoes.



Submitted by S. Gordon

IMPROVING THE WORLD AROUND YOU



Want to improve the world? Become a better reader! Reading is one of the most essential skills we can develop. Being able to comprehend the ideas and knowledge passed down is crucial to an improving society. Here's what some of our B.E.S.T. young men had to say about spending more time learning how to **become a better reader**.

I've discovered that reading is important because in "REAL LIFE" you have to be able to comprehend information that you might find on job applications. Without reading comprehension skills, you may miss out on a very important job.

--De'Shon Conyers, 6th Grade

"REAL LIFE" situations force you to become a better reader. You need to be able to comprehend information when you need to figure out how to put things together. I learned just the other week how to read diagrams. I feel confident about helping put toys together on Christmas morning for my little cousin this year. Also, reading MARTA bus and train schedules are important, too. If you don't comprehend well, you just might end up in Nowhere Land. And what about those great deals at Foot Locker? Knowing how to read and comprehend the information on the store coupons just might help you get a real bargain.

--Demarius Watts, 6th Grade

Submitted by C. Elder

Debate Team

The Debate Team did great in their first debate! Nasir Campbell and Corey Reed moved up to the Junior Varsity Division. They have been practicing hard on a daily basis and are ready for the next debate! Good luck to first time debaters, Zach Hamilton and Javan Grover!

Eagle Steppers

The Eagle Steppers competed in their first step competition at Kendrick Middle School in Clayton County on Saturday, December 4. They performed an awesome routine. The judges thought it was great as well! The Eagle Steppers brought home the trophy for the middle school division. CONGRATUALTIONS EAGLE STEPPERS!!!!



Troup 100

Congratulations to our Troop 100 Color Guard who participated in the 30th Annual Children's Healthcare Christmas Parade in downtown Atlanta on Saturday, December 4. The scouts did an awesome job and of course represented B.E.S.T. well.



Guitar Club



The BEST Academy Little Kids Rock Guitar Club is up and running. We operate as a part of the After-School All-Stars, which is operated by our very own Mr. Smart. Our Guitar Club teacher is Mr. Blount. Now in its second year of operation at the BEST Academy, the LKR Guitar Club allows students to explore their own creativity as they learn the essentials of playing the guitar. Our Little Kids Rock Stars are making music as they learn!

MEDIA CENTER >>>



Why Books Make the Best Presents!

1. Books don't need to be assembled before being given.
2. Books don't need batteries.
3. Books never come in the wrong color or size.
4. Books don't need to be serviced by a dealer.
5. Books don't need spare parts.
6. Books are easier to wrap than footballs.
7. Books look good with any decor.
8. Books don't need watering or fertilizing.
9. Books don't irritate your allergies.
10. Books don't go out of style.
11. Books don't get aphids or draw ants.
12. Books don't bark or need to be walked in the middle of the night.
13. Books don't stretch, shrink, or fade.
14. Books don't need extension cords.
15. Books won't scratch the coffee table.
16. Books don't get stale before they arrive.
17. Books never need ironing.
18. Books don't have zippers that break.
19. Books can be used over and over by many people.
20. When you are finished with a book, it is not empty.
21. A book is a gift you can open again and again and again.

Happy Holidays

*Dr. B. Williams
Media Specialist*

COUNSELING >>>

SCAD is Coming to B.E.S.T.

On Friday, December 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., the World Renown Savannah College of Art and Design, better known as SCAD is coming to BEST ACADEMY!



SCAD

SCAD will conduct a Young Artist's Workshop and orientation to animation, sketching, and artistic design for 30 select students. In addition, they will provide the art supplies needed for the workshop. This is an exciting opportunity for our talented young artists who will showcase some of their own work.

Students who are interested in participating are asked to submit a sample of their work to Mr. Gordon in the Visual Arts Department or Ms. Lawson in the Counseling Department.



ACADEMIC ONE FAIR >>>

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Academic One Fair. All students who participated in the fair did an excellent job in researching and presenting the information. Special commendations go to the winners from our school, and they are listed below. Those projects proceeded on to the area competition.

Dillon Hamler	6	Water Filtering: Sand -vs.- Soil	Science
Justin Eason, Alan Johnson, & Toussant Turner	6	Bleach & Plant Growth	Science
George Boyd, Nasir Campbell	6	Dice Probability: Is it Math or Luck	Math
Anthony Taylor	7	Bermuda Triangle	Social Studies
Denorris Freeman	7	How Does Age Affect Reaction Time	Science
Denzel Montgomery	7	Together We Can Recycle	Technology
Jabri Baker	7	Third Law in Motion	Science
Jabri Booker	7	Circumference & Area	Math
Jnani Crawford	7	Books -vs.- Games	Math
Jnani Crawford	7	Reaction/Interaction	Science
Kamal Hughes & Kendreze Holland	7	Do Superstitions Affect Our Lives	Social Studies
Mykael Riley	7	How to Change an Eggs Circumference?	Math
Stormy Jenkins	7	Together We Can Be Creative	Technology
Amadou Bah	8	Is Georgia State Flag Significant?	Social Studies
Brentton Parks	8	Together We Can Hope	Technology
Machale Jones	8	Causes of the Civil War	Social Studies
Torrence Moore	8	Communism -vs.- Democracy	Social Studies

December Students of the Month

6th

7th

8th

ELA:	Brandon Burke Tyrrie Ellis Jonathan Price	Djaih Jackson Demetrius Olive Christopher Whitaker	Roderick Jackson
Math:	Nasir Campbell Tyrrie Ellis Donte Reed	Deshawn Butler Julian Newell Demetrius Olive	Tobias Price
Science:	Corey Reed	Jarvanta Dorsey Laquwone Harris	
Social Studies:	Cordell Cade Deshon Conyers	Zarion Ringfield Marcus Strickland Samuel Williams	Machale Jones

Connections

P.E. (Moore) : Deshawn Waller	P.E. (May): Donte Reed
French: Maurice Carter	Spanish: Lanarion Norwood
Reading (Elder): Gerald Carter	Reading (Carter): David Anthony
Technology: Sherrod Brackins	Chorus: Walter Coggins
Band: Quindarius Culbreth	Orchestra: Andrewar Hollie
Art: Zarion Ringfield	Gifted: Andrewar Hollie

Upcoming Events >>>

- 12/10//10: Student of the Month Program: 9:00
- 12/14/10: Parent Meeting (5:30-7:00)
Winter Program (7:00-8:00)
Troup 100 Christmas Dance (6:00-8:00)
Pick us Winter Break Study Packets
- 12/15/10: Basketball (6:00): Price vs BEST @ CSK
- 12/16/10: 1st Semester Celebration Dance with CSK @ BEST (2:00-4:00)
- 12/17/10: Last Day for Semester One
- 12/20/09: Winter Holidays Begin
- 01/05/11: Students Return to School

Parent Resource Center

Ms. Tanya Culbreth, Parent Liaison

Phone: (404) 802-4979

Location: Room 153

Days: Monday - Friday

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Note: The space can be reserved after 3:00 p.m. for events.

A 48 hour advance notice is preferred.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

- Dec. 2 → Dads and Donuts (8:30 - 9:30)
- Dec. 7 → Parenting for Teen (11:00 - 12:00)
- Dec. 8 → Coretta Schott King Parent Meeting (10:00 - 1:00)
- Dec. 16 → Holiday Donations Deadline
- Dec. 17 → Holiday Breakfast for Parents and Partners (9:30 - 1:30)

B.E.S.T. December Character Traits

Weeks 1 & 2 Tolerance

Weeks 3 & 4 Giving to Others

The BEST Highlights from last month... Student of the Month Ceremony



Surprise guests, Quinton Aaron who starred as Michael Oher in the movie, The Blind Side and Philadelphia Eagles football player, Antwan Harris, speak to students at the November student of the month program about B.E.S.T. men qualities.



**Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Bell
Teachers for the Month of November**



Quinton Aaron, The Blind Side



*Antwan Harris
New England Patriots*

final thought...

A little learning, indeed, may be a dangerous thing, but the want of learning is a calamity to any people.

~Frederick Douglass