

Kindergarten Newsletter

September 2019

English Language Arts/Social Studies

This year, our school district adopted Benchmark Advance Reading/Language Arts program from Benchmark Education Company. It is a comprehensive Reading/Language Arts program for Kindergarten through fifth grade, built specifically to meet the demands of the common core standards.

These programs address key shifts in curriculum and instruction to meet the demands of the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. These standards require students to engage with more rigorous, complex text, as well as, dive deeper into the interpretation of the text. This has led us to look for and implement a more engaging, interactive, and modern program.

The core student books are light and manageable, magazine-like texts. These books are designed for students to interact with the readings by writing on the page and annotating the text.

Not only are students allowed to write in their books, but they should be writing in them! Annotation encourages students to take ownership of the text and dive deeper into the content, which improves comprehension.

Each book is meant to be used for just three weeks. After three weeks of reading and working with the texts in class, students will bring the annotated book home. Your student's annotations will allow you to see exactly how they are interpreting and engaging with the readings.

As your student is working through each unit, you'll notice that all of the readings are centered on one topic. These topics include social studies and science content as well as literary subjects such as point of view, theme, and character. Every three weeks, you'll receive a school-to-home letter that will provide additional activities you can do at home with your student. These activities connect to the unit topic as well as the vocabulary, comprehension, and phonics/word study skills being taught during the unit.

Students will continue to receive small group instruction to support them with the grade level texts, as well as read texts on their instructional reading levels. Writing instruction will include lessons that support process writing and writing in response to reading. Students will engage in word study including phonics, spelling, and vocabulary through reading and writing.

Math/Science

This month, in math, we will be learning about counting with one-to-one correspondence and identifying numbers. We will also learn how to read a bar graph and analyze that information.
In science, we will be learning about animals and weather..

Important Dates

September 6.....	Back to School Night @ 6:30
September 26.....	MAP-P testing (math)
September 27.....	Principal's Book of the Month
September 30.....	NO SCHOOL
October 1.....	PTA meeting @ 6:30
October 4.....	Half Day- dismissal @ 12:55
October 9	NO SCHOOL