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**Principal: Dr. Chris Robbins**

*6<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal: Mr. Ted Flannery*  
*7<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal: Mrs. Dana Ricks*  
*8<sup>th</sup> grade Assistant Principal: Ms. Kari Tibbs*

QR Code  
for school  
web page.



**BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS:**  
<http://bit.ly/1OTzak6>

**March 2, 2018**

**Vol. 24, #28**

At Berry Middle School, we aim to be *caring and supportive, challenging and engaging, and innovative and relevant*. We create a safe and inviting environment for every student and staff member by building “*Berry PRIDE*” and creating a “*No Put-Down Zone*”.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **SPHS Counselors in 8-3 Classes** – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Play Rehearsal** – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>- Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5 PM & Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM
- **Girls’ Golf vs. Hewitt @ Oxmoor Valley** – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 4-5 PM
- **Softball vs. Bumpus @ Berry/Spain Park Field 2** – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30 PM
- **Football Parent Meeting** – Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 PM, Berry gym
- **Berry Track @ Hewitt Trussville High School** – Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Berry Tennis vs. Hewitt @ Berry** – Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:45-4:45 PM
- **School Safety Meeting** – Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6-7 PM, SPHS
- **Softball @ Irondale** – Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30 PM
- **Comic Book Club** – Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:30 PM
- **Berry Tennis vs. Homewood @ Homewood** – Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:45-4:45 PM
- **Dance Team Parent Meeting** – Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-7 PM
- **Spain Park Cheer Interest Meeting** – Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM, SPHS theater
- **SPHS Counselors in 8-4 Classes** – Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>
- **Career Speakers** – Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9 AM
- **James Spann Assembly 6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9 AM



**BE KIND.....  
AND  
FIND.....**

All of your no longer used

### Looking to do a little Spring Cleaning?

The 6th grade SCA is having a Lego Drive. Now through March 9<sup>th</sup> we are collecting Legos and Duplos for Shades Mountain Elementary School's Innovation Lab. These do NOT need to be new or in sets. Please send your donated Legos to Ms. Hicks in Rm 309 or Ms. Clarkson in Rm 322."

**LEGOS**

**And donate to the SMES Innovation Zone  
Now through March 9**

## Summer Reading Program

Parents,

If you are interested in strengthening your child's reading skills/comprehension strategies this summer, please check out this opportunity offered through Auburn University:

<http://auburn.readingprograms.org/8>

For entering 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the nearest program is at Samford University May 30-June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 AM. The tuition is \$299, and there is a \$39 materials fee. If you sign up early, you may qualify for a \$30 discount on materials. See the webpage above and check on the **FAQS** and **ENROLL** tabs for more information.

## Free Help with Tax Prep

You don't have to pay to have your taxes done and can either visit the **United Way** building or complete your taxes online at [www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes](http://www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes). If you do not live close to the United Way offices, you are also welcome to visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers> to find other free, IRS certified tax preparers.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Birmingham Zoo has volunteer opportunities for teens 13 and older. For more information visit <https://www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/volunteer/teen-volunteer-opportunities/>.

The Birmingham McWane Center has volunteer opportunities for teens 14 and older. Visit <http://www.mcwane.org/join/volunteer/teen-program/> for more information.

# CLUBS & SPORTS

## Junior Thespian Festival

Our Junior Thespians have had a very exciting festival weekend. In addition to workshops in improv, clowning, stage combat, African dance, choreography, and much more, we are bringing home some wonderful accolades.

The following students received **Superior** ratings from the judges, which is the highest award they can receive.

Hunter F. - monologue  
Eden W. - monologue  
Selma M. - monologue  
Sadie G. - monologue  
Adie C. - monologue  
Ameer E. - musical theatre solo

### **Excellent:**

Cordelia F. - monologue  
Anna C. - monologue  
Anna C. - musical theatre solo  
Miriam G. - monologue  
Analise T. - monologue  
Adie C., Sadie G., Miriam G., Lily G., Analise T., Katelyn T., Ehrin W., Eden W. - Group Acting

And our one-act play earned the following awards: **Best in Show, Junior Division**

Best Actress - Eden W.  
Best Supporting Actress - Sadie G.  
All Star Cast - Anna C.

AND.... The Alabama Thespians named our own Dr. Robbins as **Administrator of the Year** for his unwavering support of the arts at Berry. We are so proud of our Thespians and thankful for the support we receive.

## Symphonic Bands at MPA

It was a great week for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Symphonic Bands. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade band performed at the Alabama Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment at Hewitt-Trussville High School on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The band earned all superior ratings for their stage and sight-reading performances.

The 8th Grade Advanced Symphonic Band performed to an incredibly high standard on Wednesday at MPA. The band earned all superior ratings from the four judges on stage and in sight reading. The band earned 27 "A ratings" out of 28!

I am most proud of their exemplary behavior while off campus. These students showed their Berry PRIDE throughout the process of traveling and performances today.

A big thanks to our teachers that made this trip and the zoo field trip possible! Thanks to Mr. Baggett and Mr. Neugent for all their help in preparing these students. Proof that teamwork results in the best work!

## Spirit Club

The next Spirit Club meeting will be Monday, March 5 after school until 4:30 in room 212. Please see Mrs. Romero if you have any questions. It's not too late to sign up, so if you are interested in joining us please get a parent form in room 212.  
Go Jags!

## Freshman Boys' Soccer Team Victory

Please congratulate members of the Freshman Boys Soccer Team for a come-from-behind victory last Wednesday against Pelham HS. The Jags continued their unbeaten streak by winning 3-2 in a hard-

fought victory. Special shout-outs go to Abdullah A. for scoring our game-winning goal, and Seth W., Carlos S., and Nich C. for giving 60 minutes of unbridled intensity. Once again, all our Berry players represented the school with PRIDE!

## Dance Team

An informational meeting will take place Thursday, March 8th at 6 pm in the cafeteria. This meeting is mandatory. You will receive important information about clinic and tryouts for the 2018-19 season. A parent or guardian must attend.

Dance clinic and tryouts will be held April 9th-12th after school and tryouts will be April 13th after school.

Please email Ms. Lee if you have any questions @ [blee@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:blee@hoover.k12.al.us)

## Football Parent Meeting

On Monday March 5th at 6:30 in the Competition Gym, there will be a football parent meeting for all the parents of 6th and 7th grade students that are interested in playing football at Berry next year.

## Metro South Outdoor Track & Field 2018

### Weekday Meet Schedule:

March 6th @ Hewitt-Trussville High School  
March 13th @ Spain Park High School  
March 22nd @ Oak Mtn. Heardmont Park  
April 3rd @ Vestavia High School  
April 10th Bye Week For Berry  
April 17th @ Hoover High School  
April 23rd Metro Championship @ Mtn. Brook  
April 24th Rain Date Metro Championship @ Mtn. Brook

## Boys' Golf

### BERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2018 BOYS GOLF SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LEAVE</u>
FEB. 26	TOP GOLF	TOP GOLF	2:00
MAR. 12-13	BRADLEY JOHNSON INV. GREYSTONE		TBA
We are volunteering to help the high school program. More info later.			
MAR. 15	BERRY INV.	LIMESTONE	11:43
MAR. 19	HEWITT INV.	TRUSS C.C.	2:00
APR. 4	MBJH	B'HAM C.C.	2:00
APR. 9	HEWITT	TRUSS C.C.	2:00
APR. 12	LIBERTY PARK	OLD OVERTON	2:00
APR. 17	**MTN. BR. INV.	B'HAM C.C.	12:36
APR. 18	**METRO SOUTH TOURNAMENT	TIMBERLINE	11:00

\*\* TOP 3 GOLFERS  
COACH SHELNUTT 439-2081  
[sshelnut@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:sshelnut@hoover.k12.al.us)



## Spain Park Cheer Interest Meeting

The Spain Park Cheer interest meeting will be on Thursday, March 8th at 6:00 pm in the SPHS theater. All interested students and a parent should plan to attend. Paperwork will be given out and the evaluation process discussed.

The SPHS cheer coaches will also be holding open practices on Wednesdays in March (March 7th, 14th and 21st) for students who want to get feedback and learn basics. This is an optional open practice. Please go to <http://bit.ly/SPHScheerRELEASE> for a copy of the parent release and more details about cost and times.

# PROGRAMS & LESSONS

## S.A.F.E Inc.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:** S.A.F.E. Inc. is coming to Berry Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education Classes. They will be with the girls' classes on Tuesday, 3/13. The goal of this program is to encourage students to set clear life goals and to make healthy decisions that will build positive self-esteem.

If you **do not** wish for your child to participate please sign and have your child return the SAFE letter (see link below) to their physical education teacher no later than Monday, 2/19. If you would like more information you may contact S.A.F.E. Inc. at: Renee Williams @ [wait4it.renee@gmail.com](mailto:wait4it.renee@gmail.com) Or check their website @ [sexandfamilyeducation.org](http://sexandfamilyeducation.org)

[SAFE letter.doc](#)

## I Am a Witness – Teen Bullying Prevention

The *I Am a Witness* online campaign aims to put an end to bullying by encouraging witnesses to speak up and to stand up for someone in need. Check out this website for tips, videos and resources: <http://iwitnessbullying.org/>



# BERRY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## Protect Your Chromebook

In order to prevent breaks, please consider taking the following precautions to keep chromebooks in good condition:

- Get a chromebook case that stays on the device at all times.
- Only add educational extensions recommended by teachers.
- Don't keep your chromebook in your backpack. It can be cracked by the weight of other books or by handling the backpack too roughly.
- Avoid using the chromebook while walking, and don't leave them on the floor.
- Avoid storing the chromebook in lockers unless necessary.
- Treat them as the fragile objects they are – be careful!

### ***If your chromebook still needs repair:***

1. Chromebooks needing repair should be brought to the library.
2. When chromebooks return to Berry, they will be stored in the 7th grade office. They will be delivered to students ASAP.
3. If a student owes a fee for a repair, they may receive a fee slip rather than a chromebook. **However, they may now pay at Berry!** Please send any students wanting to make payments with cash or checks to the 7th grade office. They will receive a receipt to bring home to parents, and I will keep another copy of the receipt for our records. Parents may also pay online at <https://secure4.myschoolfees.com>.
4. Payments made online with a Mastercard or Discover or in person in cash will ensure chromebook delivery in a day or two. Payments by check online will have

to clear the bank before the chromebook can be returned to the student. This could take up to 10 days - a long time when a kid needs a chromebook! Paper checks brought to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade office must include a phone number, driver's license number, and the student's name.

### **New Instructions for paying online:**

1. Go to <https://secure4.myschoolfees.com/>
2. Log in using the e-mail and password you set up during registration.
3. Select the "Student Items" tab.
4. Select "Show Student Fees" on the **Berry Middle School account** for your child. **Do not use IT account.**
5. Select the chromebook fee.
6. Click on "add to cart"
7. Click on "Checkout."

## News from the Nurse

### **MEDICATIONS**

All medication must be delivered to the school office/health room by an adult. Students are not allowed to carry medication to the health room. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

## Dress Code Reminders

We have had quite a few dress code violations in the last few weeks. As we start a new semester, please help us remind students of the following Hoover City Schools Dress Code policies:

- #4: Leggings/jeggings/tights are **NOT** considered pants and **must be worn with a long dress or skirt.**
- #7: Pants and skirts with holes above the knee are not allowed.
- #8: Shorts, dresses, and skirts must be hemmed and **not shorter than mid-thigh when student is seated.** Shorts that are torn, in disrepair, or spandex are not allowed.



## Lost & Found

Parents, please remind your students to check the lost and found by the concession stand for any missing items. We have plenty! Any remaining items will be donated to charity on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## New Attendance Procedures!!

A new e-mail address has been created to receive all attendance notifications. This includes parent and doctor notes, check out/in information, and any questions or concerns about your student's attendance. Please send correspondence of this type to: [bmsattendance@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:bmsattendance@hoover.k12.al.us)

## Morning Carpool Procedures

Parents, please help us to make morning carpool drop-off safer by:

- Making sure your child is ready to exit the car before pulling up to BMS
- Pulling up to the front of the line to drop off your child
- Refraining from driving around other cars taking too long – this creates a dangerous situation for any students, parents, and teachers attempting to cross the parking lot to enter the building

\*\*The Hoover Board of Education offers [Equal Educational and Employment Opportunities](#). We are committed to ensuring electronically distributed information is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability or face any barriers accessing content and need assistance, please contact (205) 439-1000. [Download Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader](#).