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6th grade Assistant Principal: Mr. Ted Flannery
7th grade Assistant Principal: Mrs. Dana Ricks
8th grade Assistant Principal: Ms. Kari Tibbs

QR Code
for school
web page.



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

February 2, 2018

Vol. 24, #24

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

- **Spirit Club Meeting** – Monday, February 5th, 3:30-4:30, room 212
- **Scoliosis Screening** – Tuesday, February 6th
- **Progress Reports Go Home** – Thursday, February 8th
- **8th Grade SPHS Visit** – Thursday, February 8th, 8:30-11 AM
- **Upcoming Freshman Parent Night** – Thursday, February 8th, 6:30-8 PM, SPHS, see article on page 2
- **I-Can Girls in Engineering** – Friday, February 9th, 8:30-9 AM
- **Thespian Festival Rehearsal** – Saturday, February 10th, 10 AM – 3 PM

Kids in Engineering Day

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) are proud to announce that the 6th annual **Kids in Engineering Day (KIED)** is upon us - **Saturday, February 10th** and **Saturday, February 17th**. KIED is all about immersing young thinkers into the world of STEM, and it features fun, interactive activities to cultivate critical thinking skills. So, if you have a little critical thinker, or a classroom full of them, sign them up for KIED!

This year’s theme is “**Branching Out**”, which will highlight the different disciplines of engineering offered at UAB. Students will use teamwork, creativity, and all the disciplines of engineering (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Materials, and Biomedical) to construct a rocket that will be shot into the air during the Testing Phase. Prizes will be given for highest launch, safest vehicle, most inexpensive design, and more!

KIED is open to 4th-6th grade students and will be held on two dates: **February 10th** and **February 17th** from **9am - 3pm** with check-in at **8:30am**. It will be held in the [Business and Engineering Complex](#) located on UAB’s campus. The cost of attendance is **\$30** per student which includes lunch and a super cool t-shirt.

Register your student(s) now at: <https://www.uab.edu/engineering/home/swe-kids2018>

KIDS IN ENGINEERING DAY 2018

Eligibility: 4th - 6th grade

When: February 10th or 17th
Check in 8:30 am
At 9 am - 3 pm

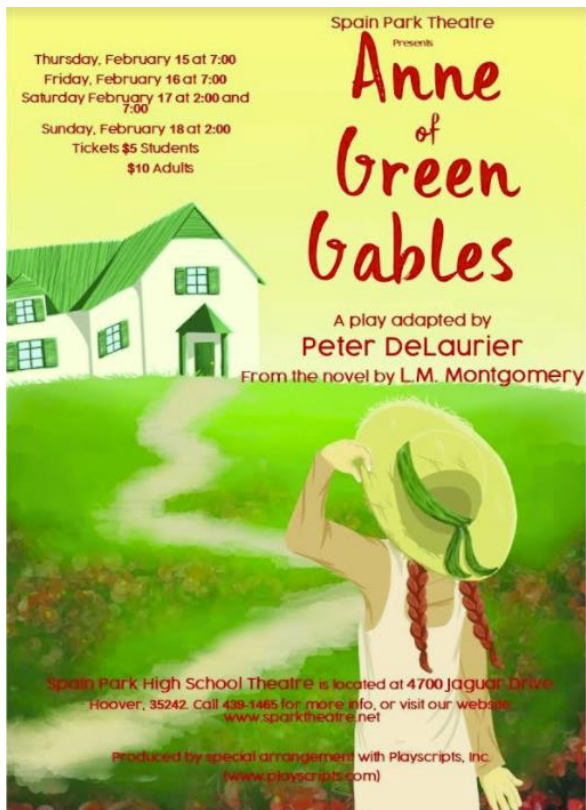
Cost: \$30 (T-shirt & Lunch)

Where: UAB Business and Engineering Complex

REGISTER (URL or SCAN to register)
<https://www.uab.edu/engineering/home/swe-kids2018>

Branching Out 2018

UAB



Spain Park High School 8th Grade Parent Night

Spain Park High School 8th Grade Parent Night will be held at SPHS on **February 8, 2018 from 6:30-8 p.m.** All incoming 9th grade parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Parents of incoming 9th graders will receive their student's course selection information.

From 6:30-7:10 pm, parents and students will attend the Curriculum Fair in the SPHS cafeteria. The Curriculum Fair consists of booths for elective courses being arranged in the cafeteria with representatives available to answer questions regarding elective courses. Teachers of Pre-AP courses will be available in the hallway outside of the cafeteria.

At 7:10, parents and students will convene in the theater to hear the course selection presentation. The evening will conclude promptly at **8:00 p.m.**

Course selections appointments will be in a small group setting (the student's current math teacher). For this reason, parent meetings will need to be scheduled separately.

Please email questions to me to determine if an individual meeting is necessary.

hyoung@hoover.k12.al.us

Where to find course selection guide: Go to SPHS website - left side bar "Course Selection Guide"

Pink Shirt Day

On February 28th, Berry Middle School will join EVERY school in Hoover for a Pink Shirt Day. You can help bring awareness to bully prevention by purchasing a t-shirt on Thursday mornings outside the lunchroom for \$5. Checks should be made out to Promo ID.



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. 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.

SPORTS & CLUBS

Girls' Basketball

From Coach Jolley - The 8th grade girls' lady jags fought hard and finished 2nd in the Metro Championship! I am extremely proud of these girls. We had a fantastic season with a record of 16-3. They definitely represented Berry well! Thanks so much to everyone that came out throughout the season to support them and thanks to those that made the trip to Clay-Chalkville last night.



From Coach Miller - Congratulations also to the 7th grade girls' basketball team for their win over Homewood last night. We finished 3rd in Metro. I am so proud of these girls. They had such a great season.



All-State Band

We had two students selected to the **Middle School All-State Band!!!**

John A. on Euphonium and **Ramsey E.** on Tuba

Only one Middle School Tuba and Euphonium is selected from our district (Jefferson and Shelby County). I am extremely proud of this accomplishment as the competition in our district is fierce for any spot in the All-State and All-District Bands.

The following Berry Band Students were selected for **All-District Band:**

Ava B. - Alto Sax

Noah S. - Trombone

John A. - Euphonium

Ramsey E. - Tuba

We also had many other students go through the audition process. We are proud of the hard work all our participating students put into their auditions. The audition process includes; 12 major, 2 minor and a chromatic scale (all from memory), 2 prepared studies (high school/college level of difficulty) and sight reading. This is all performed in front of a panel of adjudicators.

Berry Singers

Our Berry Singers won 2nd Place at the Capital City Classic in Montgomery last night!!! Our own Anna C. also won the individual solo competition and got to sing for a packed house at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center. It's GREAT to be a Berry Jag!!! We are SO excited for these students :)

Lego Robotics Club

Students, if you are interested in joining the LEGO Robotics Club & Programming Team, please stop by the 225 computer lab on the 2nd floor and see Ms. Mangina. Deadline to return the application to Ms. Mangina is Thursday, February 15th. The club's first meetings will begin the last 2 weeks of February.

Museums in Motion

Museums in Motion, a traveling African American museum, will present an intriguing exhibit on African American firsts from February 19th-23rd at Berry Middle School. Museums in Motion is based in Princeton NJ and provides educational museum exhibits to schools and colleges around the country. Students will revisit history and learn about phenomenal people and milestones dating from 1917 to 2015. Individuals such as Garrett Morgan, Bessie Coleman, the Jackson 5 and more will be featured.

Spirit Club

There will be a Spirit Club meeting next Monday, February 5th after school until 4:30 in room 212. We will be making signs to promote kindness so bring your best ideas! 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!



Alabama State Thespian Festival

This year's State Thespian Festival is February 23-24 at Pelham HS. All 7th or 8th grade Drama Club members are invited to attend. The fee is \$65 and includes a t-shirt, registration for two competitive events, and entrance to dozens of workshops on acting, dance, singing, and technical theater. Registration must be completed by December 1st, and fees are due by December 8th. Please email Mrs. Rowe with any questions at drowe@hoover.k12.al.us

Find more details

here: <http://bit.ly/ThespianFestInfo>

Important Dates are:

here: <http://bit.ly/ThesFest18Dates>

The link for REGISTRATION is

here: <http://bit.ly/ThesFest18> (Due Dec 1)

PROGRAMS & LESSONS

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 7th 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

SCOLIOSIS SCREENING

The school nurse, with the assistance of Children's Hospital Scoliosis School Screening Program, will be conducting a free screening to detect adolescent scoliosis on Feb. 6th during your child's PE period. This is done in accordance with Alabama law, Section 16-29-1, C Code Alabama, 1975. The screening, which takes about one minute, is simple and not embarrassing. It involves a visual examination of the back while standing straight and while bending over. Male and females will be screened separately.

Scoliosis is a twisting or curve of the spine which occurs in about 10% of the adolescent population, and about 1 ½ % will require some type of medical attention. The first sign of scoliosis is usually noticed between the ages of ten and fourteen. If any symptoms are detected for your child, you will be notified by letter.

Please make sure your child wears a slip-on shirt or blouse on the screening day. For females, tanks or a camisole will not have to be removed.

If your child is receiving medical care for a spinal deformity from a physician or you request that your child be exempt from the exam, please contact the school nurse, Kelly Ferrell, kferrell@hoover.k12.al.us.

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.

It's your responsibility to dress appropriately for the educational environment!



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

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](#).