



HBMS Sixth Grade Newsletter

Holcomb Bridge Middle School

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fulton County Schools Exploring System Charter

If Fulton becomes a charter system, it will be the first large school system in Georgia to receive this status, which could mean more flexibility in spending, staffing, and innovation in its educational model. It would also mean greater involvement and decision-making authority for parents.

Currently there are six school systems in Georgia that have charter status, the largest of which has around 7,800 students. By comparison, Fulton County has 92,000 students, so three large systems with charter-like models are being studied – Boston Public Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Clarke County Schools (Las Vegas). These three systems are all showing promising student achieve-

ment results due to innovation and flexibility.

Fulton will continue studying charter system status throughout the current school year and will later decide whether to petition the state school board for approval. Seven meetings are set for system employees and parents to learn about the charter process and provide input. The first will be October 18 at Johns Creek High School beginning at 4:30 for Fulton staff and 6:30 p.m. for parents and the community. The entire community engagement schedule is posted at www.fultonschools.org/chartersystem.

Tips from Ms. Cheetham

Check the agenda each night to help your student stay on track with his or her assignments.

Utilize Home Access Center for updates on grades and attendance. See Mrs. Strish in the front office to obtain your username and password.

If your student does not have homework one night, encourage him or her to read for at least 30 minutes.

Have students prepare his or her book bag with all materials the night before.

Contact teachers to determine days and times of morning/afternoon help sessions.

Home Access Center

Parents, please remember that the new grading system does not allow teachers to email progress reports. Because of this, it is essential that you are checking the Home Access Center on a weekly basis and the student agenda on a nightly basis. If you do not have your username and password, please pick it up in person from the office.

Padres, por favor recuerden que el nuevo sistema de calificaciones no permite a los maestros que envíen informes de progreso (calificaciones) por correo electrónico. Debido a esto, es esencial que se fije en el Centro de Acceso de Casa (Home Access Center) semanalmente y en la agenda todas las noches . Si no tiene su nombre de usuario y contraseña, favor de recogerlo en persona en la oficina principal.

Don't forget about Learning Labs!

Parents, remember that learning labs are a unique opportunity at HBMS, where students have 26 minutes set aside each day to either work on homework, interventions, or enrichment – depending on their lab assignments. We just wrapped up a round of math labs where students had an opportunity to re-take assessments to show mastery of a past skill, and we are starting Language Arts labs for the month of November. In addition, we have enrichment labs such as Band and Student Council, and we are looking forward to adding more as the year goes on. Encourage your child to take advantage of this time each day, coming prepared and ready to focus.

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Math

In 6th grade math we are in the middle of our unit on fractions, decimals and percents. We will be learning how to use math to solve real world problems with percents. Please talk with your student about how you use math in everyday life, from paying taxes, to shopping at the mall and the grocery store.

Math 6A:

We have just begun exploring the relationships between fractions, decimals and percents. We will then move on to beginning algebra working with tables graphs and equations

Math 7A:

We are working on connecting tables and graphs and will begin writing equations to model tables and graphs. Next we will work with solving equations

English Language Arts

In Language Arts this unit, we are learning about Persuasion. Students will be creating their own product advertisements, participating in a debate, and reading examples of persuasive writing. They will also be writing their own persuasive essay. Students will also learn about adjectives, as well as direct objects and subject complements.

Special Education

Special Education students at Holcomb Bridge follow the same curriculum and Georgia Standards as on level students with required modification and specified accommodations. Our students participate in student-to-teacher, students-to-student, and group verbal interaction, in which the students ask relevant questions, respond to questions with appropriate information, respond and reflect while interacting with others. Our goal is to support our students in such a way as to bring the same level of success and achievement as all students at Holcomb Bridge. We are committed to supporting the success of all our students to reaching their full potential.

Science

In 6th grade science we are studying Earthquakes. We are learning how the movement of tectonic plates below the surface effect what happens at the surface. We will continue with this theme in our next section where we will learn about volcanoes. The 6th grade is also very excited about our upcoming field trip to the Fernbank Natural History Museum where we will get to watch an IMAX about the Grand Canyon and see how the geological processes we are studying have shaped our world.

Social Studies

Social Studies is beginning the next unit on Europe. We are learning about the Political Systems in different European countries. We will also be studying how different countries are influenced through economics.

Reading

During the next four weeks in reading class we will be covering persuasive writing. The students will explore different propaganda techniques, participate in a mock debate, and study how different graphic features are used to persuade people.