

BIRMINGHAM COVINGTON SCHOOL

Curriculum Enrichment

Programs for Grades 3/4

BCS PTSA

The BCS PTSA is committed to providing opportunities for growth and enrichment in and outside the classroom. BCS students have opportunities to challenge themselves and pursue interests in Language Arts, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, Math and other areas thanks to the dedication of our fine faculty and staff and parent volunteers like you. Curriculum enrichment programs are funded almost entirely through the BCS PTSA. Your contributions do have a direct impact on our students – thank you! To volunteer or to learn more about the specific programs listed in this brochure, contact:

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BCS PTSA CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

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2011-2012

PTSA-Sponsored Activities



Art Alive is a school-wide fine art exhibit held in the spring in which all BCS students are invited to display their original artwork. Canvases are donated and distributed via lottery to students who then create their own masterpieces. A reception is held for participants, families, and friends to recognize the hard work and talent that is required to put on a successful show. Parent volunteers are involved in distributing canvases, collecting and displaying the art.

Reflections is a nationwide art contest held in the fall/winter that encourages students to explore their artistic talents. Students of all grades are invited to submit works of art in six categories: *Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts*

Each year the Reflections Program challenges students to create artwork inspired by a specific theme. Past themes have included "Exploring New Beginnings," "A Different Kind of Hero," and "Together We Can." The 2011-2012 theme is "**Diversity Means . . .**" Entries are judged and winning entries go on to compete in district/regional and state levels, with the best entries going on to the National PTA to be considered for a National Reflections Award. Parent volunteers are needed to assist in collecting, organizing, and hanging

projects. Volunteers will also be needed to plan and implement a Reflections kick-off student event during lunch and an evening art show with refreshments at BCS.

Battle of the Books (Fourth Grade) is an annual district-wide reading challenge for Fourth and Fifth graders. Ten books are selected and students who read and pass an accelerated reader test for at least 6 of the books join their classmates for an epic literary battle. Teams created with students from both Fourth and Fifth grade meet on the day of the Battle to answer challenge and trivia questions about the books. The team that answers the most questions correctly is the champion. This terrific program starts with the book launch in November and culminates with the Battle in March. Parent volunteers attend a meeting where students are assigned to teams and create a team name, Battle crest, and poster. They also coordinate battle practice groups at school before the competition. On the day of the Battle parent volunteers can also serve as coaches for the student teams, but may not coach their own child.

Junior Great Books is a book club for third and fourth grade students. Students who choose to participate have the

opportunity to read and discuss classic literature presented in an age-appropriate manner. The club is run by a parent volunteer who follows a Jr. Great Books curriculum. Ask your child's teacher if he or she thinks this opportunity is right for your student!

WordMasters is a national competition for students in grades 3-8 which encourages growth in vocabulary and verbal reasoning. It challenges students to solve analogies based on relationships among words they have learned, drawing these analogies from special vocabulary lists. There are three separate and cumulative challenge meets held at school in December, February, and March. Parent volunteers distribute the grade-specific word lists to students via the teachers, administer/proctor the challenge meets, and score the tests taken. Top-scoring students in each grade are recognized nationally. Additionally, an optional choice hour will be held in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters to help students prepare for the challenge meets.

BCS PTSA SUPPORTS ARTS AND LITERATURE ENRICHMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN

Math Pentathlon is a choice hour class for students interested in using math concepts and skills while having fun learning and playing challenging strategic math games. There is a class for Third graders and a separate class for Fourth and Fifth graders. Students who participate make a year-long commitment and participate in a nationally-sponsored tournament in the Spring. Parent volunteers supervise, learn and judge one game.

RoboTech is an introduction to Lego Robotics and Technology, its principles and concepts, and the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program. Third and Fourth grades can sign up for the choice hour class which runs during the 1st and 2nd Quarters. Working in teams of two, students will have opportunities to build robots using the We Do Robotics kits. Students work on and complete team projects as well as computer/internet missions. Guest speakers, including parents, are invited to share their knowledge and expertise on topics related to technology, robotics and science. Field trip experiences, local and regional robotics competitions, fairs, exhibits and success celebrations are scheduled. Parent volunteers may be called upon to assist with supervision during events.

Science Olympiad (fourth grade) Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization designed to enhance the quality of

science education, to increase student interest in science, and to provide recognition for student achievement in these events. The Science Olympiad tournaments are academic inter-scholastic competitions consisting of team events for which students prepare during the school year. These challenging tasks are well balanced between the various science areas. There is also a balance of events requiring knowledge of science facts, concepts, processes, skills, and applications. Event examples include: Bottle rockets, Egg Drop, Astronomy, Meteorology, Anatomy, Science Crime Busters, Microbiology, Water Quality and Tower Building. The elementary team of Fourth and Fifth graders meets during choice hour during the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. Parents can get involved by coaching events with small groups of 2-4 students.

Minds in Motion is the BCS science and technology fair held during the Spring. All BCS students are encouraged to display projects they have completed for class or that they have done on their own at a reception for friends and families. Projects can be science-based or showcase how the student uses technology

in his or her schoolwork. Minds in Motion gives our students a great opportunity to show the community what BCS is all about. Parent volunteers will be involved in publicizing, organizing, and setting up the fair.

Social Studies Olympiad provides BCS students in grades 3-8 with the opportunity to compete in the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad in May 2012. Activities include a jeopardy-style quiz bowl, geography challenge, and other drama-based performance pieces connected to social studies themes. Students will work on their SSO pieces during lunch time with BCS parent volunteers.

Geography Bee (fourth grade). BCS students in grades 4-8 are eligible to compete in the National Geographic Bee. Held in January, it will test the knowledge of BCS students. A choice hour class will be held during the 2nd Quarter for students interested in preparing for the Bee. Parent volunteers can help with the choice hour or in running the Bee.

BCS PTSA IS GEEKED ABOUT MATH, SCIENCE/ TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIAL STUDIES ENRICHMENT