

BIRMINGHAM COVINGTON SCHOOL

Curriculum Enrichment

Programs for Grades 7/8

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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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 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 distribute canvases, collect and display 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. The 2011-2012 theme is **"Diversity Means . . ."**

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.

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.

Forensics is a choice hour class where students in grades 6-8 plan, rehearse and prepare for competition in drama, speech and public speaking events. Forensic Team members are encouraged to meet each week on Wednesdays and Fridays during choice hour for the entire year and to compete in statewide forensics tournaments. Participation in forensics is by audition only. Auditions occur at the end of the school year for the following year's team.

Spelling Bee BCS students in grades 5-8 are eligible to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Classroom bees will be held in late November/early December during the language arts classes. The winner and runner up from each of the classroom bees will advance to the School Spelling Bee to be held in early January. The winner of the School Spelling Bee will

BCS PTSA SUPPORTS ARTS AND LITERATURE ENRICHMENT FOR OUR CHILDREN

be invited to advance to the Regional Spelling Bee.

Theatre Production BCS's Covington Street Players present an annual, fun-filled musical production under the direction of a professional director. All students in grades 6-8 are invited to participate. This is a "pay-to-participate" activity, primarily to offset the cost of hiring the director and technical support. Auditions will occur in Winter, with rehearsals running through to the performance in Spring. All students who audition are included in the cast. Backstage roles are available for students interested in theatre production. Parent volunteers are very involved, helping with all aspects of the musical, from set design and ticket sales, to programs and rehearsals.

Yearbook is a year-long choice hour class during which students plan, design, and create the BCS student yearbook. This includes taking digital photos, writing captions, and designing the layout for the Yearbook using Jostens Publishing Yeartech Online software. Students are also responsible for marketing and sale of the yearbooks.

MathCounts is a national enrichment program for middle school students and has been successfully promoted at BCS for many years. Students in grades 6-8

can participate in the MathCounts program regardless of what level of math they are in. Pre-Algebra knowledge is needed to successfully participate in this program, but Algebra 1 and Geometry knowledge are a plus. Students meet every Sunday from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm at a BCS parent's house.

Math Pentathlon (Seventh Grade) is a choice hour class for students interested in using math concepts and skills while having fun learning and playing challenging strategic math games. 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. Students in grades 5-8 can sign up for the choice hour class which runs during the Quarters 1 and 2. Working in teams of two, students will have opportunities to build robots. 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 assist with supervision during events.

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 tasks are well balanced between the various science areas. Events require 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 middle school team of students in grades 6-9 meets all year. Parents can get involved by coaching events with small groups of 2-4 students.

Future City is a choice hour class in which students enter a national engineering competition. The mission of the Future City Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational program for students in grades 6-8 that combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a "hands-on" application to present their vision of a city of the future. Participants meet twice a week during choice hour for Quarters 1 and 2 and use Slim City software to design a city 150 years in the future. In January, the team will compete against other middle school teams and their cities. Parent volunteers can help with the choice hour class or at the competition.

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

BCS PTSA IS
GEEKED ABOUT
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ENRICHMENT