

Birmingham Covington School

Adam Hartley, *Principal* • 248.203.4444 • Fax: 248.203.4433 • ah07bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us
1525 Covington Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

June 2011

Dear BCS Parents and/or Guardians,

During the fourth marking period, our 3rd-5th grade teachers have been administering reading assessments to all of our students through the newly adopted Fountas and Pinell assessment tool. These assessments are crucial in learning more about our students and their reading levels. The BCS staff is committed to individualizing each student's education. This information serves as important data as they plan their Language Arts lessons. We know that data is "just data" unless we use it to inform and drive our instruction. Committed to using data to create individual learning, the 3rd-5th grade teachers have compiled a list of books that match your child's reading levels. This list is meant to assist you in finding "just right" books throughout the summer months. We are adamant that learning never ends and if our students can continue their quests to reach their highest goals throughout the summer, the beginning of the year will be that much better. With this in mind, the assignment below includes picking out at least two books for your child to read that is a "just right" book over the course of the summer. The BCS staff is committed to individualizing each student's education. This information serves as important data as they plan their Language Arts lessons.

Link to All Leveled Books:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/gradetwo.html>
<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/gradethree.html>
<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/gradefour.html>
<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/gradefive.html>
<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/gradesix.html>

We would like you to also consider donating the book to BCS at the end of summer. Our hope is, for each book you have donated, your child will benefit greatly from other books that were donated from other families. There is, of course, no obligation to donate. Your local library will also carry these books. We are excited that BCS is committed to providing an individual opportunity in Language Arts as we continue to foster a relevant and rigorous curriculum.

Thank you,
Adam



INDEPENDENCE

2011-2012 BCS 5/6 Team Summer Packet

Dear Fifth and Sixth Graders,

As the 2010-2011 school year comes to an end, the 5/6 teachers would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer. We would also like to see you exercise your brain, while enjoying fun in the sun. This Summer Packet will enrich your vacation and help you to prepare for your upcoming classes this fall.

Our theme for the next school year is INDEPENDENCE. Take a few minutes to think about what that means to you as an individual, as a family member and as a member of your community.

What does it mean to be independent?

This Summer Packet contains activities that will be connected to INDEPENDENCE as the year progresses. We hope these activities help to keep your brain well-exercised. Please read the instructions very carefully and be prepared to present your final products when we return in the fall. However, do not bring your projects on the first day of school. Bring only your writing tools and your summertime memories. During the first week back, you will receive instructions regarding your Summer Packet Work.

This packet includes weekly math practice to help keep your math skills sharp over the summer. You are also required to complete an assignment for a writing project when you return in the fall. There is also an independent reading assignment and an optional science assignment for those of you with extra time on your hands this summer. Details of these assignments are given in the following pages.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall and

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



Independent Reading

Directions: During the summer you are required to read at least two novels from your leveled book list. This can be any novel that is at your accurate reading level that stimulates your interests and keeps you motivated to read this summer. We encourage you to read as many books as you can, however. The more that you read from your "just right" book list, the quicker you will progress to the next level. Please use the attached reading log to record all of the books you read throughout the summer. You will be turning this in to your teacher next fall.

Writing Project

Directions: During your summer, your language arts teachers want you to take as many digital pictures of your summer experiences as you possibly can. You can take pictures of yourself, your family, pets and friends. You can be swimming at the pool, hanging out at camp, playing with friends, or eating with your family. You can choose any summer activity/event that you want. In the fall, we will use these pictures to create a Small Moment Photo Story. The more pictures you take, the more you will have to choose from when writing your story in the fall.

Math Practice

We are very excited to be able to offer your students the ability to practice their math skills over the summer on IXL, an interactive online math program that provides teachers, students and parents with valuable insight about our students' abilities. By using this system we will be able to view any of IXL's 37 reports, which include data on grade-level proficiency, trouble spots, and even progress toward meeting [state and common core standards](#).

Students can access practice problems from grades 3-8 making it useful for both the student who wants to reinforce their skills from this year and for those students who would like to get a head start on the content they will be learning next year.

For math summer packet work this year we would like to encourage each student to practice their math skills for approximately thirty minutes each week. Each student will receive a username and password in their school emails by July 1st and they will need to print out this information as school emails will be cleaned out during the summer. If you are travelling this summer and will not have access to the Internet please encourage your students to practice as much as they can.

We feel that IXL will be an invaluable tool to help your students reach their potential in math and look forward to following their progress over the next few months.

SUMMER SCIENCE EXPLORATION

The following activities are **optional** and will help you get a head start with our first science unit of the year: Energy. Choose one that interests you the most and, with your permission, your final product will be put on display for others to admire and enjoy.

1. Energy Timeline!!

During the summer many of us get to spend more time with our families. Make a timeline of your family history, including the years parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were born as well as the year the community was founded and the school was built. Compare your personal timeline with the [Electricity](#) or [Transportation Timeline](#). Make a movie, PowerPoint or poster describing how electricity or transportation has changed life over time. Include stories from parents, grandparents or great-grandparents about how they used electricity or their transportation choices when they were the same age as you.

2. Pizza Box Solar Oven

Learn how the sun provides energy by following the directions in the link to make your very own solar oven - they do get hot so get an adult to help you!!

http://www.alliantenergykids.com/wcm/groups/wcm_internet/@int/@aekids/documents/contentpage/022819.pdf

Take photographs or make a movie to share what you learned while getting hot in the sun!

3. Energy From Garbage

Using dried peas or beans, explore the potential for creating energy from garbage!

<http://www.need.org/needpdf/IntGarbageEnergy.pdf>

Be ready to share with your classmates what you discovered.

4. Energy Super Sleuth

How is energy used to power the world? If you are travelling this summer try to answer this question by making first hand observations and visits to interesting places. Make a presentation about what you learned about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and where and how they are used.

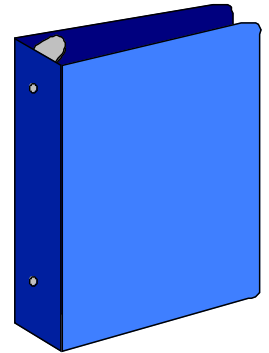
National Park Project

Later in the year we will be doing a National Park Project. If you visit a National Park this summer please take lots of photos and bring back any leaflets or flyers or pamphlets from your park.

5/6 Team School Supply List

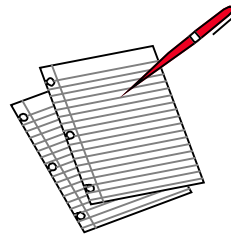
Academic Classroom Supplies

- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters (different colors) 1 pack
- Colored markers 1 pack
- Glue and/or Glue Sticks (3-6)
- 2 accordion folders (1for LA/SS, 1 for Math/Science) or 2 Binders with dividers
- White-lined paper (3 packs)
- Pen and Pencils for the Year
- 1 metric/U.S customary ruler
- 2 pairs of scissors
- 2 Blue Duotang Folder with pockets
- 2 Red Duotang Folder with Pockets
- 1 Pack of construction paper



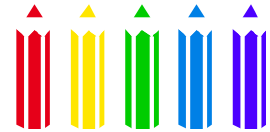
Language Arts/Social Studies

- 1 Composition Notebook
- 1 Spiral Bound Notebook



Science/Mathematics

- 1 Composition Notebook
- 2 Spiral Bound Notebooks (100 + pages)
- 1 Pack of Graph Paper
- 1 Compass



7/8 Math

- 2 Spiral Bound Notebooks
- 1 Spiral Bound Notebook of Graph paper
- 1 Scientific calculator (Order form will go out in the fall)

We cannot require you to purchase any of the supplies listed, however, we know that children often like to purchase their own supplies. If you need any financial assistance for any of the above items, please call Adam Hartley at 203-4428. Your call will be kept confidential. Nan's Kids funds are available for these purchases.

While not required, we encourage students to bring in their own Laptops, Netbooks or Ipads to use in the classroom.