

2018/19 School Year

BTMS Family Newsletter

(Published: January 4, 2019)

Dear BTMS Students, Families, and Partners,

BTMS hosts a variety of activities and opportunities for our students. We encourage our families and stakeholders to participate as partners in supporting the learning and growth of our children. *Dates and activities are subject to change.*

Please visit the **BTMS website** for ongoing updates and information at: <http://www1.pgcps.org/benjamintasker/>.



Continuous Updates on Benjamin Tasker Website!!

Check it out: <http://www.pgcps.org/benjamintasker/>

Calendar

- **Master Calendar:**

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=cGdjchMub3JnXzRobGptdmEzb2cyZDkzbTdpYXQ4bmdrcDlvOGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

- **BTMS Monthly Activities**

- **Tuesday, January 1:**
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- **Wednesday, January 2:**
 - Staff and students return from Winter Break
 - Basketball Game @ Ogle @ 6:00pm
- **Monday, January 7:**
 - SLO Testing (Health/Soc. Studies)
 - ACCESS Testing (Listening & Reading)
- **Tuesday, January 8:**
 - SLO Testing (Health/Soc. Studies)
 - ACCESS Testing (Listening & Reading)
 - PTSO Meeting @ 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, January 9:**
 - SLO Makeup Testing (Health/Soc. Studies)
 - Basketball Games @ Eisenhower
 - BTMS Winter Concert

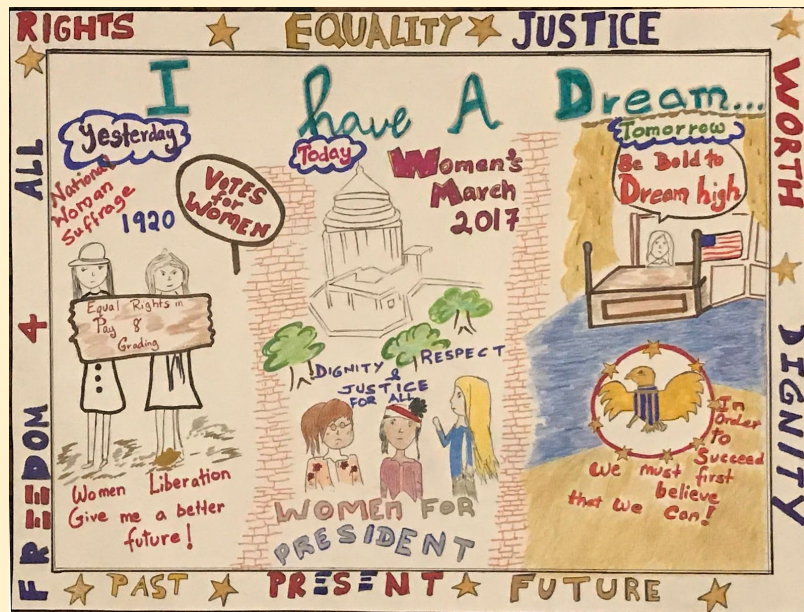
- **Thursday, January 10:**
 - SLO Makeup Testing (Health/Soc. Studies)
 - ACCESS Testing (Writing)
- **Friday, January 11:**
 - Enrichment Mod
- **Sunday, January 13:**
 - PTSO Fundraiser Night MOD Pizza @ Market Place
- **Monday, January 14:**
 - MAP Growth Reading Test
 - ACCESS Testing (Writing)
- **Tuesday, January 15:**
 - MAP Growth Reading Test
 - SLO Testing (Technology Concepts)
- **Wednesday, January 16:**
 - SLO Testing (Technology Concepts)
 - Make-up MAP Growth
 - MAP Growth Reading Window CLOSES
- **Thursday, January 17:**
 - iReady Diagnostic
 - SLO Makeup Testing (Tech Concepts)
- **Friday, January 18:**
 - iReady Diagnostic
 - SLO Makeup Testing (Tech Concepts)
 - BTMS Spelling Bee
- **Monday, January 21:**
 - Holiday - Martin L. King, Jr. Day - Schools and Offices are closed
- **Tuesday, January 22:**
 - SLO Testing (RELA/Science)
- **Wednesday, January 23:**
 - SLO Testing (RELA/Science)
- **Thursday, January 24:**
 - Makeup iReady Diagnostic
 - Makeup SLO (RELA/Science)
- **Friday, January 25:**
 - End of 2nd Quarter
 - iReady Diagnostic Window CLOSES

- **Monday, January 28:**
 - 2 hr Early Dismissal for Students
- **Tuesday, January 29:**
 - SLO Testing (Math/Music)
 - ACCESS Testing (Speaking)
- **Wednesday, January 30:**
 - SLO Testing (Math/Music)
- **Thursday, January 31:**
 - ACCESS Testing (Speaking)
 - Makeup SLO (Math/Music)
- **Friday, February 1:**
 - Black History Month
 - Makeup SLO (Math/Music)
- **Monday, February 4:**
 - FAST 8 Science
 - SLO Testing (World Language/AVID/PE/Academic Res)
 - SLO Testing ELL
- **Tuesday, February 5:**
 - FAST 8 Science
 - SLO Testing (WL/AVID/PE/Academic Res)
 - SLO Testing ELL
- **Wednesday, February 6:**
 - Makeup FAST 8 Science/SLO Testing
- **Thursday, February 7:**
 - SLO Testing ELL
 - Makeup FAST 8 Science/SLO Testing
- **Friday, February 8:**
 - Door Decorating Contest Judging - Black History Month Theme
 - Enrichment Mod
 - ACCESS Window CLOSES
 - 2nd Quarter Report Cards Released
 - Grade Appeals Window OPENS
- **Monday, February 11, 2019**
 - Black History Month- Essay Contest Judging
- **Tuesday, February 12:**
- **Friday, February 15, 2019**
 - Talent Show

■ Grade Appeals Window CLOSES

Achievements, Acknowledgements, and Congratulations

- The MARYLAND State Report Card was released and Tasker Middle School has 4 out of 5 Stars. Tasker was ranked high against ALL Maryland Middle Schools.
- BTMS Science is making big gains. The MISA 2018 scores were shared and BTMS routinely scored significantly higher than the district across the board on MISA. We also routinely scored VERY close to or above the State in many areas.
- Benjamin Tasker Debate Debate finishes 1st semester on a high note: Congratulations to Tremayne Beivens, Stephanie Maceiko, and Shabad Sing. This past weekend, public schools from around D.C. and Prince George's County gathered at the Columbia Heights Education Campus to debate immigration reform. This was the largest competition in Washington Urban Debate League history, with more than 260 students competing from 35 schools. Benjamin Tasker MS students, Stephanie Maceiko and Tremayne Beivens, dominated the Novice Division, going undefeated (beating teams from Benjamin Banneker High School, Hardy, DC International, and Kettering along the way) and taking 2nd place overall. Stephanie was the 9th overall speaker in a huge Novice Division, while Shabad Singh was 12th and Tremayne was 16th. Job well done!!
- PGPCS 8th Grade (2018/19) Math Meet Competition Rankings are out and Tasker's team, led by Ms. Policarpio, is ranked #1.
- Congratulation to Science Teacher Mrs. Dana Olfus on her promotion to Reading Coach. We miss her already!
- Shahad Singh is the Prince George's County Educator's Minority Affairs Committee's Poster Contest 1st Place Winner for the Middle School Level. The County received many submissions and the judges voted his entry the winner. Congratulations on this recognition and the subsequent honor that he will receive at the annual ceremony.



PTSO

- The PTSO needs you! Your annual \$10 membership dues allow us to provide activities and programs for BTMS students and teachers. If you are not a member, or if you have not renewed your membership sign-up now on the PTSO webpage. <https://taskerptso.wordpress.com/membership/>
- PTSO Meeting- The next PTSO meeting will be on January 8, 2019 @ 7:00pm-8:00pm.

TAG

- Please click on the links below to review previous Tasker TAG news:
 - [TAG Newsletter- January 2019](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - November/December 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - September 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - August 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - March/April 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter -February 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - January 2018](#)

Parent & Community Engagement

- **Parent Volunteers:** *Are you interested in volunteering more than once a year in your neighborhood schools or are you a parent of a PGcps Student and would like to attend a Field Trip with your child?*
Go to Schools Online training module at www.pgcps.org/studentsafety.
- **Fingerprint Background Check & CPS Clearance Locations (Fee is \$61.00):**
Sasscer Building, 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, Md., Weekdays, 8:00am-4:45pm
Walk-ins Accepted.
 - *Hughes Barney Investigations, 9315 Largo Drive West #100, Upper Marlboro, Md. 301-333-1728*
Appointments ONLY.
 - *E. House Executive Security Professionals, Inc., 4147 Auth Place #420, Suitland, Md. 20746,*
301-899-2528, Appointments ONLY.
- **SchoolMax Family Portal:** Keep in touch with BTMS and PGcps. Sign up for SchoolMax Family Portal at www.pgcps.org/schoolmax-support/. View your child's student information, grades and attendance records online. A new transportation option has been added this year that will let you check school bus arrival times.
- **Bb (Blackboard) District Mobile App:** Parents can connect even more with Blackboard Connect. This system is a web-based platform and smartphone application which sends messages as well as push notifications. Download the Bb District by Blackboard app to receive updates on attendance, systemic and school-wide message, grades and so much more. ***Helpful Hint: Parents will not be able to login unless they are registered in SchoolMax Family Portal first. If they are registered in the portal, parents will select single sign-on and login using those credentials.*** For more information and/or to sign-up for the Bb District Mobile App by Blackboard go to <http://www1.pgcps.org/bbapp>. For any assistance, please email your PEA, Sonia Brooks at sonia.brooks@pgcps.org.

Assessments

- **Discuss assessments with your child:** We ask that you please speak to your child about ensuring that they give their very best effort for the county and statewide assessments, as the results are utilized to (a) assign students to classrooms for the next school year, (b) acceptance into specialty programs within the county, and (c) inform teachers on how to design instruction and/or reteach lessons.
- **Prepare for assessments:** Please be sure that your child gets plenty of rest the night before the assessment and that they eat a hearty breakfast the morning of the assessment to ensure that they are focused and prepared to give their best effort.
- **Assessment & Dates of Administration**
 - SLO Health & Soc Studies: January 7 & 8- Makeup 1/9-1/11
 - ACCESS for ELLs: January 7, 8 (reading/listening), 10 & 14 (writing)
 - ACCESS for ELLs: January 29 & 31 (speaking)
 - MAP Growth: January 14 & 15- Makeup 1/16 & 1/18
 - SLO Technology Concepts: January 15 & 16- Makeup 1/17 & 1/18
 - iReady Math & Reading Diagnostic: January 17 & 18- Makeup 1/24 & 1/25
 - SLO RELA & Science: January 22 & 23- Makeup 1/24 & 1/25
 - SLO Math & Music: January 29 & 30- Makeup 1/31 & 2/1
 - SLO World Language/Avid/PE/ELL & Academic Res: February 4 & 5- Makeup 2/6 & 2/7
 - SLO Window closes February 13
 - Science FAST 8 #2: February 4 & 5- Makeup 2/6- 2/1
 - Math Benchmark 6, 7, 8: Feb 19 & Feb 20- Makeup 2/21-2/22

General Information

- **After School Clubs:** There are many to choose from, but students must have a ride home, as transportation is not provided. Please click on the following link to identify activities. Please feel free to email the assigned staff members identified for each activity with any questions you may have.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRCC_k5m_PYIzwOfi8qmyI6d0EB8irwzmoG1JRoISxI/edit#gid=0
- **Enrichment Mod:** The enrichment Mod is generally held on the 2nd Friday of each month. Students selected their preferred activities. Activities include the following: Knitting, Double Dutch, Arts & Crafts, Brain Challenge & Games, Business Finance, Crochet, Multiculturalism, Walking & Kinesthetics, Jazz Band, Gospel Choir, Chess, Basketball, Volleyball, Technology, etc. Enrichment mod occurs during the last 90 minutes, generally during the 2nd Friday of the month. Our next Enrichment Mod will be held on **January 11, 2019.**
- **Positive Behavior Earned Activity (PBEA):** To earn the PBEA, students must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Students are permitted an average of 1 tardy per week during the PBIS open window.
 - (b) Students may not have any in-school or out-of-school suspensions during the open PBIS window.
 - (c) Students may have 1 Lunch Detention only during the open PBIS window
 - (d) Each grade level cluster (grade-level core content area teachers, all working with the same student) may identify, as a team, additional students that have not earned the activity. This requires the consensus of the team.

- **I-Ready:** Students will be assessed in IReady math during the first two weeks of school. IReady will be used at school, but should also be used at home to support instruction. Continuing students have their login information. It is highly recommended that they practice on I-Ready for 90 minutes weekly (ie; 3 x 30 min or 2 x 45 min). It is aligned with Common Core Curriculum and PARCC and will work to improve their individual deficiencies.
- **Master Calendar:** Please review the Master Calendar for School Year 2018/19:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=cGdjchMub3JnXzRobGptdmEzb2cyZDkzbTdpYXQ4bmdrcDlvOGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>
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Contacts

Kendra Hill, Ed.D.	Principal	kendra.hill@pgcps.org
Susan Harris,	Assistant Principal (Grades 6th & 7th, A - L)	susan.harris@pgcps.org
Shawn Malbon	Assist Principal (Grades 7th M - Z, & 8th)	shawn.malbon@pgcps.org
Nicole Schwartz	Guidance Counselor (Grade 6)	nicole.schwartz@pgcps.org
Lakeisha Ramsey	Guidance Counselor (Grade 7)	lakeisha.ramsey@pgcps.org
Robyn Jones	Guidance Counselor (Grade 8)	robyn.jones@pgcps.org
Jennifer Yitts	Special Education Chair	jennifer.yitts@pgcps.org
Janet Clarke-Green	TAG Coordinator	janet.clarke@pgcps.org
Sonia Brooks	Parent Engagement Assistant	sonia.brooks@pgcps.org
Natasha Torres	Testing Coordinator	natasha.torres@pgcps.org
Alicia Shaw	PTSO President	taskerptsoinfo@gmail.com

Get Connected:

Instagram: @BTMStigers

Twitter: @BTMStigers and @taskerptso

Facebook: www.facebook.com/taskerptso

Bb District Mobile App:

Sign up for the Bb District Mobile App by Blackboard at <http://www1.pgcps.org/bbapp/>

Tasker Tigers School-Wide Text Alerts:

Text @b98af7 to 81010

Benjamin Tasker Website

<http://www1.pgcps.org/benjamintasker/>

BTMS Resource Center

<https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/benjamin-tasker-resource-page/>

2018/19 SY - BTMS Newsletter

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OqVTNy9tJCX5AcBEXCnKUIJ03QqG6HIYav7HRf5SnUg/edit>

BTMS Family Newsletter

(Published: December 1, 2018)

Dear BTMS Students, Families, and Partners,

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- **BTMS Monthly Activities**

- **Monday, December 3:**

- Basketball Game at Beltsville @ 6:00pm
- United Way Campaign begins. Updates to come on website.

- **Tuesday, December 4th:**

- Book Fair @ 8am-3pm

- **Wednesday, December 5th:**

- PSAT 8/9 Testing Date @ Tasker
- Honor Roll Assemblies (7th @ 9:00am, 6th @ 1:10pm, 8th @ 2:10pm)
- Book Fair @ 3:30pm-8:00pm
- Basketball Game @ Tasker vs. CMIT @ 6:00pm

- **Wednesday, December 6th:**

- Italian interest meeting with Ms. Plateroti @ 6:30pm in room 131. Parents and students are welcomed to this virtual visit to Italy as they discover a new culture and practice the language that they study in school.
- Book Fair @ 8am-3pm

- **Friday, December 7:**

- 2 Hr Early Dismissal
- **Monday, December 10:**
 - Basketball Game @ Tasker vs. Buck Lodge @ 6:00pm
- **Wednesday, December 12:**
 - Basketball Game @ Hyattsville @ 6:00pm
- **Friday, December 14:**
 - Enrichment Mod
- **Monday, December 17:**
 - SGA Sponsored Holiday Spirit Week-Holiday Hats, Scarves, and Headbands
 - Basketball Game @ Tasker vs. Nicholas Orem @6:00pm
- **Tuesday, December 18:**
 - SGA Sponsored Holiday Spirit Week-Ugly Holiday Sweaters/Shirts/Jackets/Dress
- **Wednesday, December 19:**
 - SGA Sponsored Holiday Spirit Week-Holiday Bells, Pins, and Socks
 - Basketball Game @ MLK @ 6:00pm
 - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon provided by PTSO
- **Thursday, December 20:**
 - SGA Sponsored Holiday Spirit Week-Holiday Onesies (Must be appropriate for school)
 - Picture Day Makeup
- **Friday, December 21:**
 - Indoor Movie Night
 - PBIS Activity
 - Second Quarter Progress Reports Released
- **Monday, December 24:**
 - Winter Break Begins and School/Offices are Closed
- **Wednesday, January 2:**
 - Staff and students return from Winter Break
 - Basketball Game @ Ogle @ 6:00pm
- **Tuesday, January 8:**
 - PTSO Meeting @ 7:00pm
- **Wednesday, January 9:**
 - Basketball Games @ Eisenhower
 - BTMS Winter Concert
- **Friday, January 10:**

- **Enrichment Mod**

- **Sunday, January 13:**

- **PTSO Fundraiser Night MOD Pizza @ Market Place**

School-wide Activities

- **BOOK FAIR:**

Monday: Students review books at <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/> click "find a fair" "Maryland" "Bowie" then browse.

Students with cash/check/or ewallet are allowed permission to leave class to go to Media Center.

Tuesday: Period 1 RELA students ONLY

Period 2 MATH students ONLY

Period 3 LUNCH students ONLY

Period 4 SCIENCE students ONLY

Period 5 SOCIAL SCIENCE students ONLY

Wednesday: Community Night 3:30pm - 8pm

Thursday: Students by pass only. Absences/last call for sales.

Friday: No more purchases in Library.. Students can still purchase online at the above link until December 11th.

- **Enrichment Mod:** The enrichment Mod is generally held on the 2nd Friday of each month. Students selected their preferred activities. Activities include the following: Knitting, Double Dutch, Arts & Crafts, Brain Challenge & Games, Business Finance, Crochet, Multiculturalism, Walking & Kinesthetics, Jazz Band, Gospel Choir, Chess, Basketball, Volleyball, etc.
- **After School Clubs:** There are many to choose from, but students must have a ride home, as transportation is not provided. Please click on the following link to identify activities. Please feel free to email the assigned staff members identified for each activity with any questions you may have.
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- **Fingerprint Background Check & CPS Clearance Locations (Fee is \$61.00):**
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Walk-ins Accepted.
 - *Hughes Barney Investigations, 9315 Largo Drive West #100, Upper Marlboro, Md. 301-333-1728*
Appointments ONLY.
 - *E. House Executive Security Professionals, Inc., 4147 Auth Place #420, Suitland, Md. 20746,*
301-899-2528, Appointments ONLY.

- **SchoolMax Family Portal:** Keep in touch with BTMS and PGCPS. Sign up for SchoolMax Family Portal at www.pgcps.org/schoolmax-support/. View your child's student information, grades and attendance records online. A new transportation option has been added this year that will let you check school bus arrival times.
- **Bb (Blackboard) District Mobile App:** Parents can connect even more with Blackboard Connect. This system is a web-based platform and smartphone application which sends messages as well as push notifications. Download the Bb District by Blackboard app to receive updates on attendance, systemic and school-wide message, grades and so much more. *Helpful Hint: Parents will not be able to login unless they are registered in SchoolMax Family Portal first. If they are registered in the portal, parents will select single sign-on and login using those credentials.* For more information and/or to sign-up for the Bb District Mobile App by Blackboard go to <http://www1.pgcps.org/bbapp>. For any assistance, please email your PEA, Sonia Brooks at sonia.brooks@pgcps.org.

PTSO

- December is a busy month for the PTSO! We're selling concessions at basketball games, planning an indoor family movie night, and hosting the teachers' holiday luncheon! Check the sign-up for ways you can support! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49ABAC292-ptso>
- The PTSO needs you! Your annual \$10 membership dues allow us to provide activities and programs for BTMS students and teachers. If you are not a member, or if you have not renewed your membership sign-up now on the PTSO webpage. <https://taskerptso.wordpress.com/membership/>
- PTSO Meeting- The next PTSO meeting will be on January 8, 2019 @ 7:00pm-8:00pm.

TAG

- BTMS applied for EGATE for the very first time on Friday, November 28th. It was a very long and daunting process, and we are very thankful to everyone who participated.
- Please click on the links below to review previous Tasker TAG news:
 - [TAG Newsletter - September 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - August 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - March/April 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter -February 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - January 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter - December 2018](#)

Content Areas

- **Math:** It's time to prepare for PSAT 8/9! BTMS students will take PSAT 8/9 on December 4th and here are a few tips to help you prepare.
 - Quick Facts
 - Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
 - The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
 - Some parts of the test will present a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

- What to Expect
 - The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most for college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.
- Calculator
 - A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
 - Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.
 - Don't try to use the calculator on every question—no question requires one.
 - Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
 - Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
 - Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.
- PSAT: Our 8th Grade TASKER TIGERS will take PSAT on Wednesday, Dec. 5th. PSAT is a one-day test. It is 3 hours with 4-sections (Reading, Writing & Language, Math- calculated and Math non-calculated).
 - Here are a few tips to help ready them for Wednesday.
 - Get a good night's sleep
 - Having a hearty breakfast
 - Be on time
 - Tardies can not test
 - Encourage them to apply their very BEST!
 - Helpful Websites for PSAT 8/9 Info & Practice
 - Click [here](#) for PSAT 8/9 Student & Parent Guide
 - Click [here](#) to prepare for the PSAT 8/9 using Khan Academy (click [here](#) for Spanish)
- **Science:** Our TASKER TIGER Science Bowl team comprising of Joy Obiri 8th grade Captain, Sameer Kumar 7th grade, and Ajibola Ajani 6th grade were winners. In their first game they won Tasker 170-Thurgood Marshall 140. In their second game, they won Tasker 285-Hyattsville 220. They will be advancing to semi-finals.

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)

- Our first PBIS activity was November 1st. The next PBIS activity will be held on December 21. To earn the PBIS activity, students must meet the following criteria:
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 - (c) Students may have 1 Lunch Detention only during the open PBIS window
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General Announcements

- **Enrichment Mod:** Students selected their preferred Enrichment activities during the first week of school. Enrichment mod occurs during the last 90 minutes, generally during the 2nd Friday of the month. Our next Enrichment Mod will be held on **December 14th**.
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https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRCC_k5m_PYIzwOfi8qmyI6d0EB8irwzmoG1JRoISxI/edit#gid=0
- **Master Calendar:** Please review the Master Calendar for School Year 2018/19:
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Robyn Jones	Guidance Counselor (Grade 8)	robyn.jones@pgcps.org
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Natasha Torres	Testing Coordinator	natasha.torres@pgcps.org
Alicia Shaw	PTSO President	taskerptsoinfo@gmail.com

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Twitter: @BTMStigers and @taskerptso
Facebook: www.facebook.com/taskerptso

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Tasker Tigers School-Wide Text Alerts:

Text @b98af7 to 81010

Benjamin Tasker Website

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BTMS Resource Center

<https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/benjamin-tasker-resource-page/>

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- **November BTMS Monthly Activities**
 - **Thursday, November 1st:**
 - Harvest Fest
 - Spirit Week
 - Boys Basketball Tryout 3:30pm-7:00pm
 - Charter School Lottery begins
 - **Friday, November 2nd:**
 - Spirit Week
 - End of First Quarter
 - Girl's Basketball Tryout 3:30pm-5:00pm
 - Boy's Basketball Tryout 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - **Monday, November 5th:**
 - 2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
 - **Wednesday, November 7th:**
 - Picture Day for 6th and 7th Graders
 - **Thursday, November 8th:**
 - Picture Day for 8th Graders
 - Cheerleading Tryout 3:30pm-5:00pm
 - PTSO Fundraiser Night @ Noodles & Company (Bowie Town Center)

- TAG BETA Club Induction Ceremony @ 6:30 in Multi-Purpose Room
- **Friday, November 9th:**
 - Enrichment Mod
 - Cheerleading Tryout 3:30pm-5:00pm
- **Monday, November 12th:**
 - Veterans Day Observed and School Closed for Students
 - Parent Teacher Conference - School Closed for Students
- **Tuesday, November 13th:**
 - Math 6 Benchmark Assessments
 - FAST 8 Science Assessment- Part 1
 - PTSO Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- **Wednesday, November 14th:**
 - Math 7 Benchmark Assessments
- **Thursday, November 15th:**
 - Math 8 Benchmark Assessment
 - FAST 8 Science Assessment- Part 2
- **Friday, November 16th:**
 - Family Game Night
- **Tuesday, November 20th:**
 - First Quarter Report Cards Released
- **Wednesday, November 21st-Friday, November 23rd:**
 - Thanksgiving Break (Schools and Offices Closed)
- **Wednesday, November 28th:**
 - 2 Hour Early Dismissal
- **Thursday, November 29th:**
 - Lirical Night (Poetry, Rap, & Song)

Special Acknowledgments

- **Congratulations to** __
- **Debate Team:** Benjamin Tasker Debate Debate finishes 1st semester on a high note: Congratulations to Tremayne Beivens, Stephanie Maceiko, and Shabad Sing. This past weekend, public schools from around D.C. and Prince George's County gathered at the Columbia Heights Education Campus to debate immigration reform. This was the largest competition in Washington Urban Debate League history, with more than 260 students competing from 35 schools. Benjamin Tasker MS students, Stephanie Maceiko and Tremayne Beivens, dominated the Novice Division, going undefeated (beating teams from Benjamin Banneker High School, Hardy, DC International, and Kettering along the way) and taking 2nd place overall. Stephanie was the 9th overall speaker in a huge Novice Division, while Shabad Singh was 12th and Tremayne was 16th. Job well done!!

- **Math Meets:**

School-wide Activities

- **Enrichment Mod:** The enrichment Mod is generally held on the 2nd Friday of each month. Students selected their preferred activities. Activities include the following: Knitting, Double Dutch, Arts & Crafts, Brain Challenge & Games, Business Finance, Crochet, Multiculturalism, Walking & Kinesthetics, Jazz Band, Gospel Choir, Chess, Basketball, Volleyball, etc.
- **After School Clubs:** There are many to choose from, but students must have a ride home, as transportation is not provided. Please click on the following link to identify activities.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRCC_k5m_PYIzwOfi8qmyI6d0EB8irwzmoG1JRoISxI/edit#gid=0
- **Junior Reporter Contest:** Benjamin Tasker has three finalist in this competition. We are hopeful that one of our very talented students will win, which will require a large number of votes. Our current semi-finalist include: (a) Layla Wheatherby, (b) Shawn Garrison, and © Raegan Travers. Voting ends on November 9th. We are able to vote once each day for each of our students. Please click on the following link to vote:
<https://wtop.com/contests/reporter/> . Spread the word to friends, family, neighbors, etc. Best of luck to our wonderful students!!
- **e-Portfolio:** Please click on the e--Portfolio to review school activities.

Parent & Community Engagement

- **Parent Volunteers:** *Are you interested in volunteering more than once a year in your neighborhood schools or are you a parent of a PGcps Student and would like to attend a Field Trip with your child?*
Go to Schools Online training module at www.pgcps.org/studentsafety.
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PTSO

- The PTSO needs you! Your annual \$10 membership dues allow us to provide activities and programs for BTMS students and teachers. If you are not a member, or if you have not renewed your membership sign-up now on the PTSO webpage. <https://taskerptso.wordpress.com/membership/>
- PTSO Fundraiser Night on Thursday, November 8 at Noodles and Company at the Bowie Town Center
- PTSO Meeting- The next PTSO meeting will be on November 13 from 7-8 pm. We will discuss the new middle school grading policy, and have guest speaker Gloria Cuthbertson sharing a presentation titled “Helping your Child Identify Fake News on the Internet”

TAG

- Please click on the links below to review previous Tasker TAG news:
 - [TAG Newsletter - September 2018](#)
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 - [TAG Newsletter - March/April 2018](#)
 - [TAG Newsletter -February 2018](#)
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 - [TAG Newsletter - December 2018](#)

Content Areas

- **Math:** It’s time to prepare for PSAT 8/9! BTMS students will take PSAT 8/9 on December 4th and here are a few tips to help you prepare.
 - Quick Facts
 - Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
 - The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
 - Some parts of the test will present a scenario and then ask several questions about it.
 - What to Expect
 - The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most for college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.
 - Calculator
 - A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
 - Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.
 - Don’t try to use the calculator on every question—no question requires one.
 - Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
 - Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
 - Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.
 - Helpful Websites for PSAT 8/9 Info & Practice
 - Click [here](#) for PSAT 8/9 Student & Parent Guide

- Click [here](#) to prepare for the PSAT 8/9 using Khan Academy (click [here](#) for Spanish)

- **Science:** Our TASKER TIGER Science Bowl team comprising of Joy Obiri 8th grade Captain, Sameer Kumar 7th grade, and Ajibola Ajani 6th grade were winners. In their first game they won Tasker 170-Thurgood Marshall 140. In their second game, they won Tasker 285-Hyattsville 220. They will be advancing to semi-finals.

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)

- Our first PBIS activity was November 1st. The next PBIS activity will be held on December 21. To earn the PBIS activity, students must meet the following criteria:
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General Announcements

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https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRCC_k5m_PYIzwOfi8qmyI6d0EB8irwzmoG1JRoISxI/edit#gid=0
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BTMS Family Newsletter

(Published: October 1, 2018)

Dear BTMS Students, Families, and Partners,

BTMS hosts a variety of activities and opportunities for our students. We encourage our families and stakeholders to participate as partners in supporting the learning and growth of our children. Please visit the **BTMS website** for ongoing updates and information at: <http://www1.pgcps.org/benjamintasker/>.



Continuous Updates on Benjamin Tasker Website!!

Check it out: <http://www.pgcps.org/benjamintasker/>

Calendar

- **Master Calendar:**

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=cGdjcmMub3JnXzRobGptdmEzb2cyZDkzbTdpYXQ4bmdrcDlvOGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

- **October BTMS Activities**

- **Wednesday, October 3rd:**
 - **Tag Back to School Night, 6:30pm-8:00pm Multi-Purpose Room**
- **Wednesday, October 3rd:**
 - **Junior Achievement Finance Park**
- **Thursday, October 4th:**
 - **Junior Achievement Finance Park (volunteers needed)**
- **Friday, October 5th:**
 - **Junior Achievement Finance Park**
- **Monday, October 8th:**
 - **Men Make a Difference**

School-wide Activities

- After school clubs and enrichment mod begin during the week of October 8th.
- After School Clubs:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRCC_k5m_PYIzwOfi8qmyl6d0EB8irwzmoG1JRoiSxl/edit#gid=0

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 - [TAG December Newsletter - 2018](#)

Content Areas

- **Math:** Preparing for PSAT 8/9
- **Reading:**
- **Science:**
- **Social Studies:**
- **Technology:**
- **AVID:**
- **Foreign Language:**
- **Health:**
- **Physical Education:**
- **Art:**
- **Music:**

Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)

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(Published: September 5, 2018)

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Benjamin Tasker MS Website is all new!!

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- **September BTMS Activities**

- **Monday, 3:**
 - Labor Day (School/Offices Closed)
- **Tuesday, 4:**
 - First Day of School for All Students
- **Tuesday, 4 - Wednesday, 5th:**
 - Students Select Enrichment Class (Social Studies)
- **Thursday, 6 - Friday, 7th:**
 - iReady Diagnostics (Math)
- **Monday, 10:**
 - Code of Conduct Grade Level Assemblies
- **Tuesday, 11 - Wednesday, 12:**
 - SLO Testing (RELA / Health)
 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm - PTSO Meeting (BTMS, Media Center)
- **Thursday 13 - Friday 14:**
 - SLO Testing (RELA/Health Make-up Days)
- **Monday, 17 - Tuesday, 18:**
 - SLO Science & Social Studies Testing
- **Monday, 17 (6:30pm - 8:30pm):**
 - Back to School Night
 - PTSO Sign-up at Back to School Night (\$10 per person)

- **Monday, 24:**
 - SLO Music Testing
 - 8th Grade Parent Meeting - 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Friday, 28:**
 - 2 Hour Student Early Dismissal

Parent & Community Engagement

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- **Parent Workshops:** Check out the various parent workshops the Department of Family & Community Engagement has to offer for the Month of September which include:

***Passport to Success Expo featuring College and Career Readiness and Family Institute
 September 22, 2018, 8:00am to 2:00pm at Oxon Hill High School.***

FREE Admission, transportation, breakfast, resources, and childcare for children ages 4-12.

Featuring Workshops, College Reps, Exhibits, Giveaways, and Taste of PGCPS

***For more information: phone (301) 618-7356; website www.pgcps.org/passport-to-success;
 social media #PassporttoSuccess***

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PTSO

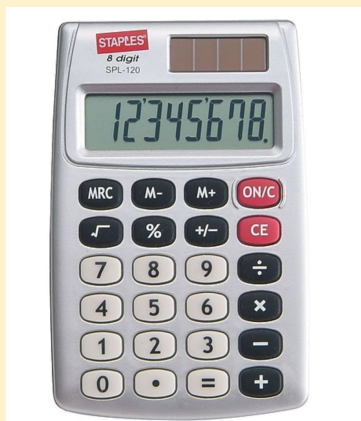
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Topic: Developing a Growth MindSet in Your Child
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Math

All students taking Math 6, Accelerated 1 and Math 7 need a 4 Function Calculator (with Square Root and Percentage capabilities) by Monday, September 17th. Calculators must be 4 Function Calculator and students can not use the calculator app on their cell phone. You can find 4 function calculators at the Dollar Tree, Staples, Office Depot, Target or Walmart. Please consider getting a sturdy one, as you will use this calculator all year long for classwork, homework and assessment. If you have any questions please email Ms. Pollack, Math ILT. Below is an example of what a 4 Function Calculator looks like (click the picture for a link to purchase):



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