

Arbutus Middle School
Community School Progress Summary 2020-2021
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BCPS Vision: Baltimore County Public Schools will be among the highest performing school systems in the nation as a result of creating, sustaining, and investing in excellence for every student, every school, and every community.

School Mission: Arbutus Middle School embraces the challenge of ensuring success for every student. We strive to create opportunities for all students to experience academic, personal, civic, social, and vocational growth. We work together as a school community to provide a visibly safe, disciplined, inviting, and nurturing environment. At Arbutus Middle School, we believe that middle school is a time when students grow as creative and critical thinkers. Our mission is to help our students develop into life-long, 21st century learners who are college and career ready.

Mathematics

Goal: All students will achieve mathematics proficiency as indicated by the MCAP assessment.

Action Step(s):

- Teachers will use a process for formative assessment including checks for understanding during instruction and adjust teaching as needed based on student progress.
- Teachers will explicitly teach content aligned to the rigor of the standards including modeling through sharing their thought process aloud as they approach and complete tasks (i.e. “think aloud” strategy). Time on task should reflect high expectations and ensure that students do the vast majority of the cognitive work of the task.
- Teachers ask critical thinking questions of all students and provide opportunities for all students to demonstrate independence. Higher level questioning (must be built in to planning process and time must be allotted for all kids to process and share.)

Literacy

Goal: All students will achieve literacy proficiency as indicated by the MCAP assessment.

Action Step(s):

- Teachers will use a process for formative assessment including checks for understanding during instruction and adjust teaching as needed based on student progress.
- Teachers will explicitly teach content aligned to the rigor of the standards including modeling through sharing their thought process aloud as they approach and complete tasks (i.e. “think aloud” strategy). Time on task should reflect high expectations and ensure that students do the vast majority of the cognitive work of the task.
- Teachers ask critical thinking questions of all students and provide opportunities for all students to demonstrate independence. Higher level questioning (must be built in to planning process and time must be allotted for all kids to process and share.)

Safe and Secure Environment

Action Step(s):

- Teachers will ensure instruction reflects culturally relevant pedagogy and strategies.
- Teachers will utilize a variety of evidence-based strategies to promote student engagement and curiosity such as using student surveys to gauge student interest for topics of study.
- Teachers will include opportunities for student voice and choice where appropriate, including multiple options for demonstrating learning.

Culture

How will the leadership team create the conditions that support this instruction?

Action Step(s):

- Support teachers and provide professional development on how to create and sustain a safe, welcoming and supportive classroom environment which values inclusivity and diversity.
- Support teachers and provide professional development on how to explicitly teach and model social emotional learning skills and strategies and integrate them into academic content.
- Support teachers and provide professional development on how to develop classroom routines and expectations that promote cooperative learning, teacher to student interactions and student to student interactions characterized by mutual respect and caring.