

Stephen Decatur Middle School

9815 Seahawk Rd

Berlin, MD 21811

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www.sdmsmiddle.com

Follow us on twitter @SDMS_Berlin

Mrs. Lynne Barton, Principal



A Letter from the Principal

Important Dates

- May 1 Builders Club Mtg 3-4
- May 2-4 PARCC Gr 8 Math
- May 2-3 Drama Nights
- May 5 Chameleon Trip
- May 8 State Band Festival
- May 8 Builders Trip to Beach
- May 10 State Orchestra Festival
- May 10 Iguana 5 Guys Night
- May 11 Afterschool Academy Ends
- May 11 Dback Trip
- May 12 Builders Trip
- May 16-18 PARCC Alg 1
- May 16 NJHS Mtg 3-4
- May 17 Chorus Concert
- May 18 SGA Mtg 3-4
- May 19 Mid-Terms Distributed
- May 19 Gator Trip
- May 19 Summer Academy Forms Due
- May 23 Band Concert
- May 24 Drama Trip to NYC
- May 25 Chameleon Trip
- May 29 School Closed
- May 30 Book Fair Opens

Dear Parents:

I want to take this opportunity to share the many community connections we have here at SDMS. Those connections include our students and staff reaching out into the community to be of service, monetary donations from community organizations and groups which support our activities and programs, as well as donations of time and talent from parents and civic organizations. I am going to focus on our civic minded students this month.

Our service learning projects are supported by a grant that funds the transportation and materials for each of our endeavors. Each teaching team partners with a group of their choice writing a plan that includes all students. It is implemented throughout the school year. Those partnerships include – Maryland Coastal Bays, The National Aquarium, The Salisbury Zoo, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Worcester County Parks and Recreation, Assateague Coastal Trust and Diakonia. Students are actively involved in tree planting, beach clean-up, phragmites removal, water testing, improvement projects and one group even created a permaculture garden for Berlin residents. Students are part of very important work that truly makes a difference in our community.

We have student clubs and organizations that also work tirelessly to make valuable community contributions. Our Builders Club, supported by the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Pines, constantly has a project in the works. They are being recognized by MSDE for the food drive they had in the fall that benefited the Maryland Food Bank. The group has completed a beach clean-up, written letters to Veterans, celebrated our custodians during American Education Week, partnered with the Worcester County Art League in their Empty Bowl Project and assisted with a Toys for Tots event. This group of young people are simply amazing.

Students from The National Junior Honor Society assist with Bingo at the Berlin Nursing Home one Saturday a month. The residents genuinely enjoy talking and interacting with our young people. Additionally this group worked after school recently to beautify our school grounds by mulching, weeding and planting. Our Student Government Association hosted a Relay for Life event, implemented a school – wide recycling program and are currently working on a “bathroom restoration” project for our school.

At Stephen Decatur Middle School, our students and staff are highly motivated, energetic and giving individuals. We serve our community with pride and commitment.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. I urge you to complete the Worcester County Communications Survey that is currently available through a link on our website as well as the Worcester County website. We want to know what you think.

Sincerely,

Lynne Barton

Lynne Barton, principal



Stay Connected to SDMS

Website

www.sdmsmiddle.com

Twitter

@SDMS_Berlin



Check with guidance to get your personalized Power School number.

Check with your child(ren)'s teachers to get set up with Remind.

Congratulations!



Mrs. Hancock has been named the **Green** Teacher of the Year by the Worcester County Board of Tourism. Mrs. Hancock earned this distinction for her com-

mitment to environmental issues in and out of the classroom. Here is a picture of Mrs. Hancock and some of her students planting trees around the school building as part of their Service Learning Unit.

The end of the school year is near and Book Fair time is here again. The fair begins on May 30th and runs through June 8th. Students are scheduled to visit during ELA classes, but are welcome to browse at other times (with permission). Parents are also welcome, so if you

are in the neighborhood, please stop in the media center and check out our selection. It's a great time to stock up for summer reading for both you and your child!



- Lynne Barton, Principal
- Marcus Shipley, Assistant Principal
- Theresa Torpey, Assistant Principal
- Susan Porter, Curriculum Resource Teacher
- Cherie Townsend, Guidance Counselor, Gr. 7
- Stephanie Zanowic, Guidance Counselor, Gr. 8
- Darlah Woodley, School Nurse

WCPS 2017 Communication Survey

Your feedback is valuable to us! Please visit the county website to take this brief survey. Tell us how we can better communicate with you!

www.worcesterk12.org

American Legion Auxiliary Post #166 recently announced the winners of this year's Americanism Essay Contest. SDMS is proud to announce the following placement of our winners:

- Luke Davis 3rd Place
- Fred Parziale 2nd Place
- Lydia Woodley 1st Place

News from the Builders Club

The Builders are preparing for their final projects of this school year! On Monday, May 8th the Builders will return to Ocean City to participate in a beach clean-up for the Adopt Your Beach Program, sponsored by the OC Surf Club. Participants will collect, analyze, and document the items they find to provide data for the service project. The general meeting that was originally scheduled for May has been rescheduled to the May 8th beach clean.

The last service project will be held at BIS on Friday, June 2 where club members will volunteer for the BIS Field Day. This has been an annual volunteer project for the Builders, and we are excited to keep the tradition going! This is a wonderful opportunity for the Builders to promote our program to possible upcoming club members, as well as demonstrate leadership and character.



The Builders will celebrate their accomplishments for this school year on Monday, June 6th after school. More details about the celebration will be provided.

Students of the Month

Chameleon Team Jessica Shoemaker, Emma Ozazewski, Avery Beckelman, Elijah Wiltbank

Cobra Team Duncan Ely, Maleah Morsey, Kayla Lo, Barbara Tejada, Sam Woodley

Gecko Team Finley Stearn, Gavin Weeks, Bishop Newby, Brodie DeHart

Iguana Team Dylan Tanner, Alex Piela, Rachel Lewis, Tyasia Johnson

Diamondback Team Michael Clubb, Zach Fuchsluger, Emily Stitely, Anthony Rozaieski

Dragon Team Sarah Burke, Nick Gordon, Lauren Purkey, Hayley Lynch

Gator Team Ashley Nauschetz, Rafe Parsons, Marina Avalos Parada, Alex Kidd

Terrapin Team Kayden Boecker, Chloe West, Melis Unal, Katelyn Davis, Brendan Powers



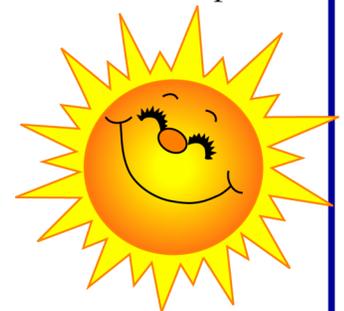
Join the Iguana Team on May 10, 4-7 at Five Guys in West Ocean City for their team fundraisers. All funds will support future activities on the Iguana Team. This is a great way to help them raise money and show some team and school spirit! Photo



opportunity available as Mr. Welty will be dressed as a giant cheeseburger!

The After School Academy at SDMS...because learning does not stop at the bell.

Session three of the After School Academy is in full swing! Session three ends on Thursday, May 11th. Summer Academy begins on June 26 and ends on July 27th, 8:30-12:30, Monday—Thursday. The Summer Academy will be closed each Friday, and on July 3 and 4 for Independence Day. Current 6 and 7 grade students are invited to join the summer academy here at SDMS and current 8th graders are invited to join at SDHS. Both registration forms are available on our website. We encourage you to take advantage of our online registration process for SDMS Summer Academy. You will find the link on our website.



Our number one priority is the safety of our children. If an ASA or Summer bus change is necessary, this must be communicated to Mrs. Torpey via a written note/communication from a parent/guardian. Students are not permitted to change bus stops without written permission.

The Worcester County Board of Education does not discriminate in admissions, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status, color, gender identity and expression, national origin, creed, religion, age, ancestry, genetic information, or physical or mental disability.