

THE CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2022

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

22-23 is officially in full motion and we couldn't be prouder of the way this year has begun. For the first time since we opened our doors in 2019, we began this year without adding another entire grade level or being under strict covid protocols that required us to thinking differently about our routines. There is a real feeling of school and community as our students and families have come back this year. We are focused on learning experiences that will engage students in wonder, inquiry, discourse, questioning, and creativity daily. We look forward to you joining in this year and walking along side us as we celebrate student learning each quarter with a public display of learning evening and other events designed to involve our families. We are looking forward to the best year yet at Howard Connect Academy.

-Mrs. Miller



SCHOOL CLOSED IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY MONDAY, SEPT. 5TH

EARLY RELEASE SEPT 7TH

Students will be released at 11:30 am on Wednesday, Sept. 7th for our staff to participate in professional planning and development. Buses will run at 11:30 am and car riders must be picked up at 11:30 am. There will be no after school programs on Wednesday, Sept. 7th.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Join us Thursday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm in Café Connect for our annual State of the School and Title 1 Parent information meeting. We will share our vision and focus for this year with our school community on this evening! Mark your calendars now!

SCHOOL EXPECTATION REMINDERS:

Dress Code: Students are doing a great job with dress code. We are in dress code **every** day. Part of our Positive Behavior Intervention System will allow students to earn dress down incentives throughout the year. As weather will be getting cooler, be sure to refer to your handbook sent home at the beginning of the year for specifics on dress code for warm weather clothing.

Phones, Smartwatches, Earbuds: If a student brings any of these items to school, he/she must put them in his/her locker at the beginning of the day and pick up at the end of the day.

If a student is found to have one of these items with him/her during the day, it will be collected and taken to the front office for a parent to pick up.

On and Off property: Reminder that the front doors open at 7:30 am. Students should not be on school property without parental supervision prior to 7:30 am. Students are also expected to be off school property by 3:15 pm...and no later than 3:30 pm each day.

FOOTBALL TIME:

Come cheer on the Hustlin' Tigers Football Team:

Thur. 9/1	@ East Lake	6:00 PM
Tue. 9/6	Tyner	6:00 PM
Mon. 9/12	Sale Creek	6:00 PM
Mon. 9/19	Brown	6:00 PM
Mon. 9/26	Dalewood	6:00 PM
Tue. 10/4	Soddy Daisy	6:00 PM

CHEERLEADING:

7th and 8th grade students who were on the cheer squad last year will be eligible to cheer for the Hustlin' Tigers this year. Cheerleaders will need to have a current physical on file and will need to meet with Coach Kim Jones for all information.



SCHOOL SAFETY

We take school safety very seriously at Howard Connect. Each newsletter we will inform parents of various safety measures we are taking to keep everyone in a safe and secure learning environment. For this newsletter:

- This summer our front windows were outfitted with bullet deterring glass.
- We have installed a key strict inside the front office meaning our front entry is a double point entry both coming in the front doors and entering our building from the office.
- All staff have received detailed safety training on our "big 5" safety protocols and drills in August.
- We have established both an evacuation and reverse evacuation procedure with the staff and students and have completed 2 drills already this year.
- We have established a teacher led safety committee that will assess and reflect on each safety drill run as well as establish safety protocols for special events.

BE PREPARED! BE AWARE! BE READY!

THE CONNECTION

MID-TERMS

September 7th will mark the mid-point of the first quarter. We will not be sending out mid-term reports. However, designers will be contacting parents of any student who is failing a course at the mid-term no later than Friday, Sept. 9th. Parents are encouraged to check Power School frequently to keep up with student grades. Designers enter, on average, 2 grades per week. If ever you have a concern about a grade, be sure to reach out to your child's designer to seek clarification. We will send home printed report cards at the end of each quarter.

BEFORE and AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

September 12th we will kick off our after-school programming. We will offer:

- Reading and Math Tutoring from 3:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday
- Urban League Club Monday-Thursday 3:00-6:00
- Various Clubs
- Urban League Homework help and tutoring Tuesday-Thursday from 7:00 am -8:00 am.

Be watching for a full list of offerings and details on how to sign up if you are interested in your child participating to be published soon!

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHTS

A great sense of pride for us at Howard Connect is the quality of Learning Designers we have assembled to bring the amazing learning and innovation of our school to life! This year we have added several new faces to our team. Working in collaboration with our returning designers, Howard Connect has an all-star line-up when it comes to Learning Designers for 22-23. Each newsletter and on our Facebook page we'll spotlight our team!

BRENDON BAKER-6th Math



Education: The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (2018)
Project Inspire (UTC)
6th - 8th Math Teaching Licensure (2022)

I am excited to spend my first-year teaching at Howard Connect Academy and I look forward to making relevant

mathematical connections to real world experiences for my students as I gain experience as an educator!

CATHY BROERSMA-English As A New Language



Education

- George Mason University, Science BA
- LCC International University in Lithuania, MATESOL

Interests

- Meeting people
- Teaching ENL
- Growing in my faith
- Gardening
- Hiking with friends and dogs

DR. TAMMY PARKS-8th Math



B.S. in Science and Math Studies (K-8 Licensure)

M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction

Ph.D. in Education: Special Education

I have been in education for almost 20 years, having begun my teaching career in Hamilton County back in 2004. I came back to K-12 education after working for Southern Adventist University for almost a decade, building online courses, supporting professors, teaching a few of those courses, and supervising student teachers. My student teachers were having so much fun, I wanted to get back into the classroom myself! I love teaching Math and have a passion for Special Education as well.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@howard_connect



@howardconnect