Dear High Bridge Families,

Well we’ve just completed the first few days of school and the students are off to a great start! It is my hope to see many parents out for our Back To School Night event. There is so much in store this school year and I am excited about the direction we are taking here at the school. We are in full implementation of the new county Initiative: Fluency, Numeracy & Literacy in Math. The teachers as well as the students are on their way through teaching and learning. Our technology focus is coming to fruition as we gear towards MCAP Assessments that will begin for our 3rd – 5th grade students in this school year. We have a technology teacher to assist in those efforts.

Our first school wide fundraiser for the year will begin September 10th. Please participate in order to raise funds for the school. This will help with our efforts to enhance our educational program.

Please feel free to visit your child’s classrooms throughout the school year as well as volunteer to assist with classroom help however, you MUST be fingerprinted and view the PGCPS student safety training videos in order to participate in field trips or any other school wide events that will take place this year. Our teachers are doing a wonderful job with the students here at High Bridge. We need you!

Early pick up/dismissal ends at promptly 1:30 p.m.

Remember: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

~ William J. Kelly
Welcome to High Bridge! What a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 school year! The kindergarteners are settling in and adjusting well. We have had a busy start and are already learning so much. The students have been learning the rules and procedures in their new classrooms. In reading, we are focusing on what we can learn when we try new things. We will read new stories and practice finding the key details. Students will also discover what nouns are and how to put them into the categories of people, places, things or animals. In math we are learning about two- and three-dimensional objects and describing the differences between the two. Students will also focus on numbers 0-10. This month in Science, we will spend time outside learning about the sun and how it warms the Earth. After learning about the sun, Kindergarten students will focus on weather. During Social Studies, our students will learn rules and how to be good citizens. Students are excited to have to opportunity to sing a song for their grandparents on Grandparents Day. They have been practicing hard every day. We are looking forward to have a great year full of fun and learning!

The Hawk Highlights……

Kindergarten Highlights!!!!!

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First Grade Fun!

First grade is ready to begin our 2019-2020 school year with new friends and lessons to become life-long learners! Parents can assist their children daily by helping to read and edit homework and return completed assignments in the homework journal on Fridays. We are ready to begin Unit 1 with reading new sight words, retelling and sequencing stories, sharing ideas and making comparisons about story events. In Math, we are learning numbers 1-120 and preparing to practice tens and ones. Use small items at home to make groups of ten and show the left overs as the ones. In Social Studies, we are discussing how to be a good citizen, which ties in with how we follow school and home rules. Lastly, in Science we are observing parts of the Earth and how we preserve it. Please check your child’s take home folder each night, clean it out and return it daily! Work samples and school notes will be sent home each evening. We appreciate you and the time you will take to work with your child each day. Be sure to read a book each evening and write the titles on the “book log” monthly sheet. It will be collected and due for a grade monthly. Let’s have a super start together, eat a good breakfast, be on time for school and ready to learn by choice!

Second Grade News!!!

Welcome Back! The first week of school was short but very productive. Students were eager to learn and engaged in learning classroom rules, routines and completing assigned task. What a wonderful start to the new school year! Below you will find a snapshot of what students will learn this month.

**Reading:** Students will learn how to Visualize and identify Story Elements (character, setting and events) in order to help them understand the text and retell the story. They will also review and practice how to blend and read words with short vowels. Students will review the following grammar skills: how to identify and write a complete sentence, when to use capitalization and punctuation.

This week we will begin our first theme in the Writing Fundamentals program, *How Writers Work*. Students will learn about writers and what it means to be an author. They will have many opportunities to write about different topics, share ideas with their friends and learn the steps to the writing process.

**Math:** We are practicing our addition and subtraction facts. We will continue working on the mastery of these facts during the year as we explore other topics in Math. Students will also learn about money, even and odd numbers and skip counting.

**Social Studies:** Students have received a consumable textbook that they can write in as they learn about the world around them. Our first unit is: *Citizenship - Our Roles and Responsibilities*. We will learn how to be good citizens and about how our government works.

**Science:** We are learning about scientist. Students are also learning about science tools and how to conduct science investigations. Next week, we will begin our study of *Earth Science* and learn about Earth’s Land, Air, and Water.
Welcome to Third Grade! This year students are continuing to build their comprehension. In Quarter One, we are learning to make predictions, answer questions with evidence and write an essay after reading. Evening reading presents a great opportunity to ask and answer questions as families complete the daily reading logs.

What do Scientists and Engineers do? In Science, students are learning about the weather. Watching the weather segment on the news each day is a great way for students to better understand the weather patterns in Maryland.

Ready Set Round One! In Quarter One, students will review and extend their knowledge of Place Value concepts. They will add, subtract and solve word problems with larger numbers. Students will also learn how to use Place Value to round to the nearest 10 and 100. Focus on Fact Fluency: Students can practice addition and subtraction facts using dice or playing cards.

Spotlight On Good Communities: In Social Studies, students have learned about different types of communities. They will be making a community map to tell about where they live. Below is an activity families can do at home to learn about different communities.

Anywhere, USA: Have your child design a city, suburb, or farm. What do people need in order to live in each of those places? Brainstorm the kinds of services and buildings that cities, towns, or rural areas need in order to function. Encourage your child to design places where people can live, gather, and play.

The fourth-grade team welcomes our new students to the 2019-20 school year. We look forward to an exciting and enriching experience as we enter this phase of our continued education. Here are our September tasks.

Reading/Writing: In reading, our students will be working on developing a community of readers and writers. Students will learn to use text evidence to ask and answer questions as they read. Our children will also begin to plan and draft personal narratives. Literacy Tip: After reading, discuss the story with your child by asking who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Math: We start our year taking some assessments to simply show what is already known. Our students are learning to solve real world problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Students are also working to develop fluency with addition and subtraction facts and understanding place value. Math Tip: Use dice playing cards to practice addition facts with your child. Science: In Science, students are learning what it means to be a scientist. They will be introduced to the scientific method. Health: Students will identify the roles of people within a community. Social Studies: In Social Studies, students will learn about the 3 branches of government and how they work. We will focus on Maryland state and local governments.

We look forward to meeting everyone at Back to School night.

September will set the stage for all of the exciting challenges the Fifth Grade and CSEP classes will accomplish this year. Mr. Quezada, Mrs. Hamolia, and Mr. Tiernan return to the fifth-grade team.

Reading: Over the next few weeks, our class will build their knowledge about the experience of moving to a new country, with a focus on the poetry genre. We will read texts and view videos about how people adapt to new experiences to make a home in a new place. We encourage you to extend the learning at home with a few easy tasks. First, ask about the texts your child is reading and what he or she has learned from them. Also, share with your child your own questions about the topic from our first reading module, and work together to find the answers. Book logs are also starting this month. Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together. Look for texts that spark your child’s curiosity, tie to the module topic, model themes or lessons that might be familiar to your child, or include interesting text formats or graphic features. In 5th grade, it is expected for students to be reading for pleasure for at least 30 minutes each night. If your child has not yet found a chapter book that he or she enjoys reading, please let me know and I can help to select one. Students will be reading both in school and after school each and every day.

Math: Students will implement skills obtained in fourth grade to learn more complex aspects about place value and other numeration skills. They will also study how the inverse properties of multiplication and division can be associated with different situations. Understanding of these operations, together with place value, can be used to solve real-world problems.

Social Studies: As we begin to explore early American history, we will start the first quarter off by examining how the geography of a region impacts the cultural practices of those who live there by learning more about the first Americans. In this unit, we will investigate questions related to how early civilizations developed in the Americas and how geography impacted the development of cultures in various regions. As the quarter progresses, we will also be discussing early exploration of the Americas and the effects of these explorations on native Americans.

Science: Students will be creating an Interactive Evidence Notebook/Journal to record and analyze various phenomena in their science studies. This will allow them to make observations and ask questions about natural events which lead to better scientific understandings. Discover how modeling offers better visual and tactile understandings of various topics and principals and to create organizer to record findings and make conclusions.

Health: Students will learn proper and safe methods when applying first aid practices.
We are working towards 100% attendance at High Bridge Elementary School. Mr. Kelly and Ms. Dempsey are very proud of our progress thus far. However, our goal is to strive for excellent attendance. Excellent attendance means not missing out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If your students ask to stay home “just because,” remind him or her of what they will miss, such as reading, math, art or friends. Explain that he can be absent only if he’s sick or if there’s a family emergency.

Building Your Child’s Future

When planning a career with your child, consider the following:

Career Needs

Pre-Kindergarten to Third grade
- Distinguish between work and play
- Identify types of work Experience different types of work activities
- Describe how things are made
- Demonstrate a positive attitude
- Identify personal feelings

Fourth Grade to Sixth Grade
- Identify personal interest, abilities, strengths and weaknesses.
- Describe how work at home and or school relates to jobs in the community

School Wide Incentive Programs

Peer Mediation Program

Professional School Counseling Department

Interviews and training will begin this month. Peer mediation, teaches active listening skills, and introduces the three-stage mediation process. Peer mediators will then role play mediation. Peer Mediation training sessions are conducted by the school counselor. The training can be done in the morning, broken into two half day sessions, or done in three morning two hour increments. Students in third through fifth may participate. We will accept 2nd grade students too. Applications will be given out during large group guidance lessons.