

#socialwork

NEWSLETTER



January 2021

January is...

- Martin Luther King Jr Day – Monday January 18th
- The Presidential Inauguration – Wednesday January 20th
- End of 2nd quarter – January 27th

Social Work Team

Dr. Sills, LCSW-C, Dr Ph

(Office: Mon thru Fri)

Ms. McFadden, LCSW-C

(Office: Tues & Wed)

Ms. Sauers, UMB Intern

(Office: Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Ms. Young, UMB Intern

(Office: Tues & Thurs)

Happy New Year

May the new year
bring you warmth,
love and light to guide
your path to a positive
destination.

#HappyNewYear2021

Maryland is currently in Phase B of the vaccination plan. Education staff (including k-12 teachers, support staff, and daycare providers) are included in Phase B. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Stay informed! Please find links below to resources about the COVID-19 Response & Vaccination Programs

[8 things to know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)

[Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

[Who gets the vaccine first?](#)

[Benefits of getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Maryland Department of Health](#)

City Schools will expand optional in-person learning during the second semester of this school year. [Click here](#) for more information.

Please [click here](#) for leave options regarding COVID-19.

Remembering the life & legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

As we know, it is not enough to simply quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this day of memorandum. Please see below for things we can be doing every day to continue to push forward his social justice movement.

12 Ways to Advance Social Justice in your Community.

- Examine your beliefs & habits.
- Educate yourself about social justice issues.
- Discover your local organizations.
- Take positive action in your own community.
- Harness the power of social media.
- Attend demonstrations and protests.
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Get involved with politics through civic engagement.
- Support minority owned businesses in your community and online
- Support artists, writers, and activists who speak out against injustices.
- Be **kind**, **understanding**, and **compassionate**.

[Source](#)

Community News from your Community School Coordinator, Ms. McKinney

- ❖ Please join us the **2nd Thursday of every month** for our Parent Teacher Student Community Organization meeting. Come, hear and learn about all the things we are doing here at REACH and in the Community.
Zoom Meeting ID: 813 4876 1997
Password: Reach341

Resources Available to Staff SEL Morning Activities

- Monday-Friday from 8:30am-9:00am Ms. Brock hosts daily SEL activities (including guided meditation and breathing techniques) on Zoom **for all staff** which provides opportunities to connect with fellow staff – please see **daily morning email distribution from Ms. Brock** for details on how to join!
- ❖ Please also look out for other daily activities hosted by Ms. Brock that will provide opportunities to connect with fellow staff and students ❖

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

- Note:** An “EAP” is an employee benefit program that assists employees with personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact their job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being. If you feel you might need this resource, please visit:
www.achievesolutions.net/bcpss and **contact: 866-529-8063** for information on services, resources, and support available to you.

A note regarding CPS Reporting:

Please remember that ALL school staff are MANDATED REPORTERS and should not just refer cases to the SSW to make CPS reports.

~Please visit [this site](#) for Board Policy regarding mandated reporting & consequences for failure to report~

The Social Work Team is here to support you if you have questions or concerns regarding this.

REACH! School Providers:

School Social Workers

Dr. Sills
Ms. Tanya McFadden

School Psychologist

Ms. Wheaton

Johns Hopkins Bayview Community Psychiatry

Ms. Mahogany McKinney, LPCC

T-I-M-E Organization, Substance Abuse Counseling

Ms. Yolanda Lewis

Speech Therapist

Ms. Brooke Sandy

Bright Future Mentoring

Stephen Hill
Mr. Alfonse Powell

School Counselors

Ms. Herschman & Ms. Iacovelli

Building Blocks Health Care Network

Tracey Matthews, Therapist
Dr Sheryl Manning, Psychiatrist

Wholeness Specialist

Ms. Brock

What has the Social Work Team been up to?

Now, more than ever, the students and families of our REACH! family need our support. We have been engaging (virtually) daily with students and families to provide:

- ☺ Individual social work counseling
- ☺ Working with students to promote academic & social success by helping them navigate the virtual learning environment
- ☺ Providing SEL learning activities in the google classroom
- ☺ Connecting families to community resources
- ☺ Advocating for & helping students advocate for themselves/their needs in the school
- ☺ Participating in interdisciplinary meetings for students (IEP, 504)
- ☺ Providing crisis intervention
- ☺ (2) Girls SEL Counseling Groups continue to meet weekly on Zoom

Students experiencing one or more of the following risk factors may be experiencing mental health issues...

- Pulling away from people and usual activities
- Having low or no energy
- Inability to perform daily tasks
- Feeling numb or like nothing matters
- Feeling helpless or hopeless
- Smoking, drinking, or using drugs
- Experiencing severe mood swings

Please complete a referral form.

**Completed referral forms should be emailed to the school social worker Dr. Sills*
amanthonysills@bcps.k12.md.us



Phone numbers and hotlines

Call **Maryland 211** for information about food resources, housing/utility concerns, healthcare needs, mental health services, applications for benefits, and much more.

Call **Maryland Access Point** 410-396-2273 to get information about available resources and food delivery for elderly community members.

Baltimore Child & Adolescent Response System (BCARS) for crisis intervention services, call the hotline to access service: 410-433-5175

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Sheppard Pratt Crisis Walk-In Clinic: M-F 10am-9pm, Sat 1-5pm: 410-938-5302

A note from your School Counselors, Ms. Herschman & Ms. Iacovelli:

- Ms. Iacovelli will be calling each individual senior for credit checks
- We encourage all students to continue to **add Ms. Herschman and Ms. Iacovelli on Google Classroom:**

Cohort 2024: nccfh6r

Cohort 2023: rbofb36

Cohort 2022: 2juzefv

Cohort 2021: zpklusj

- For **Seniors only:** if you do not complete the Google Form that is posted in Ms. Iacovelli's Google Classroom, you will not receive ANY senior activity information from Ms. Groseclose and Ms. Furdak
- Class meetings will now take place on the last Wednesday of every month. It is crucial that students come to these for any updated information from their class advisors

COLLEGE FAIR INFORMATION!

WHEN: Will be held VIRTUALLY on **February 20, 2021** from 8am-3:30pm EST

REGISTRATION: Open NOW through Monday, January 25th

[Click here](#) to Register.



NO Resolutions Yet?

Click [HERE](#) for a quick, step-by-step guide to putting together realistic, achievable, and meaningful resolutions for the coming year.

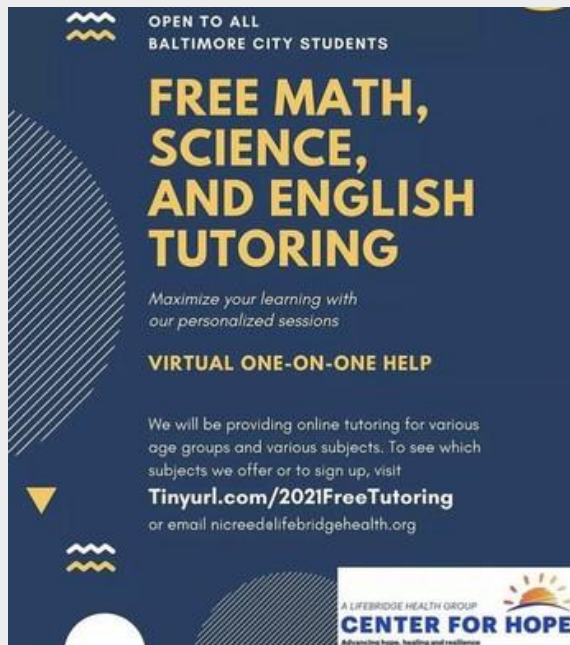


How to Keep Your New Year's Resolution(s)

1. Only make one Resolution
2. Small goals are better than big ones
3. Frame your resolution as something positive rather than negative
4. Give yourself a time frame
5. Aim for progress, not perfection

2021

Additional Resources & Flyers



Please inform REACH STUDENTS: Good news – despite all the challenges with COVID, YouthWorks Summer Job Program is returning. Students may access the website on January 25th They will no longer have to go to a verification appointment. Students can upload all of their documents to complete their application.

REACH will be a job site under the supervision of Ms. McKinney and Major Hall. For additional information, reach out to them.

FOOD RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Meals for Students: City Schools meal sites serve free breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper for students, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All students can get meals at all meal sites. Meals are for students only, but adults can pick up meals for their children. Students or families can receive two days of meals at a time, for a total of 8 meals– 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, and 2 suppers. To locate the closest school distribution site: <https://city-schools-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=efb99f62161d4eeb87ce5f3ec45c3fad>

Baltimore COVID-19 Free Food Sites: Please visit this website for an interactive map of food resources available throughout Baltimore City: <https://baltimore.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Nearby/index.html?appid=32ce54bc99e746f5bc4c386208cee3e7>

Thank you for reading the January Newsletter. We hope you have a safe & successful month.

From, the REACH! Partnership Social Work Team,
Dr. Angelina Anthony Sills, Ms. Jasmine Young, & Ms. Caroline Sauers

