

Bonnie Branch Middle School

PROFILE

4979 Ilchester Road • Ellicott City, MD 21043 • 410-313-2580 • bbms.hcpss.org/



Bonnie Branch Middle School is committed to developing strong character, academic success, and community involvement in each and every student.

Our school has begun a transformation using Restorative Justice to guide our actions and beliefs. The following core values are central to our mission: Integrity, Compassion, and Quality Relationships. We are integrating Restorative Justice with our gold-medal level Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS) to create a safe school environment where students are comfortable learning and recognizing the value and diversity of others.

A growing number of student-led groups, including Student Council, Math Mentors, and WEB Leaders give students a voice in developing their leadership while creating a positive learning environment for all.

Students at Bonnie Branch Middle School are challenged by rigorous academics and supported by a variety of shared learning experiences that enrich the standard curriculum. These experiences include annual competitions and participation at the county and state level in History Day, MESA, a "Code Slam" competition using Python and JavaScript programming, Debate, and more. In addition to an annual spring musical, students in the performing arts excel at the county and state levels in Chorus, Orchestra and Band. And, the International Night at BBMS has come to be an annual favorite due to the large involvement of our PTA.

We are also proud to have the support of the community in the learning process through our PTA, Music Boosters, and several Mentoring Programs for students. This support helps Bonnie Branch Middle School prepare students to be leaders and learners. We are proud to provide students with opportunities for character development, academic success and tools for a lifetime of community involvement.

Fast Facts

Facility opened: 1999

School Capacity: 701
(This does not include additional capacity provided by 2 portable classrooms.)

Total Enrollment: 710
Official count 9/30/23

Ethnicity FY24

American Indian/Alaskan	≤5.0%
Asian	20.3%
Black/African American	21.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	≤5.0%
Hispanic/Latino	15.8%
White	34.9%
Two or more races	7.2%

Students Receiving Special Services FY23

Free/Reduced Meals	28.7%
English Learners	8.4%
Special Education	10.3%

Administrators:

Andrew Cockley, Principal
Kelli Nitsch, Assistant Principal

Educational Partnerships

- A-OK Mentoring-Tutoring
- Bowie Baysox
- Bridgeway Community Church
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center
- Green Valley Marketplace
- Howard County Library, ElkrIDGE Branch
- Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, Green Schools Program
- Maryland MESA
- Prepare for Success, Community Action Council of Howard County
- The Kindness Pantry

Updated December 2023

Achievement Data

BBMS Performance on State Tests*		
Measure	2022 Results	2023 Results
Percent Proficient English Language Arts	59.8%	58.2%
Percent Proficient Mathematics	35.3%	37.5%
Percent Proficient Science	54.8%	39.7%

State accountability information can be accessed at <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/>

Special Programs

- WEB (Welcome Everybody) develops student leadership as Ambassadors, Student Team Leaders, and Shark Talk Leaders
- Student Council
- Concert band, jazz band, and wind ensembles
- Concert orchestra and chamber orchestra
- Chorus
- Our Voice Middle School Literary & Art Magazine
- Poetry Slam
- PTA Reflections
- Student Service Learning for all grade levels
- Outdoor Education program for 6th grade
- Student production of the BBMS Yearbook
- Student production of television news
- Student production of memory book
- Black history poetry night
- PBIS positive behavior program with Shark Bucks and Shark Shop
- GT Instructional Leadership Seminar
- Student Environmental Awareness Committee
- Competitive teams: GT Debate, National History Day, MathAlon, Math Counts, FIRST Tech Challenge and LEGO Robotics,
- After-school programs: Art Club, Athletic Intramurals, Fun with French, High Achievers, Karate Club, Spanish Club, Step Team, and the Woodworking Club.

Accomplishments

School Recognition:

- 2021 Badges of Success – PBIS Award
- 2017 PBIS Green Ribbon Award School: 2013–17 Gold
- Healthy Schools Program: Silver and Gold recognition
- 2017 Maryland Green School Award
- 2017 Governor's Citation for Excellence in Music Performance

Student Recognition:

- Award-winning Black Saga competition teams: placed in top 10 in state, 2009–15
- Award-winning student art at many local, regional, and state competitions (Youth Art Month, artwork at State House, and PTA Reflections contest)
- Numerous superior ratings for band, orchestra, and chorus programs (students performing at the All-County, GT, and All-State levels)
- Award-winning Middle School County debate team
- Award-winning student essays in Watson's Tin Box Sherlock Holmes essay contest for past 5 years
- Award-winning FIRST Tech Challenge and LEGO Robotics Teams
- BBMS recognizes and celebrates student excellence throughout the school year:
 - Monthly Student of the Month awards
 - Quarterly honor rolls: Principal's Honor Roll, gold, silver
 - Quarterly recognition of Straight A students

