



Monday, Mar. 1, 2021



Welcoming students, teachers, and staff back for the start of hybrid learning!

The approach of spring = time for the BCPS Haiku Poetry Contest

WHEN THE SUN LINGERS,
WINTER YIELDS, SPRING REFRESHES.
IT'S TIME FOR HAIKU.



If we have ever needed a spring revival, 2021 might be the year. In Baltimore County Public Schools, the approach of spring has special significance: the return of the highly-anticipated annual BCPS Haiku Poetry Contest. This year, students are asked to write haiku on the theme of “change.”

A haiku is a Japanese poem that consists of three lines. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. BCPS uses How Many Syllables to check syllable counts.

This year, submissions from BCPS students of all ages will be accepted from Monday, March 1, through Friday, March 19, at 4:45 p.m. Each student may enter only one haiku, and it must be an original poem. Students are encouraged to be creative in their use of imagery and vocabulary.

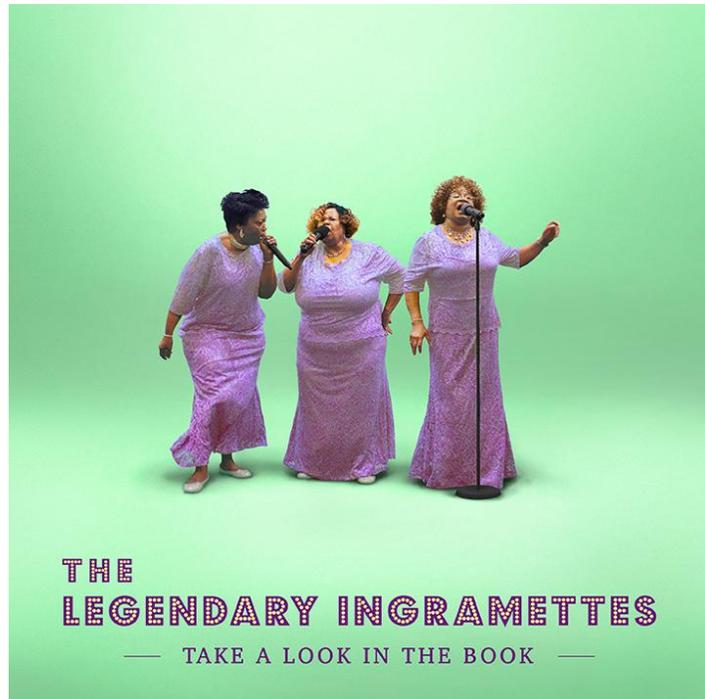
All haiku must be submitted this year using the 2021 Haiku Contest Form (which will begin accepting entries on March 1). A winning haiku will be chosen at the elementary, middle,

and high school levels. Winners will be announced in mid-April and will receive prizes. As in prior years, the winning poems and additional selected haiku will be compiled into an online book with student artwork. Each school library will receive a print copy.

What next with World Culture in Context? The Legendary Ingramettes!

The Legendary Ingramettes, known as “The First Family of Gospel Music,” will join with BCPS students on Wednesday, Mar. 24. The time and log-in information for the free online event will be released soon. The event will be open to all.

The Legendary Ingramettes will be featured as part of the World Culture in Context initiative. This unique program connects students to renowned artists from across the globe performing in the places that have profoundly informed their work, accompanied by virtual, live conversations about creativity, belonging, and culture. The series was launched in November by the BCPS Office of Social Studies and Department of Career and Technical Education and Fine Arts and the Baltimore-based [Creative Alliance](#).



Previous World Culture in Context performances featured celebrated percussionist Kim So Ra, broadcasting from Seoul, South Korea; renowned bluesman Jontavious Willis, broadcasting from Georgia; and master throat singer Bady-Dorzhu Ondar, broadcasting from Siberia, Russia.



Tell us! **BCPS** Stakeholder Survey

Your feedback guides our budget, staffing, and programs!

Are you a stakeholder? Take our survey!

Parents/caregivers, students, staff, community members invited to share their

views

BCPS invites students in Grades 3-12 and all parents/caregivers, staff, and community members to participate in the school system's annual Stakeholder Survey.

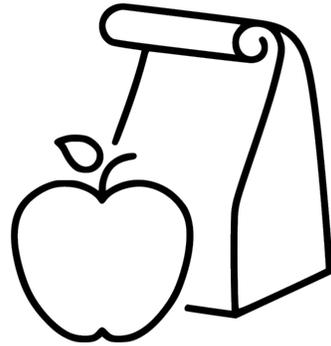
The brief online survey is available on the [BCPS home page](#) now through March 26. The survey is again available in 16 languages for students, parents, and community members.

The survey provides valuable feedback that BCPS uses to help shape its budget, staffing, and programs, measure its progress toward goals in [The Compass strategic plan](#), and bolster its grant applications. Schools use the survey data to support refinements to their School Progress Plans.

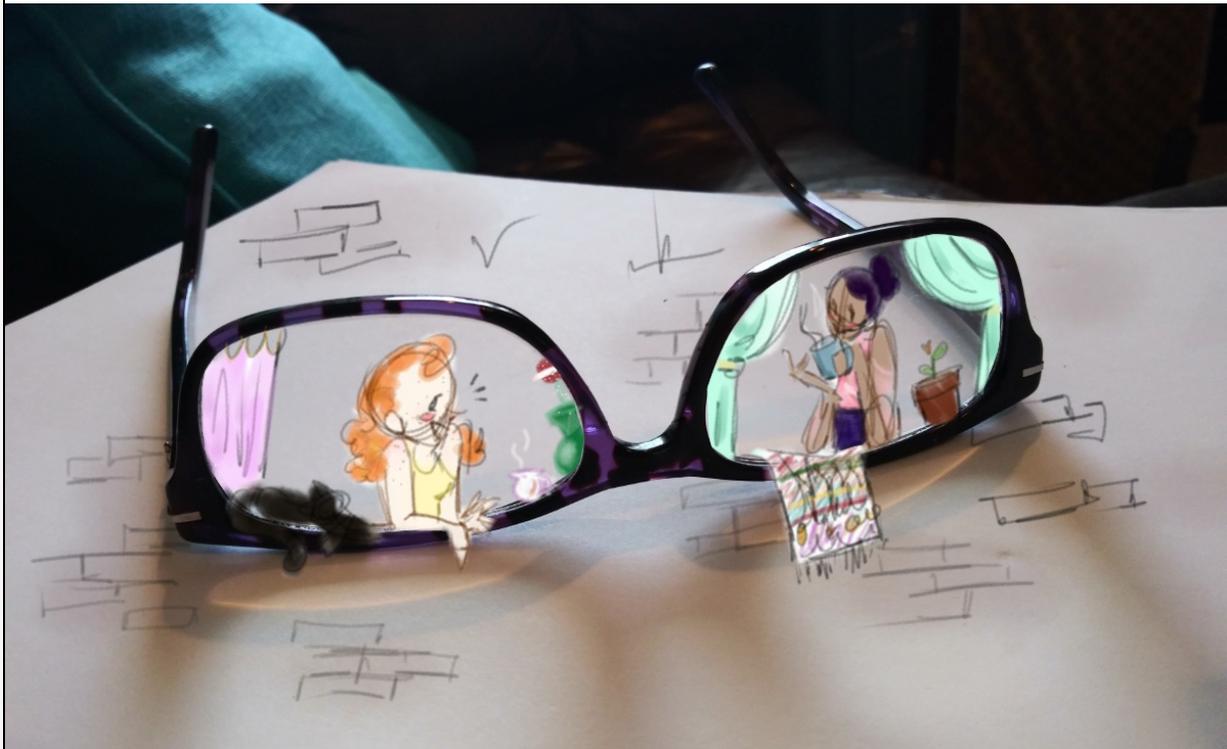
Free breakfast and lunch available for all students

Through its meal distribution program, BCPS is providing school meals, at no cost to students, to all children ages 2-18. Students with disabilities can receive no-cost meals regardless of age.

The [complete list of locations and meal distribution times](#) can be found on the BCPS website. Families are encouraged to check the list each week for any changes.



for your viewing pleasure



*"A Positive Perspective to our Social Di-Vision,"
by Mercy Nwachukwu, Grade 9, Parkville High*

Celebrating Women's History Month

Our children have just witnessed the swearing-in of the first woman vice president of the United States -- something our grandparents could probably scarcely imagine. March is Women's History Month and a great time to talk with children about how the lives of and opportunities for women have changed over time.



Baltimore County Public Library is offering a number of free virtual programs related to Women's History Month. Here is a partial list:

Celebrate Women's History Month speaker series

Mar. 4: Author Kate Schatz (for ages 6 - 18)

Mar. 8: Story Time with Author Aya Khalil (for all ages)

Mar. 11: Author Sarah Jung (for ages 6 - 18)

Mar. 18: Author and Illustrator Vanessa Brantley-Newton (for ages 6 -18)

Other Women's History Month events

Mar. 13: Juliette Gordon Low: She's a Daisy (for all ages) (*Low was the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA.*)

Mar. 27: Anti-Racism Story Time: Celebrate Women's History Month (for infants to preschoolers)

See the [complete list](#) and registration information on the BCPL website.

Looking for more ideas and information? Please [sign up for the Parent University newsletter](#)! It is designed specifically for parents and caregivers and offers ideas, information, resources, and opportunities.

a mission moment

from The Education Foundation of BCPS

AVID makes a difference to students

And community support makes a difference to AVID



Over the past several months, The Education Foundation of BCPS, Inc., has collaborated with AVID coordinators to identify the program's most needed items. (AVID -- Advancement Via Individual Determination -- is a college and career readiness program.) Every student does not have access to all the materials required to participate and, often, educators spend their own money to purchase these materials.

From January 24-28, at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, pallets of whiteboards and other donated supplies were distributed to BCPS AVID coordinators. By reaching instructors, the contributions will impact students' lives in a significant way.

The Education Foundation extends its gratitude to several community partners, our Champions of Education, who provided funding for this endeavor. A [new blog post](#) tells more of the story.

A Word from Dr. Williams, Superintendent

Mar. 1, 2021

Dear Team BCPS,

Today we celebrate the first day of hybrid in-person learning for some students at public separate day schools, along with some students in Preschool through Grade 2. It very well might be their first step into one of our buildings.

Leaders and staff from across the organization have been planning and preparing for this return since last summer. I am so grateful for their diligent efforts to ensure that students and staff are safe and supported.



I also want to thank our families for their role in the health and safety of our school communities. We all play a part. Keep checking [our home page](#) for resources related to hybrid learning, and follow us on social media to experience the enthusiasm of this new phase.

Also starting today, our beloved annual [Team BCPS Haiku Contest](#) is collecting entries with the theme of “change.” I can’t wait to read the winning poems and the compiled book.

Finally, a great way to provide feedback to inform our future is by taking the [Stakeholder Survey](#), which is for students in Grades 3-12, as well as all parents, caregivers, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent