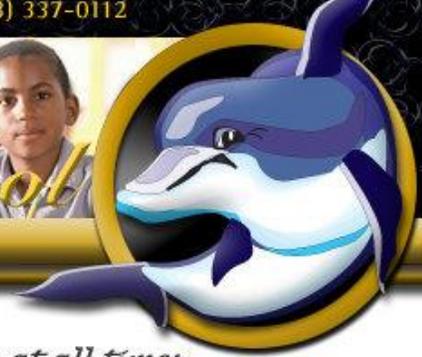


# Paul Laurence Dunbar School

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Follow the 3Rs:*

*Be Reasonable, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at all times*

## **FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:**

### Message from Dr. Williams:

Greetings parents and scholars at Dunbar School. I would like to take this opportunity to first introduce myself. My name is Dr. Byron Williams, and I have been assigned to Dunbar School since August 2020 as the Assistant Principal. With the pandemic occurring, I have not been able to meet everyone as would normally happen under less stressful times. My intent is to welcome all continued parent and family support in ensuring our scholars come to school every day, on time, both willing and able to learn. Their participation can either be remote or in-person, with in-person being the stable for long term success. Please encourage our scholars to be participative in each class, complete all assignments, ask questions, and share their viewpoints on the subject being discussed at the time. We are all united in the success our scholars.

### Nurse News:

- **This is a friendly reminder: All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students must have a completed physical and Tdap/Meningitis vaccines completed and returned to school nurse by 4/1/2021.**
- **No student will be allowed to return in person after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 without documented proof of completion.**
- **\*All Pre-K 4 students should schedule your child's physical and required vaccines for kindergarten now to avoid your child being delayed in beginning at the new school year.**
- **Optimus Health Care News:** Any student can be seen at a school-based health center telemedicine services regardless of insurance status. Insurance is billed for services; however, there are no out-of-pocket costs to the family for medical or behavioral health services. For students without insurance, there are small fees associated with dental services.
- **Optimus now can provide many health care services virtually** (by phone or video), including behavioral health services and very limited dental services. This is a convenient and safe way to provide care – you do not need to leave your home!! Please call us today at (203) 696-3260 for an appointment.

### **Vision Statement:**

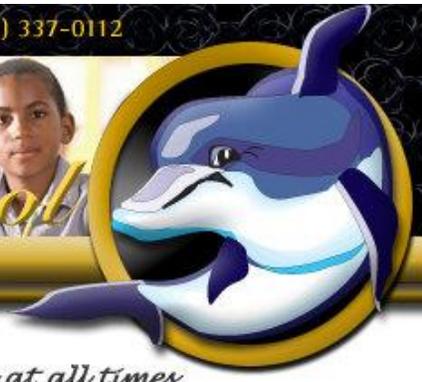
Learning transfers to life beyond the Paul Laurence Dunbar School experience, enabling each student to flourish as a responsible citizen in the global community.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of P.L. Dunbar is to motivate our scholars to become respectful, and responsible citizens, lifelong learners, and to persevere as they compete successfully in the diverse marketplace.

# Paul Laurence Dunbar School

## BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Follow the 3Rs:*

*Be Reasonable, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at all times*

**PRE-K3 NEWS:** It's March! Spring is just around the corner! This month in Pre-K 3, we will be learning the rest of our numbers from 6-10. We will practice counting from 0-10. In addition, we will continue to review our alphabet as we journey to identifying these letters in our names.

**PRE-K4 NEWS:** This month we have been busy learning about rhyming words and identifying 3-D shapes such as rectangular prisms, cubes, and pyramids. We have also been busy learning sight words and are beginning to read books!

**Kindergarten News:** The kindergarten scholars, in Ms. Weaver & Ms. Gonzalez' room, are working very hard on adding and subtracting from 0-10 in math. We are exploring natural resources in science and our country & its history in social studies. We are learning about seasons, nouns, and sequencing in language arts. Thank you very much for helping your child be the best they can be!

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade News:** Happy March & warmer days ahead! This month in literacy first grade is working on digraphs and long vowels! We are also diving deep into nonfiction texts; this is always fun because we learn something real and new everyday! Math is all about teen numbers and place value. Continue reading your sight words everyday. Thank you for all you do!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News:** We can't believe how time is quickly passing us by and we are halfway through the 3rd marking period already! Thank you for all of your efforts in completing the Black history projects. We are looking forward to our students dressing up and presenting to the class. March is Women's History Month and our scholars will be completing Women's History projects. We're also excited about the upcoming planting project for science class. Let's continue to work together in every way to help our scholars work to their highest potential and achieve academic success!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News: Reading/Writing:** Along with building on their fluency and decoding skills, scholars are learning helpful strategies to assist them with finding context clues, identifying the main idea and key details as well as practicing going back in the text for textual evidence. This marking period we will strive to complete a persuasive piece where scholars attempt to persuade their audience to visit a national park, monument or landmark to learn about the history of our country.

**Math:** These mathematicians are doing well with grasping the foundation of multiplication by being able to represent equations with a repeated addition equation, arrays, understanding the commutative property, representing with number lines and now bar models. We will spend some time reviewing these skills and strategies before learning how to relate multiplication and area.

**Social Studies:** In addition to learning about "How Do People Make the Government Work?" in reading, scholars will continue to learn about the government in social studies. This marking period, they will be required to choose a person who works in their town or community and write a thank you note!

**Science:** These little Einsteins are doing well will learning about the effect force has on motion. They are looking forward to the hands-on experiments. Please note it is not necessary to purchase materials for the experiments unless you would like your scholar to have the hands-on experience for themselves.

**Please be sure to check in with your scholars daily re: work completion. They are all aware of any work not completed during class, becomes homework.** Also, "don't miss a beat" by frequently checking into the 3rd grade parents' hub. Please email me directly if you have not yet been added.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade News:** In math students are learning different strategies to solve multi-digit division problems. We will also be starting our new unit that focuses on fractions. Please make sure students are practicing their multiplication and division facts daily to help them feel more successful in class. In reading the students will be reading and writing about realistic fiction stories. As the year continues it is very important to have the students read for at least 30 minutes each day to increase their reading fluency and comprehension!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade News:**

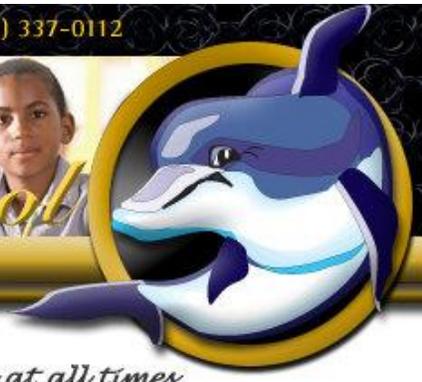
**Students in 5th Grade Math** are diving deeper in fractions, learning how to find the sum and difference of fractions that have unlike denominators.

**In Science,** students are continuing to learn about how organisms use matter and energy to survive.

**In ELA,** 5th graders will be reading expository texts. The learning objectives we will cover are identifying main idea and details, identifying text structure, and identifying and using text features. In Social Studies, we will focus the month of March on Women's History. In writing, students will continue to write their realistic fiction stories.

# Paul Laurence Dunbar School

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Follow the 3Rs:*

*Be Reasonable, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at all times*

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade News:**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade math we are working on ratios and rates. We will be exploring how to understand the language of ratios, representing them on tables and graphs, comparing, finding, and applying rates and solving ratio problems using proportional reasoning. We will use outside resources like Tang Math to help develop our skills. In our next unit, we will explore understanding and applying percent.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade science we are exploring a new unit, Life Science, Where have all the creatures gone? We will be exploring how animals move around, population control. Also, how an animals' environment can influence their behavior and food source. We will connect our understanding from our previous units Physical Science, Can I believe my eyes, and Chemistry, How can I smell things from a distance to help us get a better understanding.

The sixth grade will be citing relevant evidence from non-fiction and informational text. Students will make inferences to support understanding. They will use key details to determine the theme, identify rhyme scheme and meter, understand the author's use of word choice, identify, and understand the structure of lyric poetry and sonnets. Students will plan and draft a lyric poem, write responses that demonstrate understanding. Students will identify and evaluate the poet's use of personification. Students will acquire and use academic vocabulary. In grammar students will learn to identify essential and nonessential appositives. Students will learn to decode words with consonant + le syllables and read fluently with expressions and phrasing. Students will determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source, provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. Students will evaluate the credibility of sources related to a topic.

## **Middle School News: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

7/8 Science-In 7<sup>th</sup> grade science this month, students will be continuing their exploration of the human body and its systems, using models to explain cellular processes such as osmosis. 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is continuing their focus on predicting patterns of inheritance in organisms using Punnett Squares as a tool, and they will be analyzing these patterns using math skills to calculate probability.

7/8 ELA- In seventh grade language arts, students have been grappling with discussing and analyzing character development and how our past influences our future. We have been working hard on improving our analysis and writing skills, and in March we will be continuing to hone our paragraph and narrative writing skills. We will be continuing to read 'Touching Spirit Bear' and seeing how our main character, Cole, processes his anger and trauma and grows from it. Our conversations will not only talk about the book, but also about ourselves and our own development and character traits. In the eighth grade, students have been analyzing the setting of Long Beach, California with Erin Gruwell's 'Freedom Writers Diary.' We have been excelling at identifying how a person's setting can influence and impact their development and perspectives, and in the coming weeks we will be continuing these conversations and shifting into how adversity has impacted our own lives and how we have grown from it. Eighth grade students have been reflecting on their own lives and who they are as people within their own diary entries, and this will continue into the latter portion of the unit as we begin our work on writing our own narratives.

7/8 SS-In seventh grade Social Studies, students will conclude their examination of the thirteen colonies, and start to evaluate the various events that unfold and eventually lead to the American Revolution. Students will continue to use the metatextual markers for better understanding of non-fiction texts.

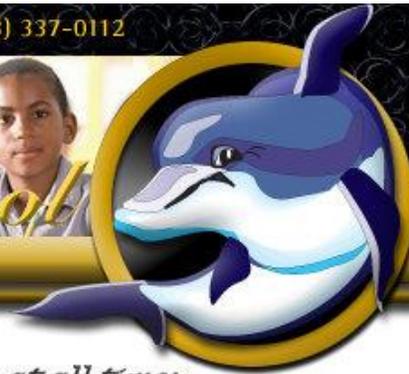
In eighth grade Social Studies, students will be analyzing the various events and problems that will lead into the US Civil War, as well as further analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the North and the South during said war. Students will continue to strengthen their skills on answering of open-ended questions using the strategy RACE.

In math we are continuing to work with a new online math platform offered by the district. It is called Desmos and it offers a student-centered approach to creatively working with math problems in a virtual style math lab. We will be using it along with other resources for the remainder of the year. We are continuing a unit on statistics and data while learning to create and interpret different types of graphs. We also have the exciting opportunity this month to work live with Greg Tang on interactive online lessons. We are moving into our geometry unit in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Pythagorean theorem in 8<sup>th</sup>.



# Paul Laurence Dunbar School

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Follow the 3Rs:*

*Be Reasonable, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible at all times*

**Media News:** March is Women's History Month, In honor of Women history month scholars will spend the month of March exploring contributions Women have made to enhance our lives.

**Physical Education:** During the month of March our elementary students will be seen participating in fun theme-based activities and exercises revolving around the 100th Day of School, Dr. Suess Week and St. Patrick's Day. Our middle schoolers will turn their focus to Nutrition/Healthy Food Choices and Hygiene!

**Art Pre K – 4<sup>th</sup> Grades:** In Mrs. DiCapua's art class, Pre K, K and 1<sup>st</sup> Grades are celebrating Dr. Seuss week with storybook reading and art that focuses on patterns. 2nd through 4<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about Space through creating artworks that incorporate fore and backgrounds. As well, in person learners are finishing up the texture unit by creating textured collage door signs. Please ask your child to show you what he or she has been working on and I hope you enjoyed last week's emailed art newsletter featuring student art!

**Art 5 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:** In Mr. O'Donnell's art class, artists will be studying painter Gustov Klimt and his use of patterns, which are created with an arrangement of lines or shapes which repeat at regular intervals, to create both actual and implied texture. Artists will also explore the symbolism behind the shapes Klimt chose to use and repeat. They will apply this knowledge to their artwork to fully demonstrate texture and pattern in their design.

**Music News:** To be sent in separate email.