



Baltimore International Academy West



**Baltimore International
Academy West**

January, 2022

Dear BIA West Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,
Happy New Year!
I hope all our families had a safe and healthy winter break.

As we look ahead, I encourage all of us to remain diligent as we begin this new year as the positive cases for COVID are rising. The health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our top priority. Classroom teachers will be re-teaching and re-practicing our health and safety protocols with our students as we begin to settle back into school. Reestablishment of these routines is essential. Families can support us with these efforts by continuing to assess your child(ren) for daily symptoms of COVID-19, influenza or other infectious respiratory diseases before sending them to school, using the School District's Daily Health Assessment Checklist. Students and staff are to stay home if they are sick, to help prevent the spread of germs to others. When our students are safe, healthy and happy, learning flourishes. Thank you to all our families for working alongside us this school year.

Starting January 18, Baltimore City Public Schools will begin implementing three key changes in its health and safety rules.

- Five- day quarantine period
- Next-day rapid testing for positive pools (Test to Stay)

Smaller groups for pool testing at elementary/middle schools

We are excited to let you know that our new PE teacher Mr. Sconiers has joined us on January 10th. Mr. Sconiers comes with 13 years of experience as a Physical Education Teacher. He has a diverse background in education that includes implementing educational activities for students facing challenges, as well as supporting students with academic and behavioral issues. His knowledge and experience make him a great addition to our BIA West family.

To continue to provide a positive and safe learning environment, all teachers will be using ClassDojo to reward students' positive behaviors. Please make sure to accept the invites from the teacher (s) to join and receive the updates on your child(ren)'s daily progress.

The PTO is the main service group at Baltimore International Academy West, organizing many school activities such as Holiday Cheer, Trunk or Treat, and Movie Night. The PTO also coordinates Room Parents, School beautification, Library, and Teacher Appreciation events. Our goal is to support quality education and a nurturing environment for every child. PTO meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the second Thursday each month. Please join us. We need your input and participation.

Thanks for all you are doing to keep our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Keting Xiao

Keting Xiao, Head of School

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News from the Spanish Immersion Program

Kindergarten Spanish Immersion

This month the students were working on new letters and syllables. They are learning to identify the sounds and connect them to the letters. They can already write sentences! The students continue to read syllables, words, and short stories!

We reviewed the seasons and weather, and the students proved their knowledge by successfully completing the assignment in science, as part of their IB Unit.

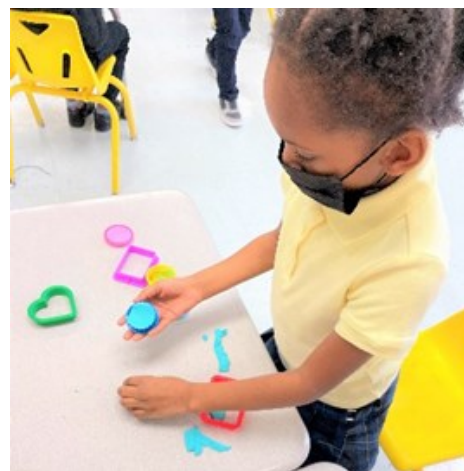
We have a lot of hand-on activities in Math. The students reinforced their skills in identifying shapes by creating them from the play dough. We compare the real-life objects in length, size, and shape.

Sure, they have some fun time dancing and singing the Spanish songs.

ABCD F
Working with Letters →



Making Geometrical Shapes



More News from the Spanish Immersion Program

1st Grade Spanish Immersion

Students worked on projects for their IB Unit, "Where we are in Place and Time" The units' central idea was, "Environmental features determine how we work and play." Students explored how areas' weather and geographical features affect lifestyles. They were placed in groups, given pages with symbolic buildings, and used scissors, crayons and markers, to create their own communities. The project offers many learning points for the students; they are developing their social skills through communicating, collaborating, and negotiating what items should go on their project. They are developing their critical thinking skills as they discuss the things they had learned about nutrition, and decide which foods belonged on a plate that is called healthy. They are being creative as they draw their food items on their posters. And in the end, when they presented their projects to their classmates and explained the reasons behind the foods they selected, they are reflecting on what they have learned from the unit. These are some of the many benefits of having students create end-of-unit projects. And the photos of the students working on their projects together show how much they are engaged in what they are doing, and what they learned.



More News from the Spanish Immersion Program

Middle School Spanish Immersion

Baltimore International Academy West was fortunate to have Chief Theodore Haskins from Baltimore City Sheriff's Office come present to our 8th grade on topics including The Court System, Crimes of Assault, Incarceration, Domestic Violence, and Crimes of Conspiracy.

Chief Haskins described actual incidents, including real photos with real names, which made everything so true and meaningful. He engaged the students to the point that he had EVERYONE spellbound. Chief Haskins also gave scenarios where he chose students to volunteer so that they could understand the seriousness involved.

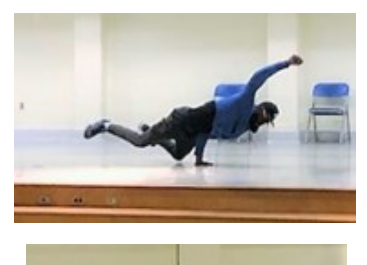
A quote from Ms. Strauss, school's social worker who organized the event, "I have been in BCPSS for 20 years, and I organize many programs for my schools each year, and I have never been so blown away by a speaker as Chief Haskins who was so informative and engaging!:



Elementary and Middle School Program

Students had a live assembly for anti-bullying by Illstyle and Peace Productions. is a multicultural, mixed-gender dance company whose work focuses on the movement and spirit of Hip Hop. The company delivers a positive message of individual expression to worldwide audiences young and old.

During this high-energy dance assembly students learn contemporary and old school Hip Hop moves and valuable lessons about positivity, fairness, working together, acceptance, and communication. Illstyle acts out scenarios that place two school groups against one another in day-to-day life, and finally in a dance-off. With the help of a dedicated teacher, the students soon come together, discovering that they are more alike than they are different.

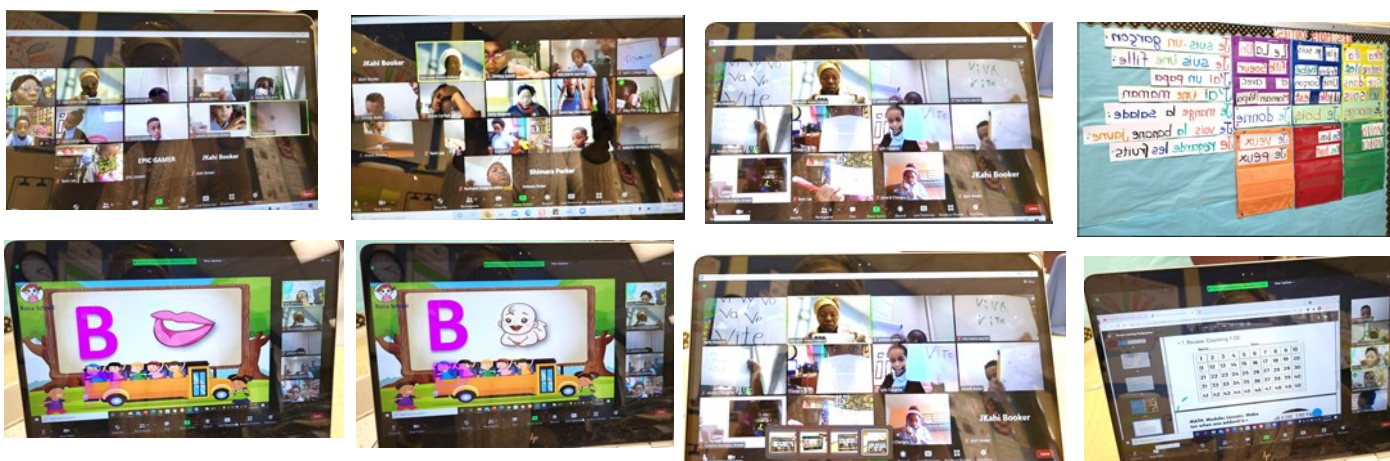


News from the French Immersion Program

Kindergarten-1st Grade French Immersion

On Friday, January 14, BIA West switched to virtual learning due to the surge of Covid. Kindergarten and First Grade French Immersion classes used to send a weekly packet related to a day-by-day class lessons taught and activities linked to those lessons to students. To help parents support their children, the first page of the packet is always in English. Also, to make sure students never miss it, the hard copy of the packet is inserted into students "backpacks."

Based on the January IB profile "Communicator," teachers used the Zoom platform to get students focus on everything that was taught; during the 5 days of online class, class always started with their routine: greeting students and asking them to greet each other so that they can interact. After greetings, the class began with Language Arts reading, writing and listening. Students watched a video about some means of communication. After the videos, there were class discussions based on the inquiries the teachers asked about what they'd observed in the videos. The discussions, reading and writing activities helped students discover build their vocabulary.



2nd Grade French Immersion

The students learned that people have different celebrations around the year. Even people who celebrate Christmas don't all celebrate it the same way. One of the students chose India as a project and learned that in India, Santa is called charismas Baba. Another student chooses to search francophones countries like Suisse and Belgium and found out that Santa is called Saint Nicholas. Students compared the foods for celebrations of the countries they chose, like México, where they make Galette des Rois Rosca de Reyes. One of the students wondered if children got choked by the surprise (coin, toy) they will find in the special cake. We learned many new things and had good discussions during this unit.



News from the IB Programmes

Being a “Communicator”

In September, we highlighted the Learner Profile attribute of being Caring, in October the focus was on being an Inquirer, and in November, we highlighted the Learner Profile Attribute of being Open-Minded. During December, our focus was on being Principled, and we started 2022 with focusing on **being Communicators**:

“Students who are **Communicators** express their ideas by speaking, writing, using mathematical notation, and through art. They effectively listen and respond in meaningful ways. They can also speak and write in more than one language.”

Students focused on improving their listening skills through activities with their teachers. They also had discussions about which words are appropriate to use in school settings. How might those be different than those used with friends and/or family?

January Students of the Month



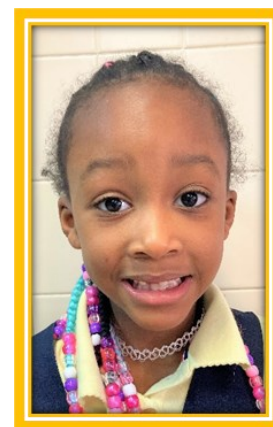
Colbi Orton Kindergarten
Spanish Immersion



Hannah Couser Kindergarten
Chinese Immersion



True Cox Kindergarten
French Immersion



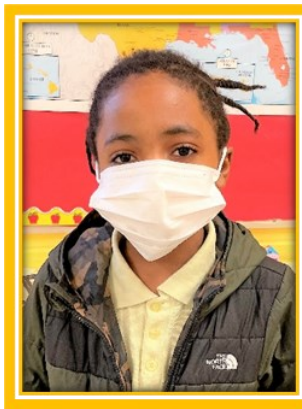
Azariyah Taylor 1st
Grade Spanish Immer-



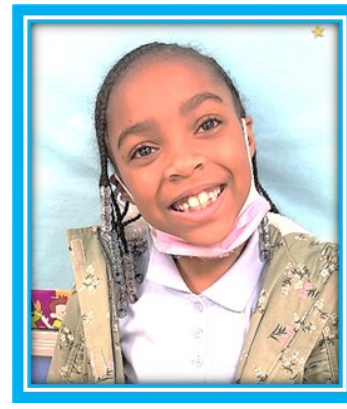
Gayle McKandy 1st-2nd
Grade Chinese Immersion



Zoey Pollard 1st Grade French
Immersion



Troy White 2nd Grade
Spanish Immersion



Kailee Mills 2nd Grade
French Immersion

More News from the IB Programmes

Congratulations to December's Middle School Students-of-the-Month for being **Principled**; we are so proud of them all!



Amani McFail 6th Grade Spanish Immersion



Ziyah Arnold 7th Grade Spanish Immersion



Taylor Miller 8th Grade Spanish Immersion

Student Shout Outs!

We have many students who do wonderful things at school every day. Some staff and resource teachers expressed a desire to recognize them. We agree! They deserve to be honored and recognized. We want them to know we appreciate them and their actions, so we have created this **Student Shout Out** section for them.

SHOUT OUT to Arene Waters and Henriette Ayaka Guentang, for their caring and helpful acts of kindness (submitted by Ms. Engel, Art Teacher and confirmed by Ms. Strauss, Social Worker)

SHOUT OUT to Derrell and Jerrell Sutton, Michael Williams, Dior Casey, and Ariana McKullin for the way they consistently show respect to others (submitted by Ms. Strauss)

SHOUT OUT to Tavon McKinney for making tremendous progress academically and socially. (submitted by Ms. Strauss)

