

Holabird STEM Program

Parent Orientation Information



HOLABIRD STEM PROGRAM

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<http://holabirdms.bcps.org>

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PARENT ORIENTATION

Welcome parents! We hope the evening will prepare you to help your child make the transition to elementary or middle school, welcome you to our Holabird STEM family.

Although they sometimes do not show it by words or actions, young children and adolescents are devoted to their families and teachers and are affected by them. Families and teachers provide an opportunity for the student to be oneself, to grow and change in a safe and secure environment, and to show and receive emotional support.

Be involved in the education of your child. Studies have shown over and over that when parents increase involvement, students achieve at a higher level, like school more, and maintain better relationships with their family members and teachers.

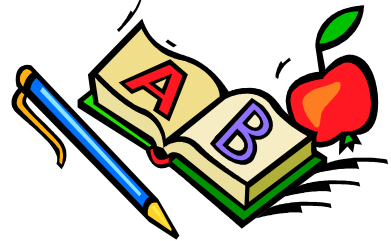
We hope your experience with orientation is the first of many activities in which you involve yourself at Holabird STEM Program. **WE NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT!**

Holabird STEM Preview Day will be held at the end of August prior to the beginning of school. Information regarding this day will be in the first issue of the **Holabird Newsletter** available online. Students and their parents are welcome to visit to tour the building, to try their locker combinations, find their homeroom, and pick up beginning of the year paperwork.

School Supplies- Grade 4

The following lists are supply items that will likely be needed by the students during the school year.

- 1 book bag standard size (**no book bags on wheels**)
- 3 spiral notebooks
- 2 composition notebooks
- 4 plain pocket folders
- 1 pair scissors
- 1 box crayons
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 box of washable markers (optional)
- 1 soft pencil case with zipper
- 3 packs yellow #2 pencils (1 pack to remain at home)
- 3 highlighters
- 1 pack blue or black pens
- 1 inch/centimeter ruler
- 3 packs of large sticky notes
- 3 large glue sticks
- 1 eraser
- 4 packs unopened notebook paper (NOT college rule)
- earbuds



Families may donate the following school supplies:

- large boxes of tissues
- box of sandwich size zipper-close plastic baggies
- box of quart size freezer zipper-close plastic baggies

Please label all of your child's belongings.
No toys, electronic or otherwise, can be brought to school.



School Supplies- Grade 5

The following lists are supply items that will likely be needed by the students during the school year.

- 1 locker size book bag (**no book bags on wheels**)
- 4 packs of unopened notebook paper, wide-ruled
- 1 regular 2-inch binder
- 1 pack notebook dividers
- #2 pencils - multiple packs, mechanical or regular
- 1 soft pencil case with holes for binder
- 3 different colored folders with holes for binder
- 1 pack of small or large sticky notes
- 1 pack pencil-top erasers
- 2 book covers
- 2 spiral notebooks, wide-ruled
- 1 pack colored pencils or crayons (24 or fewer)
- 3 highlighters
- 1 box of washable markers (optional)
- 3 folders with pockets and prongs (red, blue, green)
- earbuds

To Keep at Home:

- 1 protractor
- 1 ruler (with metric and standard measurements)

Families may donate the following school supplies:

- boxes of tissues
- antibacterial wipes or baby wipes
- plastic zipper-close baggies (gallon or sandwich size)

Please label all of your child's belongings.

No toys, electronic or otherwise, can be brought to school.





School Supplies- Grades 6, 7, 8

Supplies for Academic Content Classes:

- One large, hard-covered 3-ring binder
- Notebook paper – one large pack (Wide ruled is preferred, supply for the school year)
- Dividers – 2 packs of 8 dividers (16 total tabs)
- Pencil case or pouch for each binder/notebook to keep your supplies organized.
- Pens – blue or black and red
- Pencils – at least one dozen #2 pencils
- Large Eraser
- Colored pencils
- Small box of crayons
- Glue sticks (1 to stay in binder)
- Highlighters—at least 2 different colors
- Spiral notebooks 2
- Folder with pockets and three prongs-3different colors
- Earbuds

Additional Supplies for Special Area Classes:

- Instrumental music students** will need to purchase supplies throughout the year (i.e. reeds, rosin, valve oil, a method book, etc.)
- Art students:** must have a wire spiral bound sketchbook approximately 9x12 inches with 100 blank pages (no lines)
- Physical Education:** Physical education uniform

Recommended Supplies (Not Required):

- A flash drive to store computer files at least 2GB
- One thin three hole punch to keep in binder
- One inexpensive set of ear buds for use with computers
- An extra physical education uniform

Recommended Supplies for Home Use:

- Ruler – metric and standard measurement
- One protractor and compass
- One calculator (A Texas Instruments TI84 calculator is recommended for GT6, Algebra I and Geometry students.)
 - Grade 6 only** – Graphing calculators are available on devices
- One dictionary

The following items are not permitted: book bags with wheels, white out and permanent markers.

Please use a permanent marker, at home, to write your name on all items.

Many of these supplies will be available in the school store, located in our lobby.

Please consider buying two boxes of tissues for your homeroom teacher.

Agenda Books

Holabird STEM Program will provide agenda books to all students at no charge to you. The school recognizes that the agenda books are an investment in your child's success. The agenda books cost approximately \$7 for each of our over 900 students. These books are required to be carried by each student each day throughout the school year for recording homework, obtaining passes to and from class, and for receiving PBIS stamps. Many have asked if they can contribute to the cost of these agendas. The PTSA and school ask that you join the PTSA and participate in the many fundraisers planned. If you would like to offset the cost you may pay for your student's agenda.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SUBJECTS WILL MY CHILD TAKE NEXT YEAR?

4th and 5th

Interdisciplinary Academics (Reading, writing, science, math, and social studies)

Art

Music

Physical Education

Library

STEM

Health

6-8th

Interdisciplinary Academics (Language Arts, science, math, social studies, reading or world language)

Art and/or Music

Physical Education

Engineering and Technology

Health

WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT SCHOOL ROUTINES THAT WE SHOULD KNOW?

- School hours for grades 4 and 5 are 8:20 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. Students are unable to enter the building earlier than 8:20 a.m. and may not stay later than 3:20 p.m. unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students are marked late after 8:35 a.m.
- School hours for grades 6-8 are 8:00 a.m. to 2:45p.m. Students are unable to enter the building earlier than 8:00 a.m. and may not stay later than 3:00 p.m. unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students are marked late after 8:15 a.m.
- Students in the middle school need to be seated in their homerooms by **8:15 a.m.** Students in the elementary school need to be seated in their homerooms by **8:35 a.m.**
- Students have 30 minutes for lunch.
- Students may carry backpacks to and from school but not to and from classes.

WHAT MAKES HOLABIRD STEM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS?

Holabird STEM Program offers a unique learning opportunity for students, in addition to regular curriculum. Throughout all content areas, students become STEM proficient through the rigorous application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by answering complex questions, investigating global issues, and developing solutions for challenges and real world problems. While addressing these problems, students engage in inquiry, logical reasoning, collaboration, and investigation which prepare them for post-secondary study and the 21st century workforce.

All students participate in two semester-long problem-based learning scenarios which are student-centered and experiential. Students conduct research, develop questions, collect and analyze data, and design a solution to the issue. Students develop STEM proficient skills by becoming logical thinkers, effective communicators and are technologically, scientifically, and mathematically literate through their problem-based learning investigation.

WILL MY CHILD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

We offer a wide choice of activities after school. Intramurals are offered after school with a choice of activities on most days. We also offer a wide variety of clubs which may include: Elementary Clubs, Student Council, Drama Club, Black Saga, SADD, Newspaper Club, Yearbook Club, Quiz Bowl, Chess, Destination Imagination, Future Educators of America, Literary Magazine, Math 24, Math Counts, VEX Robotics, and National Junior Honor Society.

After school activities are held from 2:45-4:00 on predetermined days of the week. There is a late bus on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to take the students that ride buses back to their neighborhoods.

HOW WILL I BE KEPT INFORMED OF MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

- BCPSone
- Report cards – quarterly
- Interim reports - mid-quarter
- Conference nights
- Individual teacher conferences
- School newsletters (available on our website)

WILL I RECEIVE A SCHOOL BULLETIN?

The Holabird Newsletter is the school newsletter and is emailed quarter available online on the schools website for families.

The school calendar and current information can be found on the school web page:
<http://holabirdms.bcps.org>

WHAT IS THE POLICY ON HOMEWORK?

One important ingredient for students' success at Holabird STEM is to complete and submit all homework assignments on time. Homework should be recorded on the weekly homework assignment sheet in the agenda book issued to every student. If there is no written assignment, the student will write "none" in the box. **BCPS policy 5210 states:** "The assignment of homework is encouraged as a means of reinforcing and enriching the instructional program and of assisting students to develop independent study skills. Homework should be a natural outgrowth of classwork and should be considered an integral part of the students' grades. Length and complexity of homework assignments should be appropriate to the age and total developmental needs of the student as well as to the subject under study. Parents should be encouraged to support the school in seeing that homework is completed."

While a specific written task may not always be assigned, this does not mean there is no homework. Some homework time each evening might be devoted to organizing and rewriting classwork papers and revising notes. Notebooks should be brought home every night. To ensure success for our students, homework should be monitored each evening by parents.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS WHEN “NO HOMEWORK” HAS BEEN GIVEN.

1. Organize notebook.
 - Place loose papers in appropriate subjects
 - update Table of Contents, if appropriate
 - number pages, if appropriate
2. Review recent notes/dittos.
3. Scan newspapers or magazines for articles relating to topics being studied in class.
4. Make spelling and capitalization corrections on papers in notebook.
5. Re-copy papers that lack neatness and/or clarity.
6. Study definitions of glossary or vocabulary words.
7. Correct wrong answers on papers that have been graded and returned.
8. Read for pleasure. Record the time in the reading log.
9. Work on long-range projects.
10. Study multiplication facts and/or practice operations.

WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS?

Our school nurse provides routine health screening, episodic and emergency health care, and maintains an active role in primary health care education and case management.

If your child must take medicine during school hours, the following guidelines will be followed without exception:

1. Prescription **and non-prescription medication** may be administered to students only upon a written order of a physician, with parent signature.
2. **ALL MEDICATION** must be brought to school by an adult in a current labeled prescription bottle/box.
3. Students cannot carry any medication in school (including cough drops) without a physician’s order.
4. **Discretionary medication consent forms** will be sent home during the first week of school. These forms must be completed and returned to the nurse if parents wish their child to receive the approved over-the-counter Baltimore County Public School stock medications at the nurse’s discretion. Any discretionary medications needed regularly will require a physician’s order.

A health and dental appraisal, including a physical examination by the usual source of health care is requested of all students upon entrance into middle school. This will enable the nurse to obtain updated, pertinent health information on the students.

***7th grade students**

All incoming students must have proof of updated immunizations. Please call the school nurse if there are any questions. All students going into 7th graders will require the **Tdap and Meningitis vaccines.**

IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN ABOUT MY CHILD, WHOM SHOULD I CALL?

The school phone number is **410-887-7050**. The office staff will direct you to the appropriate staff member to answer your question.

The health suite number is **410-887-7151**

A list of teacher email addresses are on our school website under the staff directory.

<http://www.holabirdms.bcps.org>

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD RECEIVE THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE?

- Take an active interest in your child's school experiences.
- Set aside time daily to discuss what he/she has learned.
- Review homework assignments together.
- Provide an opportunity for plenty of sleep each night.
- Encourage a period of daily exercise to assure the growth of a healthy body and to release excess energy.
- Get to know your child's friends and parents. They exert tremendous influence on your child's behavior during middle school years.
- Encourage your child to explore all areas of interest.
- Help your child to understand the importance of appropriate behavior and the importance of putting his/her full effort into education.
- Encourage your child to be the best he/she can be.
- Continue your active involvement in school. Be a part of the volunteer program, PTSA, School Progress Team, or share your talents, skills, and interests in your child's classes.

HOW CAN I GET MESSAGES TO OR RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM MY CHILD?

- **Emergency messages only** can be delivered to your child. The school office cannot relay after school arrangements or other personal messages to your child.
- Students may NOT use their cell phones to contact parents during the instructional day. In addition, they may not receive text messages or phone calls during the school day.

ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED TO HAVE CELL PHONES?

We strongly recommend that students do not bring cell phones to school. If a student does have a cell phone they are required to **store the cell phone, powered off, in his/her locker**. Cell phones may not be used during the school day, including on the school bus. If a student violates this policy the cell phone is confiscated and stored in the school safe, until a parent picks up the phone. If a further violation occurs, a required parent conference will be held and other disciplinary actions will be discussed.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRANSPORTATION?

Bus Riders

Elementary Bus Riders are to report to their bus line to await the arrival of their bus. When the bus arrives they will be escorted to their assigned bus.

Middle School Bus Riders are to report to their loading station immediately after dismissal.

Students are to ride ONLY the bus they are assigned. Due to bus capacity, students will not be permitted to ride on a friend's bus for any reason.

Walkers

Adult crossing guards are stationed at the intersection for the safety of our children. Walkers should walk only on sidewalks and cross only at intersections. Students are not allowed to cross the bus loop and the front lawn.

Car Riders

All students who are driven to school in cars should be dropped off in the parking lot adjacent to the school building. All students should be picked up at the same location in the afternoon. Drivers are asked to enter the parking lot to the right and continue in a loop to the sidewalk nearest the school door. Never permit a child to cross the parking lot unattended. Please do not enter the bus loop in front of the school at any time. Students are not allowed to cross the bus loop and the front lawn to meet their ride.

IS THERE A DRESS CODE?

Student Dress Code

As per Baltimore County Public School Student handbook:

The student dress code outlines acceptable standards for student dress during the school day and during other school-sponsored activities (Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5520).

Students will wear attire and groom themselves in a manner that supports a healthy and safe learning environment.

Students will not wear attire that is disruptive to the school environment, that promotes illegal or harmful activities, or that could endanger the health and safety of the student or other students, which includes, but is not limited to, that which:

1. Depicts messages that are lewd, vulgar, obscene, plainly offensive, violent, sexually explicit, or that refers to items that are illegal in general or illegal specifically for underage students.
2. Promotes use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal or harmful products.
3. Contains sexually suggestive messages.
4. Depicts gang affiliation.
5. Causes or is likely to cause a substantial or material disruption to school activities or to the orderly and safe operation of the school or at school-sponsored activities.
6. Contains rude, disrespectful, or discourteous expressions inconsistent with civil discourse and behavior.

The following specific items are not permitted except in individual cases as approved by the principal of the school:

1. Bare feet.
2. Headwear, except as worn for medical reasons or as a legitimate expression of a student's religious practice and faith.

The Instructional Program and Other Information

School Counselors

School counselors at Holabird STEM Program work with students to help them develop academically, personally, and socially. They work closely with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to provide students with the best possible resources and services. A grade level counselor will be assigned to work with students. Get to know your child's school counselor. Your support will make your child's experience rewarding.

http://holabirdms.bcps.org/parents/office_of_school_counseling

Twitter @counselinghsp

Library Media Center

The library at Holabird STEM Program is an integral part of the total school program. Activities are designed to enable students to become independent users of the library media center and to develop lifelong reading and learning habits and 21st century skills.

Special attention will be given to:

- Orientation
- Development of research skills
- Evaluation of resources
- Introduction to computers and online searching techniques
- Refining bibliographic skills
- Continuous help in book selection for recreational reading

Students are given many opportunities to develop the skills necessary in order to be successful in an age where access to information is essential. Your children will receive proper instruction on the use of the library at Holabird STEM Program.

Health

Students in grades 4 and 5 will complete the grade level health curriculum.

Students in grades 6-8 will be enrolled in a Health course. Topics to include:

- Wellness
- Tobacco Use Prevention
- Human development
- Violence and Injury Prevention
- Nutrition and Foods
- Disability Awareness
- DARE – programs taught by Officer Pruitt.

Physical Education

Physical education for the Holabird STEM students consists of motor skill development, fitness improvement, social skill practice, problem solving, and fun. The program provides a multitude of varied activities including many of the students' favorite games, sports, and some exciting new challenges.

- Students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to take advantage of additional opportunities for activity and fun by staying after school for intramural games.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 do not wear PE uniforms, however must wear clothes and footwear which enables them to actively participate safely.
- Students in grades 6-8 are expected to demonstrate responsibility by being in class on time, memorizing a locker combination to secure valuables, securing a reasonably priced uniform during

the first week of school, and showing courtesy to others. Parents can expect to help launder uniforms on weekends, arrange transportation for intramurals, and listen to stories of personal successes. Students and parents can expect a physical education teacher at Holabird who encourages maximum effort, insists on respectful/responsible actions in class, and listens to questions and concerns.

Visual Arts

Visual arts students at Holabird STEM Program explore all types of art media, from painting to printmaking to sculpture. Creative thinking skills are stressed, as students are encouraged to develop new alternatives to solve visual problems. Interwoven into the units are lessons based on art history and art concepts. All of our units involve a hands-on approach to learning.

Students in the Visual Arts program in grades 6-8 are required to have a sketchbook which is available for about \$5.00 from the art teacher. Students may purchase a book through an outside source as long as well. Preliminary planning sketches, warm-ups, vocabulary, and creative thinking activities are organized in the sketchbook. In addition, a pencil and an eraser are required for every class period.

Our Visual Arts students participate in many exhibits, contests, and student service learning activities. We look forward to providing your child with a meaningful and enjoyable art program.

Music

The music program at Holabird STEM offers a variety of *exciting* opportunities, and *fun* as well as *rigorous* course options.

Grade 4: vocal music, exploratory (instrumental) music

Grade 5: vocal music, band, and orchestra

Grade 6-8: band, orchestra or chorus

Performance classes (chorus, band, and orchestra) require that students participate in two evening concerts per year. These concerts are usually held in the winter and spring. Notices of concert dates will be included in the school calendar of events that is prepared in the fall. Students in 8th grade performing groups will also be required to represent Holabird STEM at the annual Baltimore County music festival field trip (sometimes after school hours).

Exploratory Music Grade 4

Every 4th grader will have Exploratory Music once a week for 50 minutes. This course is an introduction to musical instruments to help prepare students for participation in 5th Grade band and Orchestra. Throughout the year, students will study instruments from the Brass, Woodwind, String, and Percussion families. Students will also have an opportunity to play the Trumpet, Violin, and Clarinet. There are no required performances or concerts for Exploratory Music.

Band and Orchestra Grade 5

Every 5th grader is offered the opportunity to enroll in the 5th Grade Band and Orchestra program. Students that choose to participate will receive 30 minute lessons, once a week, on the instrument of their choice. Lessons are offered at the beginning level for the following instruments:

Orchestra 5 – violin, viola, cello, string bass

Band 5 – flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone (euphonium), tuba, percussion (both bells and drums)

These lessons are “pull-out” style: students will be pulled from class in small groups of like instruments to receive individualized instruction. Students are expected to display responsibility and respect while collaborating with their peers. Both the Band and the Orchestra will perform a variety of styles of music, including traditional, classical, and popular.

Chorus Grades 6-8

The middle school chorus program is for students who enjoy singing and take performing seriously. Chorus is a class that meets every other day. Students are expected to participate and demonstrate respectful and responsible behavior through singing and musicianship. Through participation in chorus, students will gain valuable life skills in confidence, collaboration, self-esteem, teamwork, perseverance, and camaraderie. In addition, students will also engage in rigorous musical coursework to develop skills in vocal production, vocal technique, harmonizing, and performance skills through the study of both traditional choral music as well as popular music selections.

Band and Orchestra Grades 6-8

The middle school music program is a continuation of the elementary program and is designed to develop technical skills needed in performance, increase theoretical and historical knowledge of music, build self-esteem, foster teamwork, and provides an appreciation of music.

Students who have completed *at least* one year of study on an instrument below can register for the following courses. Students will be expected to study the same instrument they studied previously, unless approved by their music teacher.

Strings 6 – violin, viola, cello, string bass

Band 6 – flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone (euphonium), tuba, and percussion (must have experience with the bells and snare drum)

All instrumental registration requests are confirmed with the elementary school (or previous) music teacher. Any students without proof of prior study will be auditioned by the middle school music department.

Classes meet every other day and require an instrument that is personally owned or rented. There are a limited number of instruments that are available on loan from the school on a needs based and first-come first-served basis. Instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, rosin, swabs, strings, etc.) remain the responsibility of the student and can be purchased from the school. Students will be provided music to perform.

Technology Education

Students in grades 4 and 5 will have a STEM class weekly. This class will include LEGO robotics. In addition students will utilize technology daily during instruction in academic classes.

Students in grades 6-8 will be enrolled in Project Lead the Way. The PLTW (Project Lead the Way) program is designed to serve middle school students of diverse backgrounds, helping them all to become high school, college and career ready, from those already interested in STEM-related fields to those who are more inspired by the application of STEM than they are by traditional math and science courses.

The PLTW Gateway to Technology Program is taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. The hands-on project-based program is divided into six independent nine-week units. Students envision, design and test their ideas with the same advanced modeling software used by companies like Lockheed Martin, Intel and Sprint. They study mechanical and computer control systems. Think robotics and animation. Students also explore the importance of energy, including innovative ways to reduce, conserve and produce it using solar, thermal and wind power. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build from the Gateway to Technology Program create a strong foundation for further STEM learning, from nanotechnology to applied engineering.

In addition, PLTW schools can tap into the generous support and active involvement of some of America's leading corporations, philanthropic foundations, and prestigious colleges and universities. Their efforts help ensure that PLTW classrooms have the latest technology, materials and equipment, and that PLTW students are learning the most up-to-date information found in such fields as information technology, engineering design, alternative energy and Eco technology. They provide assistance with the development and revision of PLTW coursework and, in the case of universities, opportunities for college credit.

PBIS

Holabird STEM Program is proud to be a Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) School. Holabird STEM Program's key principles are Respect and Responsibility.

Specific behavioral examples are:

- Being *respectful* means using a person's name when you talk to him or her.
- Being *respectful* means speaking with appropriate language and volume.
- Being *responsible* means to be on time.
- Being *responsible* means to be prepared with assignments and materials.



Students have an opportunity to earn rewards for positive behavior displayed through respect and responsibility. Students may turn in SOAR reward tickets or reward stamps to earn rewards from the school store. In addition, they may turn in their reward tickets and stamps to be eligible for events and special seating at lunch.

Donations of reward items are also appreciated no matter how big or small. Contact the school office.

We hope that you find this preliminary information helpful. We look forward to seeing you in August at Holabird STEM Preview Day.