

JANUARY 14, 2022

# THE BOBCAT BRIEF

COOSA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*We Have Reached the  
Halway Point of the  
School Year!*

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**January 17:** No School-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 20:** Spirit Night at Rancho Grande 4:00-9:00pm (Dine-in and Take Out, Families should notify the staff they are with CES)

**January 28:** College Colors Day

## **A MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION**

Report Cards were sent home with all students today. They were also emailed to our families. If you have any questions about your child's academic progress, please reach out to the classroom teacher to schedule a conference. Did you know that you can access your child's grades at any point throughout the school year. All parents (and students) in grades 1-5 can view their student's grades in Power School. Access to Power School ensures are families are consistently up to date on their child's academic progress. Please reach out to Nichelle Tyson at 322-6147 or [Nichelle.Mcewen-Tyson@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Nichelle.Mcewen-Tyson@beaufort.k12.sc.us) for assistance, if needed.

**Melissa Pender, Principal**

**Renee Roberts, Assistant Principal**

## Mrs. Bossak's Counselor Corner

Each month we celebrate students who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate the monthly character trait. Teachers nominate students from their classes. During the month of December, the schoolwide character focus was Compassion. Congratulations to our very compassionate recipients of Student of the Month!

Looking ahead, during the month of January, our character focus is on Perseverance.



## STEM LAB with Mrs. Kinsey

According to Students:

*STEM at Coosa is Inspirational, Spectacular, Challenging, and Fun!*

Students in Coosa's STEM Lab learned how to code an Ozobot, a tiny robot, using colored markers. The students created a coded path using the markers. Drawing different color combinations the students programmed their Ozobot to go into turbo speed, spin like a tornado, or go as slow as a snail. Thanks to the Citadel's STEM Center in Charleston, Mrs. Kinsey was able to share this STEM activity with her students.

Check out this link of Eva Landa demonstrating the Ozobot to Mrs. Landa's kindergarten class.

<https://youtu.be/t9E27pogEng>

## ARTSONIA

Don't forget! Coosa has an online art gallery, Arstonia.com. Since you can't walk the halls of Coosa and see the wonderful work that the students are producing, you can go online to look at it. Our students are creating online art portfolios that will span their years at Coosa, from kindergarten to fifth grade. One of the perks of our online gallery is that you can order quality products with your child's art printed on them—tee shirts, coffee mugs, aprons, jewelry, notecards, etc. They make great gifts for family and friends. If you have not already activated your child's account, you can login by scanning the QR code or using the **Parent Code,**

**H7755T53.**



# COVID UPDATES

On January 13, 2022 Beaufort County School District sent communication regarding important COVID-19 updates to all of our families. We ask that you please review the below updated guidance provided and reach out to the school nurse or administration with any questions.

TO: Beaufort County School District Families

Since our previous email on Jan. 4, DHEC has made some additional updates to their COVID-19 guidance that BCSD will be following: BCSD will now accept at-home rapid-test results to allow students to return earlier from quarantine, per DHEC. This will go into effect Tuesday, Jan. 18. Below are the details on how to submit results from an at-home rapid-test:

Students – Verification of at-home rapid-test results for students will be accepted at the school. The steps for submitting the results are as follows:

1. Follow the District-issued guidance\*provided by your school regarding what date the at-home rapid-test can be administered
2. (Per DHEC, the test must be taken on or after Day 4, and this information will be included in the guidance from the school)
3. Administer the test following the instructions specific to the at-home rapid-test
4. Sign and return the DHEC Attestation Form required by DHEC to the school
5. (Schools will communicate to parents specific instructions for how to submit the forms to the school)

\*Students must receive District-issued quarantine guidance through the school BEFORE they submit verification of at-home rapid-test results. Schools will not be able to accept at-home rapid-test results if the student guidance has not been previously issued.

Please note it is the responsibility of the student's family to obtain the at-home rapid-test.

DHEC has issued new requirements that impact whether or not individuals must quarantine after an exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. BCSD is required by law to follow all DHEC requirements and has incorporated these new requirements in our COVID-19 processes and protocols.

To avoid quarantine after being exposed to someone who is positive for COVID-19:

- Individuals 5-17 years old must be fully vaccinated\*, but are not required to have a booster, even if more than five months have passed since their second vaccine dose
- Individuals 18 years and older must be maximally vaccinated\*\*, meaning they have completed the initial series and have had a booster shot IF ELIGIBLE\*\*\*
- -OR-
- Individuals must have documentation of a positive test for COVID-19 within the last 90 days

Individuals who are not in one of the three categories above must quarantine after a close contact exposure in accordance with DHEC requirements.

These updates do not change DHEC requirements regarding isolation for anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention to these latest updates/changes from DHEC.

## REMINDERS

We are in need of some assistance from our parents concerning items that students are bringing to school.

This week we had several incidences involving students using their smart watches to make phone calls during the school day. We understand that some students need to bring communication devices to school to have access to their parents when they arrive home in the afternoon. If your child needs to bring this device to school to ensure their safety when arriving home from school, please remind them that it needs to be in their bookbag in the off position during the school day.



Many of our students require the use of fidgets throughout the day, unfortunately many fidgets are being brought to school and used as toys rather than as a tool to assist with focus. We have also had several instances where students are trading these fidgets amongst their peers. Students who are approved to use fidgets throughout the school day based on their 504/IEP accommodations should keep them in their personal possession.



We appreciate you assisting us with these reminders.