

Stinger Parents – All students (PreK-12) will have brief wellness screenings in the form of a survey. The screenings will identify your child’s social, emotional, and behavioral strengths and areas in need of improvement. All MCSD schools, including St. Mary’s Magnet Academy, will utilize the Behavioral and Emotional Screening System (BESS). The BESS is a brief wellness screener that includes:

1. Student Report - completed by students in grades 4-12
2. Teacher Report – completed by teachers of students in grades PK-3 (optional for grades 4-12)
3. Parent Report – completed by parents of students in any grade level

Please note, the BESS will not be used to determine the presence of mental health conditions or eligibility for special education programs. Results of the BESS will assist schools with identifying how to best meet the needs of all students. We recognize that parents are most knowledgeable about their child’s overall wellbeing. Therefore, parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the screening process, especially given the unexpected challenges caused by the current pandemic. As parent or guardian, you may be contacted about a variety of school and/or community supports available to assist your child.

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be contacted about a variety of school and/or community supports available to assist your child. Teachers will begin the BESS on Monday, September 21st. If you would like to opt-out your child from the completion of the BESS, please print out the letter, and return the signed letter to the school in person, e-mail to your child's teacher, or e-mail to Mrs. Hunt-Hollis, Guidance Counselor (Hunt-hollis.dineishal@muscogee.k12.ga.us).