



BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE October 16, 2023



HIGHLIGHTS



Take A Run Lab This week in 7th grade Science classes, students participated in the Take a Run Lab. 7 students in each class volunteered to run 30 meters outside in the school parking lot. The other students then used stopwatches to time the runners at 10 meters, 20 meters, and 30 meters. They then used that data to make a class graph and to calculate the speed of the runners!

Rolling into STEM!!!! This past week in stem class, Ms. Goetzman's students made roller coasters using craft sticks, construction paper, paper plates, no cards, and a cup to catch the ball. Below are some samples of their masterpieces. Maybe someday soon you'll see one of these coasters at Kennywood!



BMS Musical After weeks of guessing and Tik Tok videos, the BMS musical has finally been selected. This year's show will be Mary Poppins Jr. The show runs May 5, 9, 10, 11, 2024. Auditions will be in February. Check out the website for more information! www.hmsmusical.weebly.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Halloween Dance
October 27th**

Halloween Dance: The Halloween Dance will be held Friday, October 27th in the BHS Small Gym from 7:00-9:00pm. This dance is for currently enrolled 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. **Students are encouraged to wear costumes, but please remember to follow the dress code and no masks or weapons.**

Tickets can be purchased the week of October 23-27.

BMS: Before school outside of room 305 and during lunches

HMS: During lunch

Ticket cost is \$8 which includes the D.J and dancing as well as face painting and tattoos. Students will be able to purchase Kona Ice, pizza, snacks, and drinks.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. YOUNGER SIBLINGS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND.

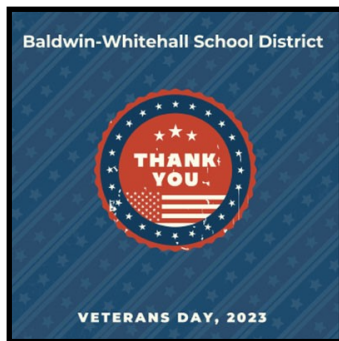


UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Grade History Trip

8th Grade Families - we are excited to announce that our 2024 8th Grade History Trip has been approved for May 22-May 25! We will be traveling to Colonial Williamsburg. There are a wide variety of activities planned! Please click the link below to download and review the attached document for additional information. An informational meeting will be held on November 2, 2024, via Google Meet.

[Click for 2024 8th Grade History Trip Informational Flier](#)



Veteran's Day Celebration and T-shirts

On Friday, November 10th, BMS will celebrate Veteran's Day with an assembly to honor those who have served our country. There will be a school-wide assembly at 8:30 that morning. Any students or staff who would like to purchase a t-shirt for the event, please click on the link to download and complete the form. Please return the completed forms and payment to Mrs. Hawk in the choir room no later than Friday, October 20th.

[Click to download the T-Shirt Order Form](#)

Red Ribbon Week Door Decorating Contest

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness campaign that is celebrated during the week of October 24th-31st. Red Ribbon Week is dedicated to Federal Drug Enforcement agent Enrique Camarena, who was killed by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985. In response to his death, angered parents across the country began wearing Red Ribbons to symbolize their commitment to the creation of a drug-free America. In October of 1988, Congress officially proclaimed the first Red Ribbon Week. The Ribbon has now become a symbol for the drug-free movement.



Our annual fall door decorating contest is upon us. Student Council is challenging all 1st-period classes in the 6th, 7th & 8th grade to design their classrooms door to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. The theme of the door must include Halloween/Fall with a message spreading awareness against Tobacco and Drug use! The winning door will receive a sweet treat!



2023 Annual Autumn Bowl: Please plan to attend our Annual Autumn Bowl Powder Puff Football Game on Monday, November 6th at 5:30 pm to cheer on our 7th and 8th-grade girls as they battle for this year's title. In addition to the Flag-Football game between the 7th and 8th-grade girls, there will be food and carnival games. We plan to fill the stands with students and their family members. We want each grade to represent their class spirit by wearing their designating class color.

6th - The Class of 2030 - Gray and purple

7th - The Class of 2029 - White and purple

8th - The Class of 2028 - Purple and white

Shirts are available for purchase by completing the form below and returning it by 10/16/2023.

[Click to Download the Order Form](#)

HMS - turn into the homeroom teachers BMS - turn into Mrs. Fisher in room 305

Mrs. Fisher mfisher@bwschools.net or Mrs. Carlson Kluczkowski ycarlson@bwschools.net




UPCOMING EVENTS



6th Grade Bingo: The 6th grade teachers are excited to announce our upcoming annual Bingo for all 6th grade students. The Bingo will be during school on Thursday, October 26th. It will be a fun time for all and a chance to win prizes! We are looking for donations for individually wrapped and portioned peanut-free snacks. If you would like to donate, please complete the following google form below and send the snacks in no later than Tuesday, October 24th to your first period teacher. **All Donated Snacks must be Peanut Free.**

[Click to Complete Donation Form](#)



The Highlander Way

	Accountable	Respectful/ Motivated	Empowering / Safe
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take ownership for behavior Bring your materials and participate everyday Try your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain quiet during announcements and when the teacher is speaking Cooperate with others Use kind words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all assigned work with your best effort Follow adult directions the first time Accept your mistakes and try again Encourage others and celebrate their successes
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands, feet and objects to yourself Walk on the right side of the hallway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep locker organized Kind words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On time - in the classroom when the bell rings Hands, feet, objects to self Be an upstander
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in your assigned area and raise hand when necessary Hands, feet, and objects to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind words Move through the lunch line efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your area clean Follow adult directions the first time Be an upstander
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands, feet, and objects to yourself Sit in assigned seat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kind words Walk on and off bus Follow directives of bus driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay seated for entire ride with your back against the seat Follow adult directions the first time Be an upstander
Bathroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands, feet, and objects to yourself Throw away garbage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go, flush, wash, throw away, leave Kind words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to class promptly Be an upstander

The Highlander Way
 As part of our Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) Program, all 6th graders have the opportunity to earn tickets by demonstrating the Highlander Way as Accountable, Respectful, Motivated, Empowered, and Safe.
 There are various incentives for students to earn and our first Grade-wide activity is bingo!

Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser: The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise individual funds that can be applied to the 8th grade events (History Trip, Camp Soles, Dance). We are offering to our 6th and 7th grade students this year so they can start saving individual funds for their 8th grade year. Anyone who participates in the individual fundraisers will receive a balance total at the end of each school year. Funds can only be applied to the 8th grade events, they cannot be refunded or transferred to another student.

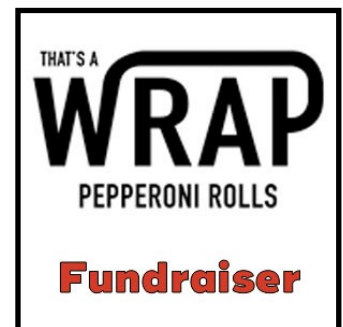
All forms and funds must be turned in at BMS BY 10/17 to Mrs. Fisher in room 305 and HMS BY 10/17 to the homeroom teacher.

Please include the sellers name and contact phone number on the form. Students earn \$6.50 for each pack sold. All checks must be made out to Harrison Middle School.

Pick up is 10/26 from 4:00-6:00pm in the BHS South Parking Lot, the pool entrance. All orders must be picked up by 6:00pm. We are unable store to orders over night.

This is not required, just an option since the cost of everything continues to rise. We want to make the events accessible to all interested students.

- [Click to download 6th Grade Pepperoni Fundraising Form](#)
- [Click to download 7th Grade Pepperoni Fundraising Form](#)
- [Click to download 8th Grade Pepperoni Fundraising Form](#)





ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

End of a Successful Cross Country Season

Another successful BMS Cross Country season with a great group of athletes. From the first stride to the final finish line, this cross country team has exemplified the true spirit of grit and resilience. The girls team ended the season with a 8-1 record and the boys with a 4-5 record. Athletes competed in races throughout the week with local school districts but many athletes also opted in to spend many Saturdays throughout the season at Invitationals. Invitationals take place throughout the area where up to 20 other middle school teams come together to compete.

This season the girls cross country team won the annual Harrison Invitational at Mingo Park with Cheyanne Trout leading the race with a final time of 12:47. Michael Grattan finished in first place in the 8th grade boys race with a time of 12:19. And in the 7th grade race, Zachary Smerbeck finished first place with a final time of 12:34.

It was a great 2023 CC season over all with a great group of students who worked hard through a sport that requires a lot of physical and mental strength. We look forward to the spring for another successful season in track and field!



ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

10/16/23 -Athletic Schedule: (Dates and Times are subject to change)

Monday – 10/16/23:

- Girls Volleyball - 4:00 PM vs. Independence Middle School @ Independence Middle School

Tuesday - 10/17/23:

Wednesday - 10/18/23

- 8th Grade Football - 4:00 PM vs. West Mifflin Area High School @ Baldwin HS Stadium
- Girls Volleyball - 3:30 PM vs. Mellon Middle School @ Baldwin HS Gym 2

Thursday - 10/19/23:

- 7th Grade Football - 3:30 PM vs. Canonsburg MS @ Baldwin HS Stadium

Friday - 10/20/23:

Saturday - 10/21/23:



UPCOMING EVENTS

★ **BALDWIN MS BOYS BASKETBALL** ★

BASKETBALL



**PLEASE BRING A
BALL AND WATER!**

OPEN GYM AND TRYOUTS

**OPEN GYMS:
BHS SMALL GYM
6-8 PM
EVERY TUESDAY AND
THURSDAY STARTING
OCTOBER 3RD**

**TRYOUTS:
MONDAY OCT. 23RD AND
TUESDAY OCT. 24TH
3:00-5:00 PM**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A CURRENT
PHYSICAL DATED AFTER JUNE 1ST IN ORDER
TO PARTICIPATE IN TRYOUTS!!**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT COACH BARBANO
ROOM 315  ABARBANO@BWSCHOOLS.NET**





Meet the BMS Counselors

School Counseling Department Update



Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians, The Baldwin-Whitehall Middle School Counseling Department wants to welcome our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students back to school! We look forward to assisting our students and families during the upcoming school year.

As our school community is aware, the 6th grade is located at Harrison Educational Center, and the 7th and 8th grades are at Baldwin High School. Our counseling department is a dedicated group of educators who collectively work as a cohesive team that has seamlessly established a rotation schedule between the two buildings to ensure that the students, families, and facility needs and concerns are being addressed and met.

Each counselor can be reached via phone; however, due to splitting our time between buildings, we request that parents and guardians communicate through email. Email guarantees that each counselor is aware of any concerns or issues and can address the situation within the appropriate setting in a timely and efficient manner.

Ms. Rachel Johnson, School Counselor A - L - rjohnson@bwschools.net

Ms. Jessica Thomas, School Counselor M - Z - jthomas@bwschools.net

Ms. Jean Williams, School Social Worker A - Z - jwilliams@bwschools.net



CURRICULAR UPDATES

Middle School ELA Curricular Updates



Baldwin Middle School is excited to announce that our 6th, 7th & 8th Grade ELA teachers will begin to use the Amplify ELA program, which will provide our students with exceptional learning opportunities throughout the school year in their ELA classroom. Starting at the end of the 22-23 school year, the ELA, Special Education & ESL teachers began participating in professional development sessions with

representatives from Amplify and networking with educators from neighboring districts to prepare for this coming school year. The Amplify Program is developed and based on research that is aligned with the science of reading.

What is Amplify ELA?

Amplify ELA helps students in grades 6–8 read and understand complex texts that encourage them to grapple with interesting ideas and find relevance for themselves. Amplify ELA is a blended program that includes both digital and print materials, as well as a print-only version. Students using Amplify ELA read text passages closely, interpret what they find, discuss their thinking with peers, and develop their ideas in writing. The lesson structure is easy to follow, but flexible enough to allow for a variety of learning experiences and varied enough to keep students engaged.

Throughout the school year, we will provide highlights, updates, and additional information in the weekly updates concerning Amplify. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's ELA teacher if they have questions or need additional support to help their child.



REMINDERS

Food Service Department Update

Menus are posted each month on the [Food Services page](#) of the website. Please stay connected with us on Twitter @BWFOODSERVICE for updates to menus. Food Services will provide a variety of meal services to meet the needs of BWSD enrolled students. Expanded vegetarian options will be available at all schools to meet the growing trends of our district students.

Menu Special Features:

- Vegetarian Meals Available Daily
- Taste It Tuesday Program (BHS/BMS -New recipes, Global recipes, new items coming)
- A la carte options for 6th grade at HEC (Middle School Students a la Carte Selections)

Breakfast—FREE!

- **Every student is eligible to receive a free breakfast.** Students can get a Grab & Go Breakfast as they enter the building each morning and eat the breakfast in their classroom.
- New this year for the 6th Grade/BMS program is the inclusion of a mid-morning snack item of a cereal/nutritional bar



Versatrans MyStop App

Highlander Families! Don't forget that you can download the Versatrans MyStop app to estimate the arrival of your child's bus. Visit the Apple Store or Google Play Store to download the app and then use your child's student ID number as the user name and your child's date of birth as the password.

BWSD Nurse Canvas Page

The Nurse Canvas course page has been enabled for open enrollment. Here you can find information regarding health exam requirements, immunization requirements, medications at school, Covid-19 information, school nurse contact information, and other resources.



6th Grade Information

6th Grade Office - Direct
Phone Number: 412-885-7530

When calling, please let the secretary
know your child's Grade and Name

Arrival: **We open our doors at 8:55am for children.** All car riders need to enter in the main entrance (Entrance # 12) and buses enter through the gym lobby entrance.

Breakfast: Breakfast is free this year and kids are encouraged to take a breakfast from the Grab and Go cart before they head to class. Please make remind your child to make sure they know their lunch numbers.

Water bottles: Non-glass water bottles are permitted for students to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Tardies: Students are considered tardy at 9:15am. Please bring your child to the front door (entrance #12) and our office staff will let them in, provide a pass, and send them to class.





6th Grade Information

Early Dismissals: When notifying the school of an early dismissal for your child, please complete one of the following: Provide a note and call the 6th Grade office at 412-885-7530 email hecoffice@bwschools.net. Students with an early dismissal must check-out with a Middle School Secretary in the 6th Grade Office. After checking out, they will wait for their parent or guardian in the 6th grade office. 6th Grade Parents/Guardians must enter the Main Entrance (Entrance 12) , check-in with the secretary and present a valid ID when picking up a student for an early dismissal. Anyone picking up a student for an early dismissal must be listed in Skyward as a Family member or as an emergency contact.

As a reminder to parents/guardians, if your child is feeling ill, he/she should notify the teacher and request a pass to visit the nurse. Additionally, students may request to use the phone in the 6th Grade Office to call a parent / guardian. While in the building, students are to not use their cell phone during school hours.

PikMyKid: Please continue to communicate with your child's 8th period teacher and the hecoffice@bwschools.net email to update dismissal schedules. It is required in writing any update or changes to a dismissal plan to ensure the safety of all students. Please send an email to hecoffice@bwschools.net and your child's 8th period teacher for any dismissal updates or changes by 2:45 PM. After communicating with the 8th period teacher and hecoffice@bwschools.net , please update the dismissal schedule in PikMyKid. All walkers will be checked out through PikMyKid when exiting the school.

Vacation Requests: When requesting excused vacation days, please fill-out the vacation request form. Once filled-out, please forward it to the 6th Grade Secretaries - hecoffice@bwschools.net, at least two weeks prior to vacation departure. Once approved, you will be notified by the 6th Grade secretaries.

Forgotten Items: No matter how hard we try, 6th grade students often forget their lunches, Chromebooks, and/or other items. We ask parents/guardian to call the 6th Grade Office at 412-885-7530 to notify our secretaries when they are able to drop off the forgotten items. Our secretaries will then notify your child that they should report to the office to pick up the item that was dropped off.

Lost and Found

Please ask your child to check the "Lost and Found," in the 6th Grade Office for missing items. We have a number of jackets, hoodies, water bottles and jewelry.

Champions Program: For any families who are interested in the Champions After School Program, please see the contact below: Gus: 412-580-2322 gus.goedel@discoverychampions.com



7th & 8th Grade Information

Baldwin Middle School Direct Phone Number: 412-885-7505

Early Dismissals

When notifying the school of an early dismissal for your child, please complete one of the following:

- **Provide a note and call the BMS main office at 412-885-7505
- OR **Send an email to bms-attendance@bwschools.net

Students with an early dismissal, they are reminded that they must check-out with a Middle School Secretary in the BMS Office on the third floor. After checking out, they will go to the Security Office and meet parent or guardian. Middle School Parents/Guardians must enter the Main Entrance (Door 1 - Front of the Building), check-in with the security guard and present a valid ID when picking up a student for an early dismissal. Anyone picking up a student for an early dismissal must be listed in Skyward as a Family member or as an emergency contact.



7th & 8th Grade Information

As a reminder to parents/guardians, if your child is feeling ill, he/she should notify the teacher and request a pass to visit the nurse. Additionally, students may request to use the phone in the 6th Grade Office to call a parent / guardian. While in the building, students are to not use their cell phone during school hours.

Vacation Requests: When requesting excused vacation days, please fill-out the vacation request form <https://www.bwschools.net/hec/parents/forms> Once filled-out, please forward it to the 7th & 8th Grade Secretaries at bms-attendance@bwschools.net, at least two weeks prior to vacation departure. Once approved, the middle school secretaries will notify the parent/guardian.

Forgotten Items

No matter how hard we try, 7th & 8th grade students often forget their lunches, Chromebooks, and/or other items. We ask parents/guardian to call the Middle School Office at 412-885-7505 to notify our secretaries when they are able to drop off the forgotten items. Our secretaries will then notify your child that they should report to the security office to pick up the item that was dropped off. All items are to be dropped off at the security office at Entrance #1.

Lost and Found

Please ask your child to check the "Lost and Found," in the BMS Office (7th & 8th Grade) , on the third floor, for missing items. We have a number of jackets, hoodies, water bottles and jewelry.



TECH CORNER



6th Grade Tech Corner

For 6th grade students, the Tech Office is located at the far end of the hall beyond the cafeteria, Room 118. Mr. Bonidie, the HMS/HEC computer tech, is there to help students with their technology issues. If your child is having a problem with their Chromebook, place a Student Help Desk ticket by clicking "Help" on the left side of Canvas, or stop by the Tech Office as soon as possible. Please remember, do **NOT** attempt to fix your child's Chromebook. If you have any questions, please contact

Mr. Bonidie (gbonidie@bwschools.net). [Please click to access the District Technology webpage.](#)

7th & 8th Grade Tech Corner

For 7th & 8th grade students, the Tech Office is located on the 3rd floor of the school building. Mr. Bonidie and Ms. Firek, BHS/BMS computer techs, are there to help students with their technology issues. If your child is having a problem with their Chromebook, place a Student Help Desk ticket by clicking "Help" on the left side of Canvas, or stop by the Tech Office on the 3rd floor as soon as possible. Please remember, do **NOT** attempt to fix your child's Chromebook. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bonidie

(jbonidie@bwschools.net) or Ms. Firek (rfirek@bwschools.net).

[Please click to access the District Technology webpage.](#)

Student Tech Tips:

- Remember when your Chromebook is in your backpack, do not throw your bag in your locker or on the floor. To prevent a cracked screen, be sure there is nothing between your screen and keyboard when you close it.
- Eating and drinking while using your Chromebook is not a good idea. Even water bottles in your backpack may leak onto your device. If liquid does get on your Chromebook, do not power it on. Keep the lid closed and bring it to the Tech Office as soon as possible.



TECH CORNER

Student Tech Tips (continued):

- The Tech Office does not lend out Chromebook chargers. If you lose yours, they are \$29.95 to purchase from the Tech Office. Insurance **does not** cover lost chargers (or lost Chromebooks). Please do not purchase an off-brand charger. Those chargers will not be accepted when you turn in your device.
- If a student lost their device. They can stop by the Tech Office for a replacement device. A damage report will be written for the cost of the lost device which can range from \$290.00 - \$353.47.
- If a student needs to borrow a device or charger for the day. There is a chromebook cart located in the 6th grade office. Where a device or charger can be signed out and collected at the end of the day, or when the student is done using it. The number of devices and chargers are limited. If a student is repeatedly borrowing a device they will be asked to see the Tech Office.
- If you are moving from the District, please leave your Chromebook AND charger with a staff member. Do not take it with you. It belongs to BWSD. Remember, you are borrowing the device while you are here.
- Remember to keep your password private. Anything done on your chromebook is your responsibility.



PARENT RESOURCES



Internet and social media are here to stay. Good can come from this kind

of connectedness online, but the flipside is filled with false information, risky behavior, cyberbullying, sexualized and concerning content. Shape the Sky is dedicated to spreading awareness to help parents and professionals create safe and responsible children online. [Click to Access Shape the Sky Website](#)



The Common Sense Media website provides lessons, suggestions and

resources for parents to help their children navigate the challenges of the evolving technology and media that is impacting their children's' world. Parents are encouraged to visit the Common Sense Media website to explore additional resources designed for parents.

[Click to access the Common Sense Media Website](#)



Baldwin Middle School

Habits of Success



> Grades 6–12 Family Tips



Help Kids Balance Their Media Lives

From phones and tablets to streaming movies and YouTube, tech and media are everywhere. Kids love easy access to TV shows, games, and information. Parents and caregivers love that kids can stay in contact while they explore their independence. But it's easy to overdo it when the phone never stops pinging and the next episode plays automatically. Families can keep media and tech use in check by following a few simple practices.

Check out these 5 tips 

1

Create screen-free times and zones.

Help tweens and teens take breaks from tech by limiting screen time in bedrooms, during study time, or at the dinner table. Consider carving out regular family time when screens are either put away or enjoyed together.

2

Explore built-in digital well-being tools.

Together with your kids, check out the features on their devices and in their apps that can help them use tech more intentionally. Consider turning off autoplay functions, limiting notifications from certain apps, using settings that turn off devices at a certain time each night, and more.

3

Model the behavior you want to see.

Tweens and teens learn more from watching adult behavior than listening to lectures. Consider how you use your devices and other media, and make changes if your use doesn't follow your expectations for your kids.

4

Help kids identify healthy behaviors.

Ask kids to notice their feelings, both physical and emotional, during screen and non-screen activities. Does their heart rate increase when their phone vibrates? Does their self-esteem dip after viewing a friend's Instagram feed? Do they feel good when they get positive feedback on a post? Encourage kids to keep the constructive activities and let go of the rest.

5

Understand how tech companies make money.

Along with your tween and teen, research how digital devices, social media platforms, and apps and games get paid. Do they sell ads? Do they sell kids' data? Discuss why companies might want kids to spend more time on their platforms and what tricks they use to keep their attention.



MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING

We find balance
in our digital lives.

commonsense.org/education
GRADES 6–12 FAMILY TIPS: MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING
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