



# BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## WEEKLY UPDATE October 30, 2023



### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### Mark Your Calendars - Parent Teacher Conferences Tuesday, November 7th

This year's Kindergarten-8th Grade Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be conducted on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023 (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)**. The conferences will be offered both in-person and virtually this year. You will utilize your Skyward account and schedule your conference online. For your reference, directions for accessing and using this tool are attached to this message.

6-8 Families: Must schedule a conference with only 1 of your child's teachers

Once the conference scheduling window is closed, teachers will notify you to determine whether you would prefer an in-person or virtual conference. For virtual conferences only, the teacher will send an invite/link through email for parents/guardians to access the conference via Google Meets during the scheduled time.

The online scheduling window will be open from **Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. through Wednesday, November 1, 2023 until 4:00 p.m.** If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact your child's teacher. [Conference Scheduling Instructions for Families](#)



#### 7th & 8th Grade Picture Make-Up Picture Day November 1st - 10:00 AM—1:00 PM

An announcement will be made for students who need a retake or make-up to report to the Auditorium Lobby.

#### Annual Autumn Bowl Powder Puff Football Game Monday, November 6th—5:30—7:00 PM

Get ready for the Annual Autumn Bowl which will be held Monday, November 6th with concessions and carnival games opening at 5:30 pm and the girls powderpuff game beginning at 6:00 pm. Come and cheer on the girls as they battle for the win. Show support for your grade and wear the following colors: 8th Grade - Purple, 7th Grade- White, 6th Grade - Grey. Students can purchase class color accessories during lunch on Friday and Monday to wear to the game. Eat your dinner at the Concession Stand which will be open from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. We will have pizza, pretzels, nachos, and buffalo chicken dip, as well as candy, chips, and drinks. Prepare to win awesome prizes by playing the student created games!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Halloween Celebrations:** Halloween is just around the corner, and we are excited to announce Halloween Dress-Up-Day on Tuesday, October 31st!



**6th Grade:** 6th Grade students voted on a costume theme, and the winner is Tourists. 6th grade students may choose to dress up like a Tourist along with the 6th grade teachers. Students may also choose to dress in a costume of their choice as well.

**7th & 8th Grade:** On Monday, October 30th, 7th & 8th Grade students are encouraged to dress in Halloween apparel (t-shirts, sweatshirts, jewelry, etc.) or wear the colors orange and black. On Tuesday, October 31st, may also choose to dress in a costume of their choice as well.

**Costumes need to be comfortable to wear all day, school appropriate, and NO Masks or Weapons.**

We are excited to see everyone's costumes that day!



### Cookie Dough Pick-Up Date

**November 14th - 3:00 PM—5:00 PM**

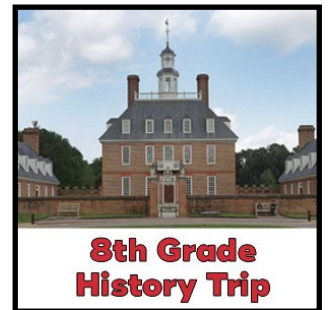
Cookie Dough pickup is Tuesday, November 14th from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Central Parking Lot - North Cafeteria Entrance

**All orders must be picked up by 5:00 pm. We are unable to store any orders over night.**

### 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](#)



**8th Grade History Trip**

### 7th & 8th Grade Student Council Morning Meeting

Attention 7th & 8th grade STUCO members. On Thursday, November there is a Student Council Meeting at 7:00 am in the library!



## HIGHLIGHTS

On Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math teachers led a professional development session for the rest of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade faculty. During the session, they highlighted aspects of the math curriculum while then having the teachers rotate through a series of stations that showcased some of the math activities that they utilize to actively engage their students on a regular basis. Each month, a different department will present to the faculty, showcasing the instructional strategies they employ to actively engage our students in the learning process.





# HIGHLIGHTS



**8th Grade LEAD Assembly:** On Monday, October 23rd, 8th Grade students attended an exciting and informative assembly called "LEAD". The program discussed social media, alcohol, drugs and inspired change by showing students how to achieve their goals. This program was conducted by Allegheny County District Judge Ron Arnoni and National Youth Speaker Brad Killmeyer in cooperation with several local businesses.



We encourage you to take the time to visit <https://www.ourleadfamily.com/the-lead-manual> if you have not already for more information and to download the "LEAD Manual." This manual is an excellent resource and is available to you at no cost. It highlights the current critical challenges that students face and provides excellent recommendations to engage your student in

meaningful conversations. It is a good idea to review the material provided by the "LEAD" Program and use this as an opportunity to discuss these important topics further with your student. Thank you for all your help and support as we work together to inspire students to be the best they can be.

**6th Grade Bingo:** B-I-N-G-O!!! Last Thursday, the 6th grade students and staff had a blast at our 6th grade annual bingo. Thank you to all the families for your generous snack donations. The snacks were a hit with the students, and your support is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank our guest bingo caller, Officer Robbie Smith. The students and staff enjoyed having you at our special event!





# HIGHLIGHTS

**Harrison's Learning Garden:** In an effort to foster hands-on learning and environmental awareness, the sixth grade co-taught ELA classes have taken initiative to establish the learning garden at Harrison Education Center. We collaborated with the nonprofit organization, [Grow Pittsburgh](#), to create a space for exploration and



discovery. Students prepared the garden and then planted rows of garlic, carrots, and flowers.



These sixth grade students will then monitor the progress as they learn about the intricate process of the cultivation of plants. This hands-on experience will not only provided an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the natural world but will also instill a sense of responsibility as they actively tend to the needs of the growing plants.

**BMS Top Mile Runners :** This fall BMS Physical Education students ran the mile to get a baseline for running the mile again in the spring. Please click on the link to see the top male and female runners in 6th, 7th and 8th grade.

## **Top Boys - 2023 Fall Mile Run**

### **Grade 6**

Dominic Germinaro	Trystan Dumm	Carson Schibner	John Varney	Devin Dingman
Grady Fiorill	Wesley Deibler	Brenton Neal	Tyler Bowlus	Dylan Yeckley
Samuel Reichl	Alex Mainarich	Joseph Ursida	Austin Zeppuhar	James Mainarich
Jacob Iwanuik	Lachlan Buick	Lucas Sibbet	Rishabh Mishra	Ethan Faingnaert
Moses Polley	Parker Seddon	Michael Komar		

### **Grade 7**

Gavin King	Julian Cornell	Sawer Hodson	Jacob Davidson	Lucas Miller
Shamil Islama	Alex Staut	Jackson Voelker	Akhmed Yusupa	Aruv Chhetri

### **Grade 8**

Michael Grattan	Timothy Bush	Joe Renzi	Jackson David	Areehan Subedi
Owen Champion	Christian Jones	Aaron Subba	Austin Klien	Bradon Esek

## **Top Girls - 2023 Fall Mile Run**

### **Grade 6**

Amaya Kirk	Gabriella Jackson	McKenna Duzyk	Olivia Collura	Adalyn Grand
Rachel Johnson	Elif Islamov	Chloe Caldwell	Gabrielle Suley	Addison Armbruster
Aubrey Aul	Lorelei Gutendorf	Raegen Spratt		

### **Grade 7**

Erin Stanko	Emma Radcliffe	Parker Connell	Brynn McCalla	Yar Garang
Samatha Miles	Iris Matson	Gianna Elgass	Abby Prilla	Genevieve Geary

### **Grade 8**

Keely Duzyk	Alana Ipolito	Aubrey Fleming	Rose Duff	Brooke Cichon
Ava Benestelli	Melanie Wolf	Kadence Holby	Laila Hockenberry	Lily Baumgardner



## UPCOMING EVENTS



# Winter Wear NEEDED

**Help Us Warm Up Winter...  
Donate Today!**

Winter is approaching and our Pop-Up Shop needs your support to provide warmth and comfort to those in need. We're collecting coats, boots, scarves, and hats of all sizes.

**Your donations, big or small,  
can make a huge difference:**

-  **Coats**
-  **Boots**
-  **Scarves**
-  **Hats**



**Join us in making this winter season warmer  
for our community.  
Your kindness shines even in the chill!**

**Donations accepted in each building:  
October 30-November 10**



## CURRICULAR UPDATES

**Middle School ELA Curricular Updates:** Baldwin Middle School is excited to announce that our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## PARENT INFORMATION



**6th Grade Take Home Folder:** All 6th grade students have been given a blue take home folder from their homeroom teacher. This folder is to be used as an organizational tool for assignments and important updates from the school. Along with the folder, students have also been encouraged to write their daily assignments and upcoming tests for each class on their agenda sheet. Please encourage your child to be using their take home folder and writing on their agenda sheet to form good habits of staying organized.



## Meet the BMS Counselors



**School Counseling Department Update:** 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 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/issues and can address the situation within the appropriate setting in a timely/efficient manner.

Ms. Rachel Johnson, School Counselor A - L - [rjohnson@bwschools.net](mailto:rjohnson@bwschools.net)

Ms. Jessica Thomas, School Counselor M - Z - [jthomas@bwschools.net](mailto:jthomas@bwschools.net)

Ms. Jean Williams, School Social Worker A - Z - [jwilliams@bwschools.net](mailto:jwilliams@bwschools.net)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jbonidie@bwschools.net)) or Ms. Firek ([rfirek@bwschools.net](mailto: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 BWS. 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](#)



## ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

### **10/30/23 -Athletic Schedule:**

(All games are subject to change. Please visit [baldwin.bigteams.com](http://baldwin.bigteams.com) for the most up to date schedules and information.)

**Monday – 10/30/23:**

**Tuesday - 10/31/23:**

**Wednesday - 11/1/23**

- MS Boys Basketball- 3:45 PM vs Clairton MS (BHS Small Gym)

**Thursday - 11/2/23:**

**Friday - 11/3/23:**

- MS Ice Hockey- 7:00 PM vs Bishop Canevin @ Ice Castle

**Saturday - 11/4/23:**