



# BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

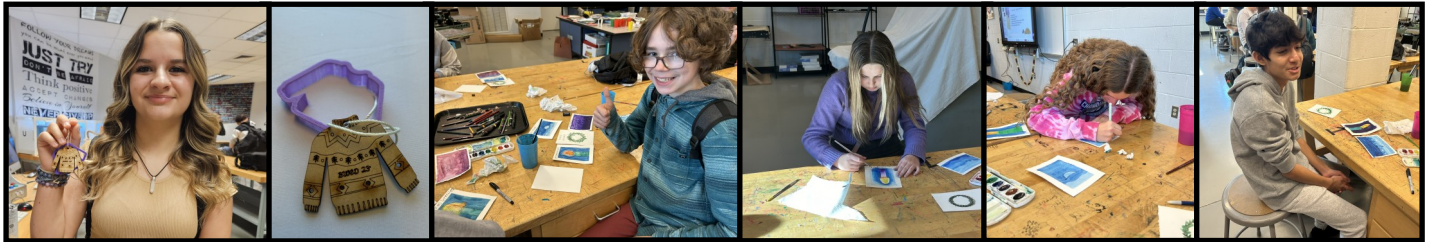
## WEEKLY UPDATE December 18, 2023



### HIGHLIGHTS



**Holiday Cookie Extravaganza:** On Friday December 15th, the Baldwin-Whitehall School District hosted it's annual Holiday Cookie Extravaganza for local Senior Citizens. Over 275 senior citizens visited Baldwin High School to enjoy student musical performances, pick-up a some holiday cookies, along with a holiday ornament and hand painted cards.

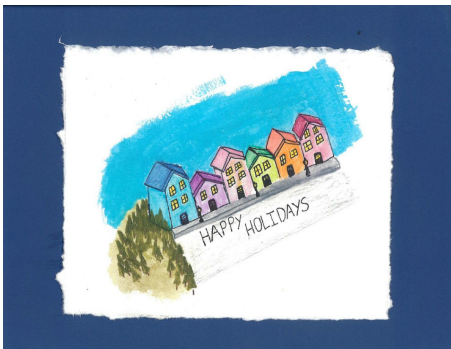


Each year, 8th grade has the opportunity to create ornaments for the cookie exchange. This year, Paige Giglione created a very magical ornament. She designed not only an ornament but a cookie cutter to go with the ornament. Also, this year 8th grade art students participated in the tradition by producing an amazing number of hand painted water color holiday cards to share with the senior citizens.



The Baldwin-Whitehall School District would like to thank many contributors for their generosity and for providing a festive event. This meaningful holiday tradition was created to give the district the opportunity to establish connections with the senior adults within our communities and share our appreciation for their important roles in the vitality of our schools.

### BWSD Holiday Card Design Contest



As has become the tradition, the festive holiday cards sent out by the Baldwin-Whitehall School District feature artwork from the students. Eighth Grader, Alayna Lavelle, and 6th Grader, Reema Daghlas, from Baldwin Middle School designed the winning cards. Thank you to our students for sharing their talent with us!

Reema Daghlas  
Grade 6

Alayna Lavelle  
Grade 8





## HIGHLIGHTS

**BMS Choir Celebrates the Season:** The Baldwin Middle School Choir has had a very busy December. Starting off with The Gifts of Dance performance at Baldwin High School which benefitted Children's Hospital Free Care Fund, then our trip the Allegheny County Courthouse with the orchestra and high school jazz band, our Winter Concert followed by a performance at South Hills Square and finally a trip to McAnulty to perform for the students there.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 6th Grade Holiday Celebration:

Tis the season...On Friday, December 22nd, the 6th grade will be participating in various Christmas activities, watching the Baldwinaires perform a holiday concert, and enjoying a Christmas movie at the end of the day. We are looking forward to a festive day with our students.



## Middle School Yearbook Sale

Attention 6th, 7th & 8th Grade!

Yearbook on SALE

Book Price \$25

Purchase ONLINE ONLY at

[www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com)

School Name: Baldwin Middle School



### Talent Show Tryouts:

The Talent Show is scheduled for January 25, 2024, in the Baldwin High School Auditorium. Students interested in participating will need to attend an audition, which will be rescheduled after the winter break. Interested students will need to complete the attached form and turn it to Mrs. Fisher in room 305 (7th & 8th Grade) and homeroom teachers (6th Grade). We encourage acts of all kinds! Our goal is to showcase the talents of our wonderful students!

[Click to Download More Information & Form](#)



## Holiday Concerts

Come get in the spirit with some holiday music this December!

Monday, December 18th	Winter BMS/BHS - Orchestra & Wind Ensemble Concert at BHS	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 19th	Winter BMS/BHS - Band Concert at BHS	6:30 p.m.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Holiday Theme Days

Student Council invites all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to get into the holiday spirit by dressing up before our winter break!

**Monday 12/18 - Spirit of the season - "Wear Red, White or Green"**

**Tuesday 12/19 - Jingle Bell Rock - "Rock your Ugly Sweater"**

**Wednesday 12/20 - Sitting around the Fireplace - "Wear your flannel and plaid"**

**Thursday 12/21 - Santa and His Helpers - "Dress up like Santa, his elves, reindeer or your favorite Christmas Character."**

**Friday 12/22 - Festive from head to toe - "Decorate yourself with your holiday accessories; socks, Santa hat, etc."**



## ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

### 12/18/23 -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 – 12/18/23:**

**Tuesday - 12/19/23:**

- MS Boys Basketball- 3:45 PM @ Mellon MS (Mt. Lebo)

**Wednesday - 12/20/23**

- Girls Basketball - Open Gym - 5:15-7:00 pm - main gym at BHS

**Thursday - 12/21/23:**

**Friday - 12/22/23:**

**Saturday - 12/23/23:**

- Girls Basketball - Open Gym - 5:00-7:00 pm - main gym at BHS

**Tuesday - 1/2/24:**

- Girls Basketball - Tryouts - 2:30-4:30 pm - small gym at BHS



## CURRICULAR UPDATES



**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 BWS D 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.



## 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)



## 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.

**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.**

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**

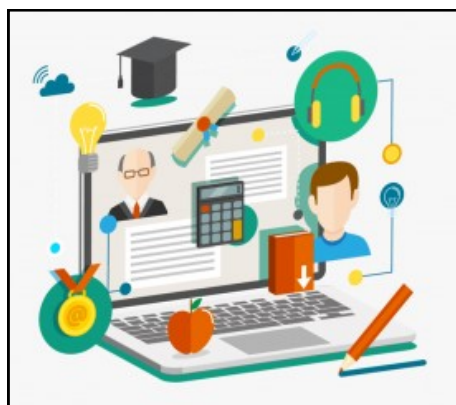
No matter how hard we try, 7th & 8th grade students often forget their lunches, Chromebooks, and/or other items. We ask parents/guardian to call the Middle School Office at 412-885-7505 to notify our secretaries when they are able to drop off the forgotten items. Our secretaries will then notify your 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.](#)**



## TECH CORNER

### 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 ([jbondie@bwschools.net](mailto:jbondie@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.
- 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](#)