



BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE February 26, 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS



Tonight - Monday, February 26th
Middle School Curriculum Night
6:30—8:30 PM BHS Auditorium / BHS 3rd Floor

During the 2023-24 Middle School Curriculum Night, Middle School Teachers, grades 6th through 8th grade, will present & showcase information from their Content Area Curriculums.

During the presentations, teachers will highlight key aspects of the curriculum, assessment, and student progress. The ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science departments will present during 2 sessions and then will be available to answer questions during the alternating sessions. World Language, Encore, and Physical Education will have tables set up in the hallway for parents/guardians to visit and see evidence of student learning.

[Click to Download the 23-24 Middle School Curriculum Night Program/Schedule \(pdf\)](#)



24-25 Scheduling Information

8th Grade Students Scheduling for 9th Grade

On February 27th and 28th, students will complete course requests during social studies with the help of their school counselors. Parents are asked to review the BMS Course Catalog with their child(ren) to help them decide which courses they would like to request. Also, to the best of your ability, please make sure your child is in school on February 27th and 28th to complete course requests for next year.

[Click to Access the 2024-2025 BHS Course Catalog.](#)

7th Grade Students Scheduling for 8th Grade

On February 26th, during the extended homeroom period, 7th Grade students will watch a short video prepared by the school counselors outlining their possible scheduling options for 8th grade. After watching the video, students will complete their requests for their electives (Band, Chorus, Orchestra/ Study Hall), Foreign Language, and Physical Education (Fusion Fitness, Strength Training, Team Sports or Regular Physical Education Class).

6th Grade Scheduling for 7th Grade

On March 5th, during physical education, band/chorus/orchestra or study hall, 6th Grade students will meet with Ms. Thomas, school counselor, to select and schedule their electives (Band, Chorus, Orchestra or Study Hall).

If you have any questions, reach out to the BMS school counseling department at 412-885-7500.

Middle School Counselors

Rachel Johnson
rjohnson@bwschools.net

Jessica Thomas
jthomas@bwschools.net



HIGHLIGHTS

B-I-N-G-O!!!

6th-grade students to enjoyed the Valentine's BINGO on during the afternoon of February 14th. The students listened intently as Mr. Voelker called the big numbers. Thank you to our 6th grade teachers for planning an outstanding afternoon of fun.



Sixth Grade Students Dig Deep to Learn About Land Resources: While learning about the importance of land as a natural resource, Mr. Paulos's and Mr. Bilbie's 6th grade science classes acted as mining engineers and simulated ore mining production using chocolate chip cookies. They focused on the cost-benefit analysis of the chocolate ore production throughout the simulation, which helped them understand the cost of production. As students “mined” with tools such as paperclips and toothpicks, they keep records of their costs—land (cookie),

equipment used, cookie size before and after production, and time spent. The object of the game was to develop the mine, safeguard the environment, and make as much money as possible. Students learned a simplified flow of an operating mine and the difficulty of reclamation, especially in returning the cookie to the exact size before



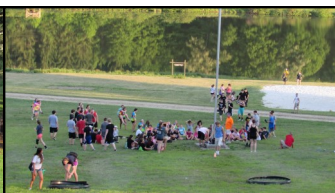
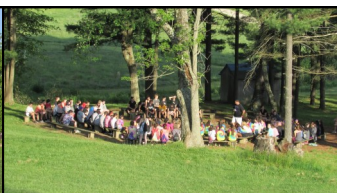
Carnegie Science Bowl: On Wednesday, February 21, twelve Baldwin Middle School students competed in the Science Bowl at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The students competed in teams of four against 29 other teams from schools all around our region, answering questions about American and African wildlife, rocks and minerals, and dinosaurs. In the end, a team of eighth graders made up of Lily Baumgardner, Keely Duzyk, Natalie Pascarella, and Cheyanne Trout placed third out of thirty-two middle school teams. This is the second time this year that this team has placed in an academic competition, as they placed second at the South Hills Literary Festival in December.



CAMP SOLES

Camp Soles Information: Cabin sign up sheets are due Friday, March 1, 2024 to Mr. Kealey. Also all other information about Camp Soles can be found in your child's math canvas page. Click on the link it will open to a page that has more links available to you. Payment information, permission slip, booklet, upcoming meeting for parents in April and the next student meeting in March.

Any questions please contact Mr. Kealey via email jkealey@bwschools.net





UPCOMING EVENTS



Women's Empowerment Day: Eighth-grade student and class LIGHT Education Initiative representative Lily Baumgardner has worked to organize an upcoming "Women's Empowerment Day" to be held in the LGI 1 room on Monday, March 18, 2024. The event, which is open to all female students from grades seven through twelve, will run from third to eighth periods. At this date, two lawyers, three doctors, a television news reporter, and a radio host have all agreed to come and speak to our students and answer questions about their experiences. This would give the young girls at our school a chance to research more deeply into careers which they may be interested in pursuing. Interested students should look for flyers in the high school hallways that include QR codes to assist them in signing up for the presentations.



Musical Rehearsal Schedule

- Monday, February 26 - Mary Poppins, Jane and Michael
- Wednesday, February 28 - All called
- Thursday, February 29 - George, Winifred, Jane and Michael

Theater Arts Workshop Reminder:

Students attending the theater arts workshop at the Byham Theater downtown on Wednesday should remember to pack a lunch.



Triangle Hoagie Fundraiser: All students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are provided the opportunity to sell Triangle Hoagies. The funds earned will be applied to the 8th grade activities. All orders must be turned into Mrs. Fisher in Room 305 no later than March 6th. [Click to Download Form](#)

Checks made payable to Harrison Middle School. Order forms and payments are due back no later than November 17th. 6th - turn into your homeroom teachers 7th/8th - turn in Mrs. Fisher in room 305.

Pick-up will be on March 13th

BHS South Parking Lot from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

The 6th grade can turn them into their homeroom teachers. Check made payable to Harrison Middle School. Pick up will be March 13th from 3:30 - 5:30 pm at the BHS North Cafeteria. Earned funds cannot be transferred or refunded. If the funds are not used, they will be applied to the class.

Career Exploration for 8th Graders



We are currently in the organizing phase of planning a career day for our 8th grade students during the fourth nine weeks. We are looking for parents and community members to share their expertise and experience around careers. Our day will focus on informative, yet hands-on experiences, to engage and educate our students about all of the options for their future. We would like speakers to include insight on careers, offering a variety of post-secondary options from on the job apprentices, associate programs, 4 year colleges and post-graduate degrees. Please click the link below to complete the form to let us know of your interest to present multiple sessions to a small group for 20-25 minutes. [Click to](#)

[Complete Interest Form](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Grade History Trip - Important Upcoming Dates:

- **February 28th:** Deadline for cancellation with a refund. If you need to cancel, make sure to inform Mrs. Fisher by this date. Refunds will only be processed for cancellations requested before February 28th.
- **March 1st:** Triangle Hoagie Fundraiser
- **April 1st:** Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser
- **April 19th:** Final deposit due. Ensure you submit it on time, as it will be deposited on April 26th. Monthly payments are also accepted!

Remind App: We will use the Remind App for communication about the trip. Both students and parents will need to register to receive information and updates. <https://www.remind.com/join/2024histoLinks> to an external site. If this does not work, search: Harrison Middle School teacher: Fisher. The 2024 History Trip should pop up.

Email Mrs. Fisher for any inquiries or to withdraw: mfisher@bwschools.net



ATHLETIC INFORMATION



SPRING SPORTS INFORMATION

Students interested in any of the spring sports, please fill out the Google form (or multiple if you would like) to begin to get information from the coaches/boosters on upcoming workouts, start dates, physical information, and more. Coaches emails are listed if you would like to reach out to any of them with any questions.

- MS Track and Field** - Amanda Setree- asetree@bwschools.net - [Click to for Google Form](#)
- MS Girls Softball** - Dawna Kasper- dlk190@hotmail.com - [Click to for Google Form](#)
- MS Boys Volleyball** - Kaley Donoghue- kdonoghue@bwschools.net - [Click to for Google Form](#)
- JH Boys Baseball (7-9)** - John Dettlinger- jdett10@aol.com - [Click to for Google Form](#)

In order to participate in a school sport you must have an athletic physical dated AFTER June 1, 2023.

MANDATORY- Follow this link to gain a Healthy Roster Account if you do not already have one:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGx9jOQc8i7LBRk8kWG0DNsvUASMU6aeg8oFQs4WHL-xLcA/viewform>

-Here is the link to the physical form you will need to bring with you to the DR.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UvoFFPqmVw4MGwyqnCC5tuonApMo5vPN/view?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions that involve Athletic Physicals and/or Healthy Roster please contact one of our Athletic Trainers: Natalie- nsorce@bwschools.net or Caitlin- cshlechter@bwschools.net



BMS Boys Volleyball Tryouts

Who: Any 7th or 8th Grade Boy

When: March 4th and 5th at 3:00-4:30

Where: Baldwin High School

(Report to LGI after school)

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD INFORMATION PACKET](#)



ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

2/26/24 -Athletic Schedule:

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

Monday – 2/26/24:

Tuesday - 2/27/24:

- MS Girls Basketball- 3:45 PM vs. Steel Valley Middle School

Wednesday - 2/28/24:

Thursday - 2/29/24:

- MS Girls Basketball- 3:45 PM vs. Elizabeth Forward Middle School

Friday - 3/1/24:

Saturday - 3/2/24:

Middle School Weight Lifting

- 7th & 8th Graders—Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - 3:30—5:00 PM



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 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



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**



NOTES FROM THE NURSES



Reminder for Parents of 6th Graders:

Please remember that the PA-mandated examination for 6th grade students is a **physical** that includes a back assessment (**scoliosis screening**). If you have not submitted these for your child, please do so as soon as possible. If you prefer to have the school physician perform the exam, you must complete the written permission form previously given. These examinations will take place during the school day in the health office and are free of charge. Additional copies of the parental permission form will be sent home soon or you can print a copy from the district website or the nurses' canvas page.

Updated Information about the 6th-grade physicals and scoliosis exams: The school physician will conduct these exams in March. Please send in your child's PE from their PCP or complete the form permitting the school MD to perform the exam ASAP. 6th graders will bring a second copy of permission forms home on Monday, 2-12-23. Please watch for these. Dates for the exams at school will be communicated soon.

An Additional Note: The 6th grade physical appointment provides an opportunity for your child to obtain the vaccinations required to enter 7th grade (Tdap and meningococcal). Your child's PCP will attach proof of these immunizations to the physical exam form, thereby ensuring their smooth entry and ongoing attendance on the first day of 7th grade.

Reminder for Parents of 7th Graders:

Please remember that the PA-mandated examinations for 7th grade students are a back assessment (**scoliosis screening**) and a recent **dental exam**. If you have not submitted both of these for your child, please do so as soon as possible. If you prefer to have the school physician and/or dentist perform the exam, you must complete the written permission form previously given. These examinations will take place during the school day in the health offices and are free of charge. Additional copies of the parental permission form will be sent home soon or you can print a copy from the district website, www.bwschool.net or the Health Services canvas page, <https://bwschools.instructure.com/courses/7692>.

Additional information for 7th graders: The school physician will conduct scoliosis screenings in March and the school dentist will perform dental exams in March or April. Please send both of these examinations from your child's HCP and dentist in ASAP. Also, watch for a second permission form to come home for school exams.

An Additional Note: It is long past the deadline (8/28/23) to submit written proof of the 7th grade mandated vaccinations (Tdap and meningococcal) from your child's health care provider. If you have not yet submitted this documentation to the school nurse, please do so immediately, as PA law requires these be maintained in each student's health records in order to attend school.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation as we work toward compliance with these PA school requirements.



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. 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.



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.

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

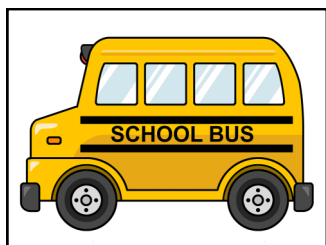
No matter how hard we try, 7th & 8th grade students often forget their lunches, Chromebooks, and/or other items. We ask parents/guardian to call the Middle School Office at 412-885-7505 to notify our secretaries when they are able to drop off the forgotten items. Our secretaries will then notify your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

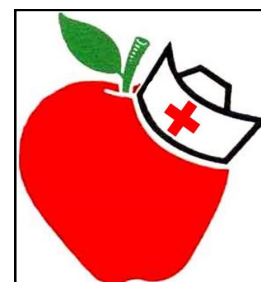


REMINDERS



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.





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 133. Mr. Maloney, the HMS/MES 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. Maloney - pmaloney@bwschools.net

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) 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.
- 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.



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](#)