



BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE February 5, 2024



HIGHLIGHTS



Annual Middle School Luau Dance at HEC!

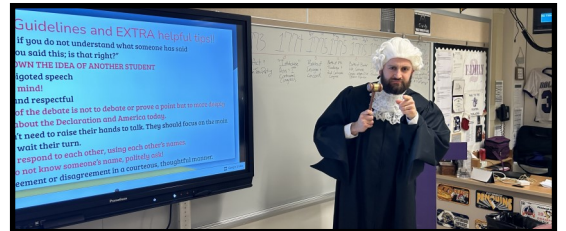
Students had a great night of tropical vibes, dancing, and summer fun at our Annual Luau Dance. Students dressed in their best summer gear and danced the night away to the hottest beats! Students enjoyed Kona Ice Groove along with other delicious concessions.



Mid Year Principal Meetings: On January 23rd, the middle school administration met with all the 6th, 7th & 8th Grade students to review the expectations along with the importance of building their habits of success. During the presentation, the middle school administration covered topics such as cell phone use, the importance of showing respect for ourselves and others, and the importance of getting to class on time and sharing any social or academic concerns with a trusted adult.



Declaration Great Debate! Students in Mr. Barbano's 8th grade Early American History class debated the Declaration of Independence on Friday, February 2nd. Topics included individual and basic rights, equality, and colonial rebellion. Debates conclude on Monday!!!



CAMP SOLES

The First Camp Soles Meeting for 8th Graders: On Tuesday, February 6, 2024, the first of two Camp Soles meetings will be held in the LGI room. The meeting will be during the students Physical Education, Band, Music, Orchestra or Study Hall periods. There will be another meeting for students and parents in April. All information for Camp Soles will be posted online. Parents and students will be notified when the information will be posted. Any questions please contact Mr. Kealey via email jkealey@bwschools.net





UPCOMING EVENTS



6th Grade Student Council Opportunity

Students in the 6th grade who are interested in joining Student Council please download and read the attached form for more information.

[Click to 6th Grade Student Council Form](#)

Middle School Canned Food Drive:

We're excited to announce that the Student Council is



hosting a Canned Food Drive to support our local community! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

Nonperishable items will be collected in 7th & 8th-grade homerooms and in 6th-grade 1st periods. The homerooms with the most generous donations will be recognized! Awards will be given to the 7th and 8th-grade homerooms along with the 6th-grade 1st-period class that collects the most canned food items.

Dates: February 12th - 23rd

Location: Middle School (6th, 7th, & 8th grade)

Accepted Items: All non-perishable food items are welcome!

(This includes pasta, rice, canned fruit, canned vegetables & beans, noodles, and more.)

Let's show our compassion and generosity by contributing whatever we can. Every donation makes a big difference in someone's life, no matter how small. All collected non-perishable food items will be donated to our local SHIM location in Bethel Park, where they will directly benefit individuals and families in our community who are in need of assistance. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity. Together, we can make a positive impact and spread kindness throughout our community.



Cards and Collectors Club! YOU ARE INVITED! The Cards and Collectors Club will be a bi-weekly activities club for 7th and 8th grade students at BMS where students can come together to talk and learn about the cards and other items that they are collecting today. This will be a fun, yet educational group where we will discuss modern topics in cards and collectibles including, upcoming shows, buying and selling, hot topics in sports, TCGs, and more! Please fill out the attached form by FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH to join in on the fun! [Click to Complete Form](#)

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!

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



Incomplete Grades:

Students: Now that you have officially received your report card for the second nine weeks, if you have received an "I" for Incomplete, you have until February 14th to turn in any incomplete work that is owed to your teachers. Please check with your teacher(s) for the work that you owe so that your grade will change from an "I" to a percentage grade.



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](#)



ATHLETIC INFORMATION



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

2/5/24 - Athletic Schedule:

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

Monday – 2/5/24:

Tuesday - 2/6/24:

Wednesday - 2/7/24:

- Wrestling– 6:00 PM vs. Moon @ Moon High School

Thursday - 2/8/24:

Friday - 2/9/24:

- MS Girls Basketball- 3:45 PM vs. Clairton MS

Saturday - 2/10/24:





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.



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](#)



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.

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>.

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.

Donna Piotrowski dp Piotrowski@bwschools.net

Ann Harmon aharmon@bwschools.net



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

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

Ms. Jean Williams, School Social Worker A - Z - 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. 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.



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.](#)



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) 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.
- Remember to keep your password private. Anything done on your Chromebook is your responsibility.