



BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WEEKLY UPDATE September 18, 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS



Middle School Pink Out Football Game!

Attention all BMS Students and Families in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, Please plan to attend the Baldwin Middle School Football Game on Thursday, September 20th at 5:30 pm to cheer on our 7th-grade boys against Trinity and 8th-grade boys at 7:00 against Peter Township. We plan to fill the stands (students and family members) with pink to support the fight against Breast Cancer. Students are to wear their Pink Out t-shirts that support the METAvivor -Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support, and Awareness Foundation.

All 7th and 8th-grade fall athletes and band members will be recognized at halftime of the 8th-grade football game.

Pink Out Accessories

7th and 8th grade students can purchase pink accessories to wear to school and the Pink Out Game on Wednesday, September 20th. Accessories can be purchased outside of room 305 (7th & 8th Grades) before the start of school and during lunch periods (6th, 7th & 8th Grades) on 9/18, 9/19, and 9/20.

Prices for pink out gear Leis

\$1.00 Hair extensions- \$3.00 Bandanas- \$4.00 Glasses- \$3.00 Beaded necklaces- \$1.00 Rubber bracelets- \$1.00 Cloth bracelets- \$2.00 Wristbands- \$3.00

Pink Out Theme Week

The Pink Out is Wednesday, September 20th. To help celebrate we are hosting a Theme Week! Encourage all 6th, 7th & 8th Grade students to participate in the following Theme Days:

- **Monday - 9/18 - Black and Gold to support Steelers Monday Night Football**
- **Tuesday - 9/19 - Wear your favorite team gear - Baldwin, College, Professional**
- **Wednesday - 9/20 - Pink Out! Wear your favorite pink clothing and accessories**
- **Thursday - 9/21 - Hat Day - Wear your favorite hat**
- **Friday - 9/22 - Purple and White to cheer on our Fighting Highlanders**





UPCOMING EVENTS

Pink Out Concession Stand Benefits 8th Grade Activities

Hello 8th Grade Families! We are starting to plan for this year's 8th Grade Activities. Last year, at our Annual Pink Out, we sold food items at the concession stand. This allowed us to pay for two meals on the 8th Grade History Trip. We are hosting the concession stand again this year on Wednesday, September 20th, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. We will offer the following items for sale: Drinks, Pizza (MM MM Pizza), South Side Pretzels, Nachos, Buffalo Chicken Dip, Chips, and Candy.

We are asking, if you are willing, to donate one item to be sold at the concession stand. The items do need to be prepackaged. There is a spreadsheet that will be shared with families. [If you are able to donate, please put your name on the spreadsheet next to the item.](#) All items will need to be provided to Mrs. Fisher, in room 305, no later than Wednesday, September 20th, by 8:00 a.m. Students can bring items into school, or parents can drop items at the security entrance labeled with Mrs. Fisher - Pink Out.

We thank you for your support! Please contact Mrs. Fisher via email at mfisher@bwschools.net with any questions. [Please contact Ms. Fisher with any questions](#)

Yearbook Club:

Any 7th & 8th Grade student interested in joining the BMS Yearbook Club should plan on attending the first meeting on Wednesday September 20th from 3:00-4:00 in Room 303. Any questions please see or email Mrs. Bianchi - hbianchi@bwschools.net.



REACHWELL INFORMATION

This fall, the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, in an effort to improve communication with all our families, began to use the ReachWell communication App. This communication App will be used to enhance our current modes of parent communication, which are the Skylert Messaging System, Teacher's Canvas Pages, and email.

Teachers will continue to use the Canvas Pages and tools, along with email, to communicate with parents and guardians on a regular basis. The middle school administration will continue to use the Skylert system to send out weekly updates and reminders of upcoming events. As always, parents/guardians can phone the school to speak with a staff member. We appreciate your patience as we work to implement this new communication tool.

BMS 412-885-7505 & 6th Grade – 412-885-7530 (Ask for the 6th Grade Office)

Getting Started with ReachWell:

To receive important messages from your child's teachers and the District via ReachWell, we kindly request you to download the app. The process is straightforward:

Download the App: Head to your device's app store, search for "ReachWell," and install the app.

1. Add Your School: Once installed, add your child's school to the app to receive tailored notifications.
2. Request a Code: Select the option to text a code to your device. ***When requesting a code, please use the cell phone number and/or email address in Skyward.***
3. Stay Informed: Prepare to be informed! With ReachWell, you'll receive timely updates in your preferred language.

Assistance and Support:

We understand that technology can sometimes be challenging. If you encounter any difficulties while downloading or using the ReachWell app, their dedicated support team is ready to help. Reach out to them at support@reachwell.com, and they will gladly assist you.

[ReachWell FAQs](#)

[ReachWell Directions](#)

[Translated Directions](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Baldwin-Whitehall School District
Parents as Allies Team invites you to:

Discovering Family Connections

UNITE & IGNITE

All Baldwin-Whitehall School District parents and guardians...
join us in a relaxing evening by the fire pit to connect, engage in
conversation, and enjoy each other's company.

Monday
October
2

J.E. Harrison
Education Center
Parking Lot
6:00pm-8:00pm

Live Music
Bonfires
Refreshments
Raffle Prizes
Conversations

*Childcare will
be available*

*Bring lawn chairs
to enjoy the event*

*Promoting
positive
connections
between our
schools and
families!*

[Click the link to share
your conversation
starters in advance...](#)





HIGHLIGHTS

Environmental Educator visits Sixth Grade Science Classes: Mr. Shane Miller from the PA



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently made his annual visit to the Sixth-Grade science classes at HEC. Students learned how plants have played a vital role in our lives. During his visit, Mr. Miller inspired the students to take a closer look at various plant species and discover some of their possibilities in both the past and present. Thank you, Mr. Miller, for donating your time and expertise over the past ten years!

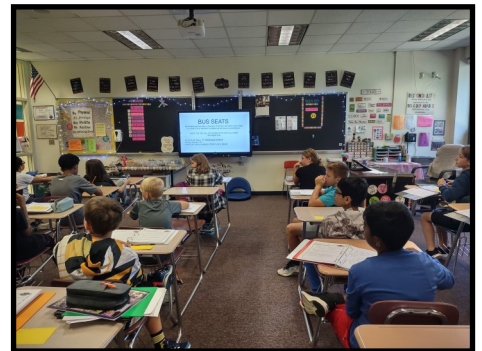
Symbolic Self-Portraits: Seventh-grade ELA students gained a better understanding of the diversity within their classes and reflected upon their own identities by producing personal self-portraits. Students' unique portraits go beyond physical appearance and represent their inner worlds and experiences. Their work demonstrates a willingness to explore a variety of ideas and communicate connections between objects, images, and their own life through the effective use of symbols.



Paper Chain Challenge in STEM: This past week in STEM class, Ms. G's students were challenged to make the longest paper chain using only a 12 x 12 piece of paper and a yard of tape. We then hung them from the side of the railing in the stairwell. The winners won bragging rights!

6th Grade Principal Visit

This week, Grade 6 received a visit from Assistant Principal, Ms. Johnson. During Science and Social Studies classes, Ms. Johnson and the teachers reviewed expectations and engaged in an exploratory discussion regarding suggestions and ideas to make this year memorable for learners. We covered topics such as cell phone use, 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. We value your partnership and we're looking forward to a fantastic year!



Choir Officers

This year the 7th and 8th grade choirs have elected officers for the first time ever.

8th Grade Officers: President - Kadence Holby Vice President - Lily Baumgardner Secretary - Keely Duzyk Treasurer - Emily Harmon

7th Grade Officers: President - Jennisha Rai Vice President - Gianna Ellgass Secretary - Maddigan Glies Treasurer - Emmett Staub

Congratulations to all!



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

★ BALDWIN MS BOYS BASKETBALL ★

BASKETBALL

**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**

PLEASE BRING A BALL AND WATER!

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

APPRO

BMS Cross Country is Off to a Great Start!

The BMS co-ed Cross Country team is off to a great start this season! Cross-country is an individual and team sport; runners are judged on individual times and teams by a point-scoring method. Cross Country not only requires incredible individual efforts but a strong effort as a team. In cross-country, athletes compete in meets (races) that require them to run middle to long distances. Middle school cross country athletes run a 3k - 1.9 miles on different courses which are comprised of hills, trails, and different forms of terrain. The girls CC team is off to a 3-0 start and the boys are 2-1. On September 21st the CC highlanders take on Pleasant Hills at their home course and on Saturday, September 23rd athletes will travel to the Blue Devil Invitational.



ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

9/18/23 -Athletic Schedule: (Dates and Times are subject to change)

Monday – 9/18/23:

- Girls Soccer- 3:30 PM vs. Trinity Middle School @ Baldwin Stadium
- Girls Volleyball - 3:30 PM vs. Independence Middle School @ Baldwin HS Gym #2

Tuesday - 9/19/23:

- Coed Swimming - 5:00 PM vs. Bethel Park High School @ Baldwin HS Pool
- Boys Soccer- 3:30 PM vs Peters Township Middle School @ Baldwin HS Field 2

Wednesday - 9/20/23:s

- Girls Volleyball - 3:30 PM vs. Peters Township Middle School @ Baldwin HS Gym #2
- Coed Cross Country - 4:00 PM vs. Pleasant Hills Middle School @ Thomas Jefferson High School - Dismissal 11:45 AM
- 7th Grade Football - 5:30 vs. Trinity MS @ Baldwin Stadium
- 8th Grade Football - 7:00 vs. Peters Township MS @ Baldwin Stadium

Thursday - 9/21/23:

- Girls Volleyball - 3:30 PM vs. Moon Middle School @ Moon HS
- Boys Soccer - 3:45 PM vs. Ringgold MS @ Finley Fields
- Coed Swimming - 5:00 PM vs. Canon Mac HS @ Canon Mac HS

Friday - 9/22/23:

- Girls Soccer- 3:30 PM vs. Canonsburg MS @ Canon Mac MS - Dismissal 2:10 PM

Saturday - 9/23/23:



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



BMS Nurse Update

Please remember a Pennsylvania school requirement, to enter 7th grade, is the submission of updated Tdap and Meningococcal vaccinations. We still have not received these for several students. If you are among those still needing to complete this requirement for school attendance, please see that you take care of this as soon as possible. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Volunteer nurses from JRMC-AHN will be helping the BWSD nurses with annual vision screenings for our 7th and 8th graders on September 26 and 27th. These will be done during the physical education classes. The high school students will also be screened on these dates.

Current COVID Guidelines for Students were shared with families recently. Please follow this guidance as you note symptoms and positive testing for Covid in your families. Five days of isolation, from the start of symptoms (day zero), followed by 5 days of mask wearing (days 6-10) when returning to school and public life, should be the plan if positive test results are noted. The student's PCP should always be the first point of contact, but also feel free to call or email the school nurses with your questions or concerns.



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](#)



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.



Baldwin Middle School

Habits of Success 