

AUGUST 2016

# Bellport Middle School

Attendance, Attitude, Achievement

## First Day Basics...

- First Day: Tues., Sept. 6th
- Where to go: All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students go to your 1<sup>st</sup> period, Red Day class
- All 8<sup>th</sup> graders report to the Auditorium 1<sup>st</sup> period
- What to bring:
  1. Your schedule, which was mailed home mid-August.
  2. A folder, notebook, pen or pencil, backpack.
- Supply lists will be distributed by teachers during the first week.

**School Opens:** 7:30 a.m.

**Breakfast Program:** 7:40 a.m.

**1<sup>st</sup> Period Begins:** 7:55 a.m.

**Dismissal:** 2:32 p.m.



## Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!

This newsletter is designed to provide you with information about the upcoming school year so that you and your children can feel well prepared walking through the door on the first day of school September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Save the Date!

First Day of School	Gr. 6 Meet the Teacher	Grs. 7 & 8 Meet the Teacher
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	September 26 <sup>th</sup>

*BMS a Safe, Respectful, Responsible learning environment*

# What awaits you this year...New Beginnings...

Throughout this past school year and into this summer, our staff spent valuable time learning and working together to refine what BMS has to offer students. Here's what awaits you this school year...

## Collaborative, creative learning culture

This will look like:

- + Project-based learning opportunities
- + Social activities with a focus on serving our community
- + Increased club, activities, and intramurals
- + Digital Dens

***Student voices needed!*** Quarterly meetings called focus groups will be held with students and staff to better fuse student interests and peer culture with academic learning and social offerings.



## Shared expectations, shared successes

We all live and learn best in an environment where we know what is expected of us. In a building as large as BMS, it is especially important that we all know how to conduct ourselves in each learning environment from the classrooms to the hallways, from the gymnasiums to the cafeterias. At BMS, all students, staff, and visitors are expected to exhibit *Safe, Respectful, Responsible* behavior.

## Get involved, stay connected!

Joining the **many clubs and activities** offered throughout the year is a great way for students to connect with students with similar interests. Visit our website for the numerous clubs and activities offered at BMS this year.

Parents! Our **PTA meetings** are published on the district calendar and our website. They are held at **7 p.m. in the BMS library**. Stay tuned to our website and announcements for additional ways to get involved in your child's middle school experience here at BMS.



## Did you know?

### 2015-2016 Highlights:

- + Over 1,500 attendees enjoyed family time at the Harvest Festival.
- + The Thanksgiving Food Drive raised 2,462 food items for families in need within the local community.
- + The December Toy and Coat Drives raised enough items to service over 580 families in need.
- + The Penny Wars raised \$3,010 for Cancer Research at John Hopkins University.
- + Our Hope for Haiti fundraiser raised enough money to provide one pair of goats, two mango trees, solar lights for two families, and two water filtration systems that clean water daily for up to 10 years!
- + The Autism Awareness fundraiser brought in \$850 for Autism Speaks.
- + Our students took ownership over the school and exercised their teamwork skills by planting and gardening at our Community Service Day

### Our website...

- + Features the daily announcements read to students each day during Homeroom.
- + Lists the clubs and activities as well as the advisors for each. Clubs and activities will begin in October.
- + Posts our 3:30 and 5:15 Activity Bus routes for students participating in events and activities after school.
- + Links to our Parent-Student handbook that outlines detailed information about school life pertinent to families and students.
- + Provides the contact information for all staff members so that you can easily communicate as needed with the staff members who work with your child.

**Blackboard Connect Ed.** This convenient method of contacting families can even send *text messages* to your phone. Customize the contact methods in your account through the link on the district's website (<https://southcountrycsdparent.bbcportal.com>).

**Free-Reduced Lunch Applications.** We offer healthy meals to students every school day. Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Visit "Parent Resources" on the district's website for additional information.

We are...

*Bellport Middle School*

Check out the **video** produced by the Bellport Middle School Student Council by accessing the link on our website. The video features many of our students and staff highlighting all that makes our school unique!

[http://www.southcountry.org/schools/bellport\\_middle\\_school](http://www.southcountry.org/schools/bellport_middle_school)

# Frequently Asked First Day of School Questions

## What time do I have to be at school?

BMS opens each day at 7:30 a.m. Students arriving between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. should report to the East Cafeteria unless they have an appointment with a teacher. Breakfast is offered in the West Cafeteria beginning at 7:40 a.m. each day.



First period begins at 7:55 a.m. Students are expected to be in their classrooms, ready for instruction when the 7:55 bell rings. Students arriving after this bell are considered tardy.

## What happens if I don't have my schedule?

Schedules were mailed home the week of August 29<sup>th</sup>. Students who do not have their schedule in hand on the first day of school will have many people to assist when they arrive. Students without schedules should see any staff member positioned in the hallways upon arrival to school. The staff member will be able to direct the student to his/her first period classroom.

Days	Period	Term	Room	Course#	Course	Sec	Teacher
I	1	1,2	202	Sci6	Science 6	2	J. Tully
I	1	1,2	202	M6	Math 6	2	J. Tully
I	1	1,2	202	M6	Math 6	2	J. Tully
I,R	2	1,2	202	Sci6	Science 6	2	J. Tully
I,R	3	1,2	WG1	pe6	Physical Education 6	10	K. Holmes
I	4	1,2	122	HCS	H/CS	7	C. Pfister
I	4	1,2	210	Art6	Art 6	8	S. Patanjali
I	4	1,2	210	Art6	Art 6	2	J. Pepe
I	4	2	WCAF	Lunch6	Lunch Grade 6	1	J. Tully
I	5	1,2	222	SS6	Social Studies 6	1	J. Tully
I,R	6	1,2	222	ESWK	ELA Workshop	3	J. Tully
I,R	7	1,2	231	Rdg6	Integrated English 6	2	J. Eplevsk
I,R	8	1,2	231	Rdg6	Integrated English 6	2	J. Eplevsk
I,R	9	1,2	231	Rdg6	Integrated English 6	2	J. Eplevsk

All first period teachers will distribute copies of their students' schedules on the first two days of school. Please note that schedule changes will not be made during the first two weeks of school.

## I'm taking a bus. Where do I get dropped off?

East End Bus Company mailed bus assignments home in August. Students taking the bus to and from school each day will be dropped off and will board the bus in the West Parking lot between BMS and Kreamer Street Elementary. Students enter and exit the building through the courtyard entrances each day.



## If I'm getting a ride, where do I get dropped off?

Students being driven to school should be dropped off and picked up in the East Parking Lot, which is located off of South Street (which crosses Station Road).

Bike riders can park at the bike rack in front of BMS on Kreamer Street.

*Curbside on Kreamer Street is reserved for minibuses only.*

## The First Day and Beyond...

**Lockers.** Students will be assigned a hall locker and a gym locker during the first days of school. Lockers are also assigned for those in instrumental music.

**Extra help** is available to every student during 10<sup>th</sup> period from 2:40 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Teachers publish their extra help schedules in the school and online. If a student is having difficulty attending extra help on the days published, he/she should discuss this with his/her teacher so that other arrangements can be made.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Do not wait, however, to seek an appointment with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Utilize our staff directory available on the BMS website.

**Visiting Bellport Village after school.** We understand that some students visit the Village after school on occasion. Please know that BMS late activity buses are reserved only for students participating in after school activities scheduled with school staff. Students walking to the Village are NOT permitted on the late activity buses. Alternative transportation home would need to be arranged.



# THE PANTHER'S DEN BMS SCHOOL STORE

Our school store was created to support a positive school experience for our students. *BMS Bucks* will be used by staff members to recognize students for individual accomplishments, behavior, and for going the “extra mile”. Students then save and/or cash in these BMS Bucks at the Panther's Den during their lunch periods or after school for prizes, gifts, or building privileges.

Different privileges and prizes will be announced throughout the year. Some privileges students may want to save for include:

- \* First on lunch line
- \* Guest host morning announcements
- \* VIP lunch in special location
- \* Free school event

The Panther's Den is run by the BMS Student Council.

# Here's to a great school year!

Greetings Bellport Middle School Families,

I hope that you are enjoying the beautiful summer weather with family and friends.

My name is Dr. Colson and I am honored to serve as the new principal of Bellport Middle School. The Bellport Middle School staff and I look forward to a productive school year filled with opportunities to engage in learning. Our goal is to further build our school community by building strong student, parent, and staff relationships. This can be accomplished as students work responsibly toward achieving the 3A's:

A=Attendance – Having daily and timely attendance for each period (including lunch).

A=Attitude – Possessing the mindset of being ready to learn and apply yourself every day and throughout the day.

A=Achievement – Seeing and cultivating within yourself, the ability to reach and exceed your daily/yearly goals.

It is important for students to start and end the school day achieving the 3 A's. This begins at home and our BMS family will continue to provide support and opportunities for student achievement throughout the school day, as well as the school year.

Continue to enjoy a safe and relaxing summer.

Respectfully,

Dr. Colson

Upcoming Events	
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation - 10 a.m.
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of School First Day of Athletics (Grs. 7 & 8)
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Meet the Teacher Night – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
September 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fall Photos
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher Night – 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Back Dance – 7 p.m.