

BMS CLUBS 2015-2016

Edited: September 11, 2015

Please note: this booklet is subject to changes as we work our way into the 2015-16 school year.

[Wind Ensemble](#)
[Jazz Ensemble](#)
[Camerata Chorus](#)
[Chamber Orchestra](#)
[3-D Printer Club](#)
[Robotics Club](#)
[Biotechnology Club](#)
[BMS Science Olympiad Team](#)
[BMS Spirit & Leadership Council](#)
[Image Literary Magazine](#)
[BMS Student Newspaper: URSUS](#)
[Intramurals](#)
[Media Club](#)
[TV Production \(BAM\)](#)
[Yearbook](#)
[AMC 8 Preparation & Competition](#)
[Bedford Acting Group](#)
[Club Bed](#)
[Art Collective/Comic Book Club](#)
[National History Day](#)
[NaNoWriMo Club \(National Novel Writing Month\)](#)

Wind Ensemble

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Kitchner, Lkitchner@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Audition required? Yes. Students interested in performing with the wind ensemble are encouraged to audition. It is the policy of the Westport Public Schools Music Department that students who participate in after-school or before-school extra-curricular performing groups also be enrolled in a curricular, regularly scheduled large ensemble. Due to the complexities of the music performed and the limited group size, only students who audition will be considered for placement.

Schedule: The wind ensemble meets before school on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:50 am and after school on Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:45. The group performs in the winter, spring, BMS Art Show and local music festivals when applicable.

Description of Club/Activity: The Bedford wind ensemble is an extracurricular activity that provides students the opportunity to experience traditional wind ensemble literature in a small concert band setting. The group's size averages about 35-40 members. Since the wind ensemble is an extracurricular activity, all rehearsals and performances will occur either before or after the school day. For this reason, students who participate in the group will need to arrange transportation for rehearsals, commit to practicing all music weekly, and meet the following expectations:

- Be proficient on your instrument (this includes note reading skills)
- Work in a positive & cooperative manner
- Attend rehearsals & performances on time
- Demonstrate responsibility by being prepared with music, instrument, supplies, etc.

Due to the small size of the ensemble, every student's participation is vital to the group's success. Having good work habits and a positive attitude can affect not only one's personal growth, but that of the group's as well. Therefore, failure to comply with the above criteria will negatively affect the students experience as well as the group's performance. For this reason, all members will need to consistently meet these responsibilities in order to maintain their standing in the group.

Additional: Interested students must acquire an audition permission slip directly from Mr. Kitchner. These slips and audition requirements/music will be discussed in a short informational meeting held later in September. Look for this information on BAM and during regular scheduled concert band rehearsals.

Jazz Ensemble

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Winters, gwinthers@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Audition required? Yes. Students interested in practicing, performing and dedicating themselves to the betterment of this performing group are encouraged to audition for the BMS Jazz Ensemble.

Music Department policy: students who participate in an extra-curricular performing group must be enrolled in an associated curriculum-based program.

All students interested in learning more about the BMS Jazz Ensemble, including the audition information, should attend the before-school "informational" meeting on Thursday, September 17th at 7:30am in room 280.

Schedule: The jazz ensemble meets before school on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:00-7:50am. This group performs at BMS in the winter and spring, Staples Jazz Concert as well as local festivals.

Description of Club/Activity: The BMS Jazz Ensemble is an extracurricular activity that provides students the opportunity to experience literature in a small group setting. Due to the style of orchestrations performed, the group's size averages about 25 members. Since jazz ensemble is an extracurricular activity, rehearsals and performances will occur before or after school. Students who

participate in the group will need to arrange transportation for all rehearsals, commit to regular practice, and meet the following expectations:

- Be proficient on your instrument (this includes note reading skills)
- Work in a positive and cooperative manner
- Attend rehearsals and performances on time
- Demonstrate responsibility by being prepared with music, instrument, supplies, etc.

Our Shared Vision For Success

Due to the small size of this ensemble, every student's participation and underlying attitude is vital to the group's success. Falling short of these criteria will negatively affect the overall experience and the group's ability to perform at the highest possible level.

Additional: Interested students must acquire an audition permission slip directly from Mr. Winters

Camerata Chorus

Faculty Advisor: Susan Marnell, smarnell@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Audition required? Yes. Students interested in practicing, performing and dedicating themselves to the betterment of this performing group are encouraged to audition for the BMS Camerata. Music Department policy: students who participate in an extra-curricular performing group must be enrolled in an associated curriculum-based program.

Schedule: This camerata meets after school on Wednesdays from 3 to 3:50 and before school on Fridays from 7:00- 7:50. This group performs at BMS in the winter and spring, as well as local festivals.

Description of Club/Activity: The BMS Camerata is an extracurricular activity that provides students the opportunity to experience literature in a small group setting. Due to the style of arrangements performed, the group's size averages about 30 members. Since camerata is an extracurricular activity, rehearsals and performances will occur before or after school. Students who participate in the group will need to arrange transportation for all rehearsals, commit to regular practice, and meet the following expectations:

- Be proficient on your 'instrument' (your voice)
- Work in a positive and cooperative manner
- Attend rehearsals and performances on time
- Demonstrate responsibility by being prepared with music, and your 'instrument'

Our Shared Vision For Success

Due to the small size of this ensemble, every student's participation and underlying attitude is vital to the group's success. Falling short of these criteria will negatively affect the overall experience and the groups ability to perform at the highest possible level.

Additional: Interested students must acquire an audition permission slip directly from

Chamber Orchestra

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Anderson, manderson@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Audition required? Yes. Students interested in practicing, performing and dedicating themselves to the betterment of this performing group are encouraged to audition for the BMS Chamber Orchestra. Music Department policy: students who participate in an extra-curricular performing group must be enrolled in an associated curriculum-based program.

Schedule: This chamber orchestra meets after school on Tuesdays from 3:00-3:50pm and before school on Thursdays from 7:00-7:50am. This group performs at BMS in the winter and spring concerts, the BMS Art Show, Staples High School Chamber concert, and local festivals.

Description of Club/Activity: The BMS Chamber Orchestra is an extracurricular activity that provides students the opportunity to experience advanced high school level literature in a small group setting. Due to the style and complexity of arrangements performed, the group's size averages about 30 members. Since chamber orchestra is an extracurricular activity, rehearsals and performances will occur before or after school. Students who participate in the group will need to arrange transportation for all rehearsals, commit to regular practice, and meet the following expectations:

- Be proficient on your string instrument
- Work in a positive and cooperative manner
- Attend rehearsals and performances on time
- Demonstrate responsibility by being prepared with music, and your 'instrument'

Our Shared Vision For Success

Due to the small size of this ensemble, every student's participation and underlying attitude is vital to the group's success. Falling short of these criteria will negatively affect the overall experience and the groups ability to perform at the highest possible level.

Additional: Interested students must acquire an audition permission slip and musical excerpts directly from Mrs. Anderson. **All students interested in learning more about the BMS Chamber Orchestra, including the audition information, should attend the after school "informational" meeting on Thursday, September 17th at 3:00pm in room 286.**

3-D Printer Club

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Ellis, aellis@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students 6-8 who have taken and passed the Westport Library's 3-D printer operator's course.

Application required? None.

Schedule: Yearlong

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None.

Description of Club: Use the four BMS MakerBot 3D printers to render student-derived designs.

Additional: This is an informal club largely governed by students. Students use our 3-D printers after school. Students must remain present while their projects are printing.

Robotics Club

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Cortright, dcortright@westport.k12.ct.us and Mrs. Matarese, kmatarese@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Application required? None.

Date range for this club: Sept 17-Dec 17

Day of the week and time club meets: Thursdays, 2:45-3:45 pm in BMS Room #214

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: No fees, no special equipment needed

Description of Club: The BMS Robotics Club offers students the opportunity to get hands-on experience programming robots to solve problems. The club uses LEGO MINDStorm robots and a computer program that allows visual programming of the robots. Students can learn how to program the robots to accomplish tasks of varying complexity. Students can also design and build challenges for robots to solve.

Additional: Students participating in the BMS Robotics Club also have the opportunity to participate in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) problem solving competition. Teams must solve a problem that

requires research, creative thinking, teamwork, and presentation skills, in addition to building and programming robots. Due to the short amount of time to work on the problem, teams need to meet frequently and will have to devote additional time outside of team meetings. Students interested in being on an FLL team must be willing to commit about 3-4 hours/week to the team, in addition to attending BMS robotics club meetings each week after school. FLL Team meetings take place outside of the school setting. BMS FLL team intends to compete in a tournament in late November.

Active, hands-on parent support is crucial to the success of a FIRST LEGO League team. Please contact Dr. Cortright (dcortright@westport.k12.ct.us) or Mrs. Matarese (kmatarese@westport.k12.ct.us) if you are a parent interested in being involved.

Biotechnology Club

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Cortright, dcortright@westport.k12.ct.us and Mrs. Matarese, kmatarese@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Application required? None.

Date range for this club: February 25-April 28

Day of the week and time club meets: Thursdays, 2:45-3:45 pm in BMS Room #214

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: No fees, no special equipment needed

Description of Club: The BMS Biotechnology Club offers students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with laboratory techniques that are used in modern biotechnology and forensic science labs. Planned activities include isolating DNA, building a centrifuge, and experimenting with enzymes.

Additional: Regular attendance is encouraged, but not required. Students will have a lot of fun even if they can only come to a few meetings.

We are happy to accept donations of materials, equipment, or ideas to improve the quality of experience in this club. Please contact the Faculty Advisors with your ideas!

BMS Science Olympiad Team

Faculty Advisors: Mr. Ellis, aellis@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students in grades 6-8 and 9th grade team alumni.

Application required? None.

Date range for this club: September through May

Day of the week and time club meets: Thursdays, 2:45-5:00pm in BMS Room #136

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: No fees, no special equipment needed

Description (brief): The Science Olympiad is a National competition. Teams that win the state-level competition earn a chance to compete against teams from across the country. (Bedford won the state championship in 2015 and finished 38th at Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska). School-based teams consists of 15 students competing in 23 events in a six hour period. Supporting the student competitors are student managers and team helpers, who coordinate and manage teams at the competition. Refer to the National website to learn more about the competition itself. (www.soinc.org)

Students start preparing for the Science Olympiad on the first day of school and continue until the State Championships in March. If we win States, we continue working until the Nationals in May.

Science Olympiad activity occurs nearly everyday after school. Students attend when they can. As the State Championships approaches, the activity and frequency of work increases dramatically. In the last few weeks before States teams are working almost every available moment, 7 days per week.

The first competition of the year is an Invitational that Westport will host on January 9. At our Invitational we will enter a 6th grade team and two upper grade level teams. On January 30 we hope to compete in the Rustin Invitational outside Philadelphia with two all-grade teams. The States are March 16 in Farmington, CT and we will enter two teams of our best students regardless of grade level. If we win States.....

BMS Spirit & Leadership Council

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Martinik, mmartinik@westport.k12.ct.us and Mr. Frangenes, jfrangenes@westport.k12.ct.us, Ms. Warner, kawarner@westport.k12.ct.us and Mrs. Harding, sharding@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Students grades 6-8

Application required? Yes. Students must request an application from their team leader or Mrs. Martinik.

Schedule: Yearlong. Meeting dates are the first and third Wednesdays of every month before school in the LMC.

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None.

Brief Description of Club/Activity: The BMS Spirit and Leadership Council promotes and organizes activities in three broad categories: 1) school spirit; 2) community outreach and charity; 3) school and

peer leadership. The students organize spirit days, student/faculty athletic events, and community service projects such as the Thanksgiving food drive and Soles for Souls. Additionally, they develop connections within the Westport community. Council members are selected through an application process. Students in grades 7 and 8 apply in the spring; 6th graders apply in the late fall. Council members will meet twice a month. A subcommittee selected from the council members will meet with the administration periodically to communicate student ideas and issues. The council members will be responsible for reporting the administration's views on these issues back to the students.

Image Literary Magazine

Faculty Advisors: Kristina Rodriguez, Alison Antunovich

Eligible students: Students grades 6-8 who are passionate about writing and have strong creative, revising, and editing skills. Also, we need students who have strong computer skills to work with the layout of the publications.

Application required? Yes, students that are interested can come to our first meeting and fill out an application that must be signed by a parent giving permission for the student to attend meetings.

Date range for your club/activity: October through June

Days of the week and time club meets: Thursdays from 2:45-3:45 in room 223. Dates and times will be updated based on publication deadlines.

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None

Brief Description of Club/Activity: We are a literary magazine club where students write and publish their own work. Students who join should enjoy writing, have pieces of writing they want to publish, and come to meetings with ideas to write about. They may also edit other students' work at times so that we can publish the work of students throughout the building. Issues will be published quarterly and will be thematically assembled. Possible thematic connections include a new collaboration with the art collective, PTA Reflections contest and student generated ideas.

Additional: Students should bring a light snack / water, since we meet right after school.

BMS Student Newspaper: URSUS

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Stephen Rexford, srexford@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 8th graders only

Application required? Yes, if interested in editor position. No for staff writers.

Schedule: October through June. *Ursus* staff will meet once per week after school (day to be determined), 3-4 pm

Description: The BMS Newspaper, *Ursus*, is open to all eighth graders with an interest in journalism, writing, photography or page design. The mission of the paper is to create a vehicle for students to practice the exciting craft of journalism while learning about the role media plays in helping a community stay informed and express ideas. Stephen Rexford, a long-time adviser to Staples High School newspaper and a Journalism Educator Association member, will advise *Ursus* and teach students the ins and out of being a good reporter, writer and editor. The club will meet after school in one of the computer labs in the LMC once a week between production cycles and every day of the week when the paper is being prepared for print. The paper hopes to publish five full-color issues between October and June.

Intramurals

Faculty advisors: Mr. Lyons (341-1514) tlyons@westport.k12.ct.us and Miss Ryan (341-1512) kryan@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students in all grades

Application or audition required? No application; no audition

Date range for this activity: Early September until late May

Days of the week and time for this activity: Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:45 - 4:00

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None

Description of Activity: All Bedford students, regardless of athletic prowess, are encouraged to come to Intramurals. There is no commitment. Students can participate anytime their schedule allows. At the end of the school day students simply come to the PE hallway with their backpacks, and then sign-in at the intramural desk.

The first intramural offering, beginning Tuesday September 8th, will be Tennis or Flag Football. We will gladly provide tennis rackets to any student needing one. Tennis and Flag Football will run for approximately four weeks. Students playing Tennis will be escorted down to the Staples tennis courts by a BMS teacher and will be picked up by their ride at 4:00. All other intramurals activities for the remainder of the year will happen at Bedford.

Throughout the year intramural information will be posted on the BMS website, in the PTA Newsletter, announced daily on BAM (the Bedford homeroom TV show) and posted elsewhere throughout the building. Feel free to call or email intramural coordinators Tim Lyons (341-1514) tlyons@westport.k12.ct.us or Kristin Ryan (341-1512) kryan@westport.k12.ct.us with any questions.

Media Club

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Lacy, placy@westport.k12.ct.us Mr. Savage, dsavage@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Grade 6,7,8 No restrictions

Application or audition required? None.

Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 2:45 - 4:00 in BMS Room #238 (room subject to change)

Any fees? None

Description of Club: Media Club has been created with the intent to provide students an opportunity to explore their creativity in video and digital media, graphic design, animation, Garage Band and gaming.

TV Production (BAM)

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Mallozzi, rmallozzi@westport.k12.ct.us and Ms. Lacy, placy@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Application or audition required? No application is needed; however a full year commitment is expected. Students will report to the BAM homeroom.

Schedule: Mid Sept - End of year

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None

Description: BAM is our school wide morning show that broadcasts school news, important information, sports, and more. Students help create content, work equipment and host the show!

Yearbook

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Bullock, bullock@westport.k12.ct.us Mr. DeFichy, idefichy@westport.k12.ct.us and Mrs. Harding, sharding@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Grades 6-8

Application required? None

Schedule: October through March; yearbook club students meet once per week (TBD)

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: Computer and photography experience preferred

Brief Description of Club/Activity: Students will participate in the creation of the BMS Yearbook by taking photos of school activities and events and then working with the online yearbook software program to import images and design pages.

Additional:

AMC 8 Preparation & Competition

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Butcaris, nbutcaris@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students grades 6-8

Application required? Yes, please acquire the form from Ms. Butcaris, nbutcaris@westport.k12.ct.us 203-341-1542

Schedule: Tuesday & Friday mornings at 7:30 AM starting on September 18th in Room #251; Exam will be given on Tuesday, November 17th from 3:15-4:15 PM

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None.

Description of Club: The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice exam held every November designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills. The examination provides an opportunity to apply the concepts taught at the middle school level to problems which not only range from easy to difficult but also cover a wide range of applications. Many of the problems are designed to challenge students and to offer problem solving experiences beyond those provided in most middle school mathematics classes. High scoring students are invited to participate in the AMC 10. The AMC 8 promotes excitement, enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards mathematics and to stimulate interest in continuing the study of mathematics beyond the standard curriculum. Students who attend study sessions on Friday mornings beginning September 18th will have the opportunity to work on problem solving strategies, practice good studying techniques

and explore topics including probability, estimation, percentages, spatial visualization, and reading and interpreting graphs.

Bedford Acting Group

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. McCormick, kmccormick@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students grades 6-8

Audition required? Yes, go to <http://bedfordactinggroup.com/Home.html> for details

Date range for this club: September through May

Days of the week and time club meets: dependant on the production

Description of Club: Go to <http://bedfordactinggroup.com/Home.html>

Club Bed

Faculty Advisor: Ms. Karmen, lkarmen@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: all students grades 6-8

Schedule: Club BED takes place at Bedford Middle School Room #274, Monday-Friday from 3:00-5:30 pm when school is in session.

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: Register by calling Continuing Education at 203-341-1209. Here is the pricing structure:

BELOW IS THE PRICING STRUCTURE FOR 2014;

THE 2015 PRICING STRUCTURE WILL BE POSTED CLOSER TO 2015

	Any 2 days	Any 3 days	Any 4 or 5 days
Any 1 week	\$45	\$65	\$85
Sept 2-26 (no class Sept 25)	\$155	\$225	\$280
Sept 29 - Oct 24	\$155	\$225	\$280
Oct 27 - Nov 21 (no class Nov 4)	\$155	\$225	\$280
Nov 24 - Dec 22 (no class Nov 26-28)	\$155	\$225	\$280

Description of Club: Join 'Club BED' the middle school educational after school program, which includes homework support, games, crafts, flexible hours and caring educators. At Club BED we provide a study and reading space, along with project materials. We communicate with teachers to

facilitate daily, long term projects and missing work. When the homework is done we have a variety of games, crafts and activities to entertain our students.

Art Collective/Comic Book Club

Faculty Advisors: Mrs. Anderson canderson@westport.k12.ct.us , Mr. DeRosa mderosa@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: All students 6-8

Application required? Meeting with Mrs. Anderson; meeting with Mr. DeRosa; portfolio examples/application may be required per advisers' discretion.

Schedule: Yearlong, Wednesdays from 2:45-4:00 pm in room #272

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: None.

Description of Club: The BMS Art Collective is an after school student artist group. Our aim is create public works that reflect what is happening in the community. We celebrate how each member brings a unique perspective and experience to the art making process. The Art Collective is inspired by unusual thinking and embraces the weirdness of life. Art is a solution that can transform people's thinking, as well as their physical space. The artwork created is a collaborative effort, yet students feel ownership over the product because they are invested in the development of ideas and the components that they create.

COMIC BOOK CLUB

Mr, DeRosa's "**COMIC BOOK CLUB**" will meet year long on **Thursdays**, from 2:45 to 4:00 pm in room **276** . See Mr. DeRosa for an application. All applicants must present a portfolio of three pieces of original artworks pertaining to comics and/or cartoons in any way.

Description of Club: This year long course is an in-depth study of the creation of comic books devoted to beginners. Scholars will be made aware of significant artists, genres and styles throughout the last century and be responsible for creating their own characters, storyboards, and narratives that will lead them through the development of their own collaborative, printed, comic -zine!

Additional: contact canderson@westport.k12.ct.us
mderosa@westport.k12.ct.us

National History Day

Faculty Advisor: Mrs. Davis, cdavis@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: 8th grade

Application or audition required? No

Date range for your club/activity: October through March. Students who advance to the state or national level will continue to meet through May.

Days of the week and time club meets: Tuesdays during 8th grade lunch and occasional after school meetings. After school meeting dates will be set by students and involve working with freshman who competed in NHD last year.

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: Small entry fee for competition and any self chosen materials for competition.

Brief Description of Club/Activity: National History Day makes history come alive for students by engaging them in the discovery of the historical, cultural and social experiences of the past. Through hands-on experiences and presentations, students will create a fantastic entry for competition based on their own interests (exhibit, documentary, website, performance, paper) related to this year's theme of "Explorations, Encounters, and Exchange". Entries are created individually or in small groups of up to five students. Students present their entries at competition to a panel of historians, professors, and graduate students. Competitions are held at the local, state, and national level in the spring. For more information, please visit www.nhd.org

Additional: Students MUST be present at competitions. County level is Saturday, March, 19 at Sacred Heart University.

NaNoWriMo Club (National Novel Writing Month)

Faculty Advisor: Kerstin Rao, kras@westport.k12.ct.us

Eligible students: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Application required? None.

Date range for this club: Oct 19 - Dec 7

Day of the week and time club meets: Mondays during every grade level lunch period - BMS Room #107

Any fees, special equipment or considerations: No fees. Students will create accounts on the NaNoWriMo website, and update their word counts on a regular basis.

Description of Club: The BMS NaNoWriMo club supports students who volunteer to try a national writing challenge during the month of November. Students set a word-count goal, and we meet weekly to share strategies and encouragement. December 7th is an author party in which students read a selection of their work with the group.

Additional: Regular attendance is encouraged, but not required. Students will have a lot of fun even if they can only come to a few meetings.

