

*Welcome to
Bedford Middle School's*

New Families Orientation

August 21, 2015

Our 5 Principles for Bedford's School Climate

1. Middle school should be a joyful and happy place for students;
2. Students should have positive and supportive relationships with teachers and staff;
3. Students should have a sense of belonging in an area of self-interest and emerging talent;
4. Teachers and staff withhold assumptions and treat students fairly;
5. Students are safe physically, emotionally and intellectually.

Overview

- **BMS Basics**
- **Highlights by Grade**
- **Academic Life: Courses & Schedule**
- **Overall School Activities**
- **What may be new to you at Bedford**
- **Keys to Success: Communication & Involvement**
- **BMS PTA**
- **Getting Connected**
- **Mission and Character**

BMS Basics

- Three elementary schools 'feed' Bedford (Greens Farms, Saugatuck, Long Lots)
- Each grade level supported by:
 - Administrator & Department Chair
 - Team Leaders (3) & Counseling Team (1 guidance counselor & 1 Psychologist per grade level)
 - The counseling team loops with their students for 3 years!

BMS Basics

- 'Team' refers to the students & teachers
 - 3 teams per grade level; 9 teams total at BMS
 - Approx 90-95 students per team
- Team Colors
 - 'Green 6, 7, 8'
 - 'Red 6, 7, 8'
 - 'Purple 6, 7, 8'
 - Colors are 'vertically aligned' to foster positive school climate

BMS Basics

- 'Pods'
 - core academic classrooms with common room
 - One grade 7 team is 'podless'...it's a long story...
- Grade level pods are 'clustered' together
- Students are blended into all pods at all grade levels
 - each year our student teams 'shuffle'
- Grade 7 & 8 students are 'reshuffled' into their new teams
- All students have a homeroom (HR) teacher; HR starts at 8 am!

Academics: 'Core' & 'Encore'

Core Subjects

Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

Encore Subjects

- Art
- World Language
- Spanish, French, Mandarin
(fyi: Spanish is taught in lower grades in Westport)
- Engineering & Design (STEM)
- Music: Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Music & Technology
- Physical Education & Health

Music & World Language Options

Music Options

- Chorus
- Band
- Orchestra
- Music & Technology

World Language Options

- Spanish
- French
- Mandarin

Clubs & Activities

Please check the Bedford homepage for changes and updates!

- Intramurals
- “Bedford AM” TV Program (aka BAM)
- Bedford Acting Group (BAG)
- Multimedia Club
- Image Literacy Magazine
- Ursus Student Newspaper
- Robotics/Maker Club
- Science Olympiad
- Math Club
- Rocketry Club
- BMS Spirit Club
- Jazz Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Chamber Orchestra
- Camerata

What May Be New To You At Bedford...

- Productivity Platform: Google Apps for Education
 - (gMail, gDocs, gForms, etc.)
- Homeroom & “Connections Homeroom”
- Student Lockers - hall & PE
- lunch (myschoolbucks.com) - Recess & Library
- Home Access Center (HAC), Schoology (teacher web pages)
- Bus arrival & dismissal
- Online Report Cards
- BMS FAQ's

Master Schedule Grade 6 2014-2015
 CORE: Periods 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 ENCORE: Periods 1, 4, 7

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:12	Homeroom	Homeroom	Connections Homeroom 8:00-8:27	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:15-8:57	PE 1	core 3	8:30 - 9:09 core 5	Art 4	core 6
9:00-9:42	core 2	Spanish 7	Orchestra 9:12-9:51 4	core 6	Orchestra 4
9:45-10:27	core 3	Drama 1	9:54-10:33 core 8	core 3	core 3
10:30-11:12	Design and Engineering 4	core 5	PE 1	core 2	Spanish 7
11:15-11:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:48-12:30	core 5	core 6	core 2	core 5	core 2
12:33-1:15	core 6	core 8	core 6	PE 1	core 5
1:18-2:00	Spanish 7	core 2	core 3	Spanish 7	Bedford Skills core 8
2:03-2:45	core 8	Art 4	Spanish 7	core 8	Health 1

Sample Schedule

Don't Worry,
It's Easy!

Keys to Success: Communication & Involvement

- 6th Grade Orientation
 - Friday, August 26th, 1:30 - 2:30 pm - for students only!
- Back School Night
 - Grade 6: Thursday, 9/10/15, 6:30 - 9:00 pm
 - Grade 7 & 8: Wednesday, 9/16/15, 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- Open Pod Meetings (for parents)
 - 4 times/year
 - Transition meetings
- Wait! What's an open pod meeting?

BMS Parent Teacher Association

- **PTA membership**
 - Online access to BMS Family Directory
 - Volunteering at PTA Events
- **PTA Weekly Emails**
 - Automatic upon registration
 - PTA web page on the BMS school website (<http://bms.westport.k12.ct.us/>)
- **PTA General Meetings (3x/year)**
 - September 3rd, 9 -11 am in the BMS cafeteria
- **PTA Online Updates and Calendar**
 - For the latest PTA updates go the the BMS website and click on the PTA Tab <http://bms.westport.k12.ct.us/pta/pta/>

Getting Connected

- **New Families Parent Coffee**
 - Sept 4th, 9-11 am

- **Grade Level Parent Coffees**
 - 6th Grade, Sept. 10th, 9-11 am
 - 7th Grade, Sept. 29th, 9-11 am
 - 8th Grade, Oct. 6th, 9-11 am

- **New Families Popsicle Party**
 - Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10-11:30 am
at Compo Beach!

Safety & Security

BMS enjoys a safe and secure school and campus environment...our students participate in active preparation:

- Fire drills
- security “lockdown” style drills

**Please return to the library
media center (LMC) after your
building tour for final
questions and refreshments!**