

# Scheduling Process: Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

**COURSE REQUESTS 6TH GRADE**

OLENTANGY BEACHES MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SCHEDULING: 2024-2025

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary: ACEE | CES | ICE | TWCS

**Requested Courses:**  
The following courses are taken by all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and will be automatically scheduled:  
• Core (Core Language Arts)  
• Integrated English & Language Arts 6  
• Mathematics 6  
• Science 6

**Unified Arts (6 weeks each):**  
Visual Arts  
Digital Expression 6  
Health 6

**Elective Courses:**  
For their second Unified Arts period, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall. Each of which are available for two semesters (24 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts courses must request up to this course if a student wishes to combine with a Performing Arts course, they will alternate between the two throughout the week. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

\_\_\_\_\_ Study Hall \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_

**For Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Choir \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Strings \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir & Strings \_\_\_\_\_

**For Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**  
Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Choir \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Strings \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir & Strings \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to your School Counselor no later than January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Meet Your Counselors

- Students are assigned to counselors based on the first letter of their last name. This year, our counselors have the following students:
  - Mr. Vyrostek: Last Names A-K
  - Mr. Rock: Last Names L-Z



# Berkshire Student Services



Meet Berkshire's Student Services Department (Left to Right):

- Mr. Rock: School Counselor, L-Z
- Mrs. Bruening: Secretary, Student Services & Athletics
- Mrs. Davis: School Social Worker
- Mr. Vyrostek: School Counselor, A-K



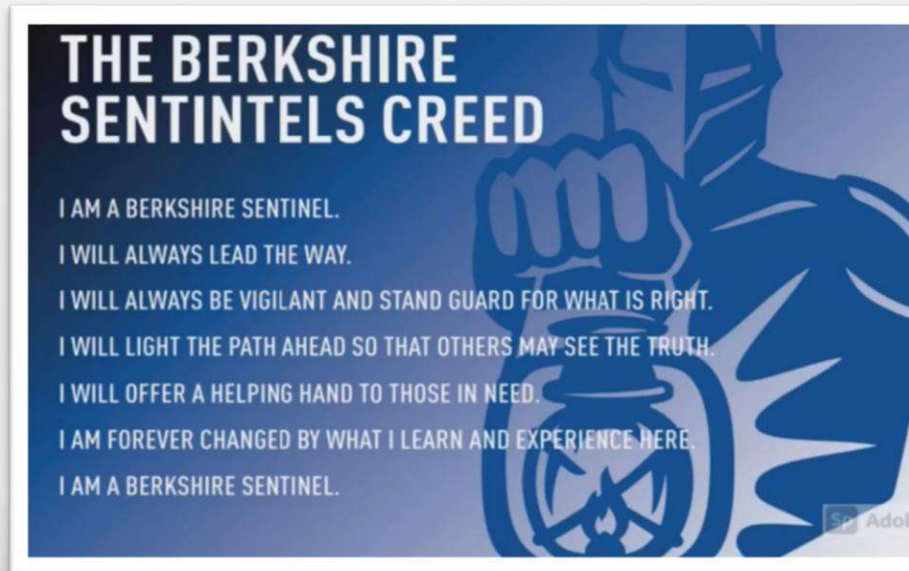
# Who's Ready to be a Sentinel?!



- Berkshire Middle School's mascot is The Sentinel!
- Sentinels are leaders and protectors, keeping watch over others.
- Because much of the land in our community was part of the Underground Railroad, the significance of The Sentinel is even greater!

# Who's Ready to be a Sentinel?!

- What does it mean to be a Sentinel?



# Welcome To 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (almost)

- Today, we're going to talk about 6<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school life.
- There's a lot to cover, so we're going to wait until the end for questions (they'll likely be covered in the presentation, anyway).

**COURSE REQUESTS 6TH GRADE**

OLENTANGY BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SCHEDULING, 2024-2025

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary: ACES | CES | JCES | WCES

**Required Courses:**  
The following courses are taken by all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and will be automatically scheduled:

- **Core (year-long courses):**  
Integrated English & Language Arts 6  
Mathematics 6  
Science 6
- **Unified Arts (6-weeks, each):**  
Visual Art 6  
Digital Exploration 6  
Health 6

**Elective Courses:**  
For their second Unified Arts period, Sixth-Grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall, both of which are year-long courses (36 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts may request up to two courses; if a student selects two Performing Arts courses, they will alternate between the two throughout the week. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

\_\_\_\_\_ Study Hall

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ Band\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir  
\_\_\_\_\_ Strings\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Choir\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Band & Strings\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir & Strings\*

\*If signing up for Band and/or Strings, an instrument selection process is required. This will take place in April. Please reach out to your Berkshire Middle School Counselor to request a change.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Students will have until the last day of school (May 23, 2024) to request changes to their Sixth-Grade schedule. Please reach out to your Berkshire Middle School Counselor to request a change.

• Mr. Vyzostek (Last Names A-K) at [Michael.Vyzostek@olemd.us](mailto:Michael.Vyzostek@olemd.us)  
• Mr. Rock (Last Names L-Z) at [Andrew.Rock@olemd.us](mailto:Andrew.Rock@olemd.us)

Please return this form to your School Counselor no later than January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_




# So... What's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Like?


- Well, it's a LOT different from 5<sup>th</sup> grade!
- We'll take some time to discuss some of the most common details from the life of a middle schooler.
- But first, let's check out the scheduling process!



# Your Scheduling Card


- In order to build your schedule for next year, we need you and your folks at home to complete your scheduling card (your elementary school counselor will provide these).

**COURSE REQUESTS**  
6TH GRADE



Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary: ACES | CES | JCES | WCES

**OLENTANGY BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
SCHEDULING, 2024-2025



**Required Courses:**  
The following courses are taken by all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and will be automatically scheduled:

- **Core (year-long courses):**  
Integrated English & Language Arts 6  
Mathematics 6  
Science 6  
Social Studies 6  
\*GO Time (Core Enrichment)  
Lunch (30 minutes)
- **Unified Arts (6-weeks, each):**  
Visual Art 6  
Digital Exploration 6  
Health 6  
Physical Education 6 (12 weeks total)  
Academic Lab 6

**Elective Courses:**  
For their second Unified Arts period, Sixth-Grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall, both of which are year-long courses (36 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts may request up to two courses; if a student selects two Performing Arts courses, they will alternate between the two throughout the week. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:  

☐ Study Hall

OR

☐ Band\*  
☐ Choir  
☐ Strings\*

☐ Band & Choir\*  
☐ Band & Strings\*  
☐ Choir & Strings\*

*\*If signing up for Band and/or Strings, an instrument selection process is required. This will take place in April. Please do not obtain an instrument without further instruction. Register for the course now, and list parent/guardian contact information below for further communications:*

- Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Students will have until the last day of school (May 23, 2024) to request changes to their Sixth-Grade schedule. Please reach out to your Berkshire Middle School Counselor to request a change:  

- Mr Vyrostek (Last Names A-K) at [Michael.Vyrostek@oldus](mailto:Michael.Vyrostek@oldus)
- Mr Rock (Last Names L-Z) at [Andrew.Rock@oldus](mailto:Andrew.Rock@oldus)

Please return this form to your School Counselor no later than January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# First Things, First

- Neatly write your name (Last, First) on the top of your scheduling card, and circle your elementary school.



**BERKSHIRE** COURSE REQUESTS 6TH GRADE

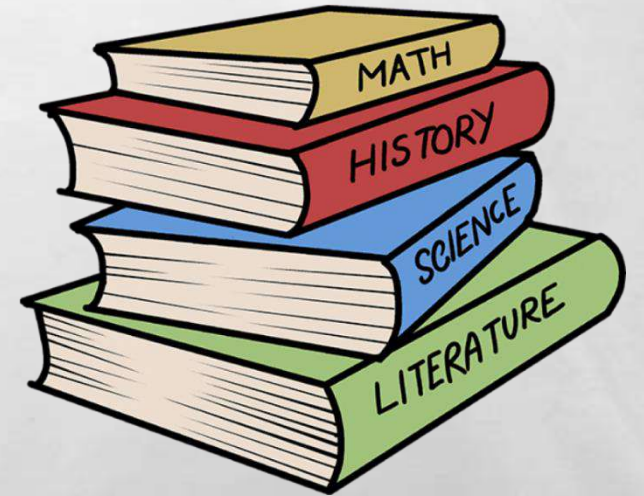
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary: ACES | CES | JCES | WCES

# Required Core Courses

- Next year, you'll have 4 Core courses:
  - Integrated English 6 (Reading, Writing, & Language)
  - Social Studies 6
  - Science 6
  - Mathematics 6



# Required Core Courses

- Next year, you'll have 4 Core courses:
  - Each of these courses is 53 minutes long.
  - Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader takes the same Core courses (but with different teachers).





# Teams

- In middle school, students are assigned to teams of 3-4 teachers (one for each Core subject).
- Everyone on a team has the same 4 teachers (just in different periods).
- Most years, we have three 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams at Berkshire: Teams 601, 602, and 603.



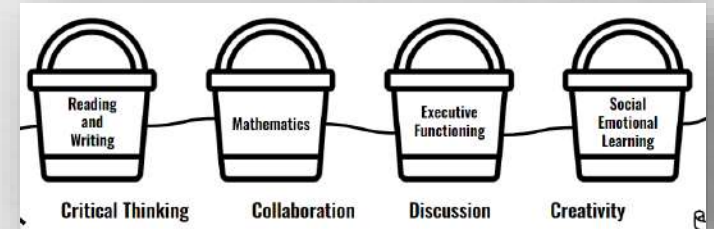
# Teams

- Students are randomly assigned to teams.
- You may have students from your elementary school on your team, but you'll also have students from the other 3 elementary schools that feed into Berkshire (Alum Creek, Cheshire, Johnnycake Corners, Walnut Creek).



# What is Academic Assist?

- You'll also have another course in your schedule that all 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take (53 minutes, as well).
- It's labeled *Academic Assist* in PowerSchool, but we call it G.O. Time (Growth Opportunity Time).
- For this course, you'll be assigned to one of your team's teachers, but you probably won't go there every day.





# What is G. O. Time?

- Students typically rotate through their Core teachers each day of the week for G.O. Time.
- You will not earn a grade in this course; teachers provide extension activities, enrichment, guided practice, and even invite guest speakers from time to time.
- Each team handles this course a little bit differently, so they'll have more to share with you the first week of school.



# Unified Arts Courses



- Sixth grade students also have two periods for Unified Arts courses (*Specials*).
- For one of the periods, students will have a rotation of 6 different courses, each lasting 6 weeks.
- The other period will be a year-long, Elective course.
- These periods are also 53 minutes long.

# Unified Arts Courses



- Every sixth grader will be required to take the 6-week Unified Arts courses listed to the right.
- The order in which you have them will be random (they're listed alphabetically, here).
- Academic Lab 6
- Digital Exploration 6
- Health 6
- Physical Education 6 (every 6<sup>th</sup> grade student takes this course twice)
- Visual Art 6



# Elective Courses



- For the other Unified Arts period, students may choose to take either:
  - Study Hall 6 [OR]
  - Performing Arts (one or two of the following):
    - Band 6
    - Choir 6
    - Strings 6

# Unified Arts Courses

- Elective courses:

**Elective Courses:**

For their second Unified Arts period, Sixth-Grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall, both of which are year-long courses (36 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts may request up to two courses; if a student selects two Performing Arts courses, they will alternate between the two throughout the week. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select ONE option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

<input type="checkbox"/> Study Hall	OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Band*	<input type="checkbox"/> Band & Choir*
		<input type="checkbox"/> Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Band & Strings*
		<input type="checkbox"/> Strings*	<input type="checkbox"/> Choir & Strings*

- If you select Study Hall, you will not take a Performing Arts course (Music).
- If you select Performing Arts, you may choose one OR two of the options.
- If you do take two Performing Arts courses, you will alternate days. You'll have Performing Arts every day, but will have one of them one day, and the other the next.

# Unified Arts Courses

- If you'd like to take a Performing Arts course, you do NOT need to have taken any in elementary school.
- However, your future Performing Arts teacher will need some information to prepare you for next year.

*\*If signing up for Band and/or Strings, an instrument selection process is required. This will take place in April. Please do not obtain an instrument without further instruction. Register for the course now, and list parent/guardian contact information below for further communications:*

- Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# Final Details

- Take some time to talk with your parents/guardians about the schedule you'd like to request.
- Once complete, turn your card in to your school counselor no later than **January 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Please return this form to your School Counselor no later than January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# What Is a Typical Day Like?

- School begins at 7.40, and ends at 2.45.
- Classes are 53 minutes long (extra time in last period for announcements).
- Students travel from class to class.

Period	Class	Time
1	Core 1	7.40-8.33
2	Unified Arts 1	8.36-9.29
3	Core 2	9.32-10.25
4/5	Core 3	10.28-11.21
6	Lunch	11.24-11.54
7/8	G.O. Time	11.57-12.50
9	Unified Arts 2	12.53-1.46
10	Core 4	1.49-2.45

# What Is a Typical Day Like?

- School starts at

Please note – this bell schedule is based on this school year; there may be some minor adjustments for next year.

- Students travel from class to class.

Period	Class	Time
1	Core 1	7.40-8.33
2	Unified Arts 1	8.36-9.29
3	Core 2	9.32-10.25
4/5	Core 3	10.28-11.21
6	Lunch	11.24-11.54
7/8	G.O. Time	11.57-12.50
9	Unified Arts 2	12.53-1.46
10	Core 4	1.49-2.45



# Lunch

- All 6<sup>th</sup> graders eat lunch together (11.24-11.54) in our cafeteria.
- You can typically sit where you like at lunch (seats are not usually assigned).
- You may bring your lunch from home, or...



# Lunch

- You may purchase your lunch.
- If you decide to purchase your lunch, you'll find your seat, and then wait for the cafeteria monitors to call you to the lunch line (to avoid over-crowding).
- A standard lunch (daily special) costs \$2.75.



# Lunch

- The cafeteria is much larger than what you have in your elementary school, and has a greater variety of offerings, should you choose to purchase your lunch (a la carte items, sandwiches, salads, daily special offerings, etc.).





# What about Recess?

- Unfortunately, middle school students do not have recess, but you'll be moving around the building throughout the day, so you'll certainly get a chance to burn off some energy!



# What's the Building Like?

- Each grade's Core classrooms are grouped into grade-level *houses*.
- This means that all 6<sup>th</sup> graders are in the same hallway for most of the day, and will not mingle with 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders.



# What's the Building Like?

- Unified Arts classes are in their own areas of the building, but are fairly easy to locate, as well (most are in the main hallway).





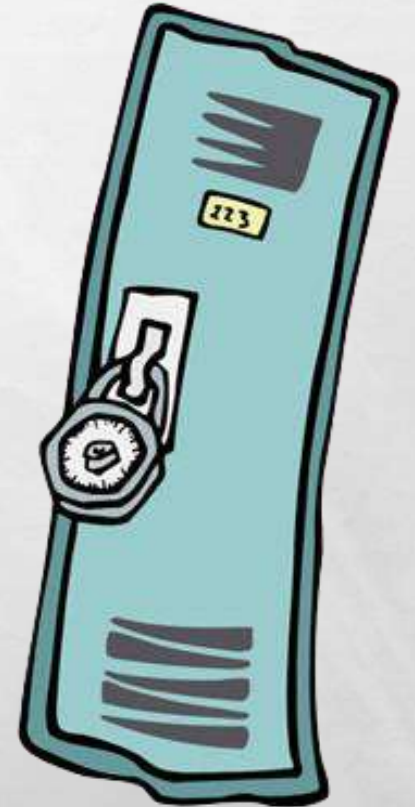
# What's the Building Like?



[Video Tour](#)

# Lockers

- Lockers are usually assigned in the hallway where a student's first class is located.
- Because lockers are assigned, students do not carry backpacks during the school day.



# Is Berkshire Crowded?

- As of 01/05/2024, we have 875 students in our building, with roughly 325 6<sup>th</sup> Graders





# Homework

- Some incoming middle school students wonder if they will have a lot of homework.
- The short answer is YES.
- Middle school is more rigorous than elementary, but if you maintain good study skills, you should have no problem being successful!



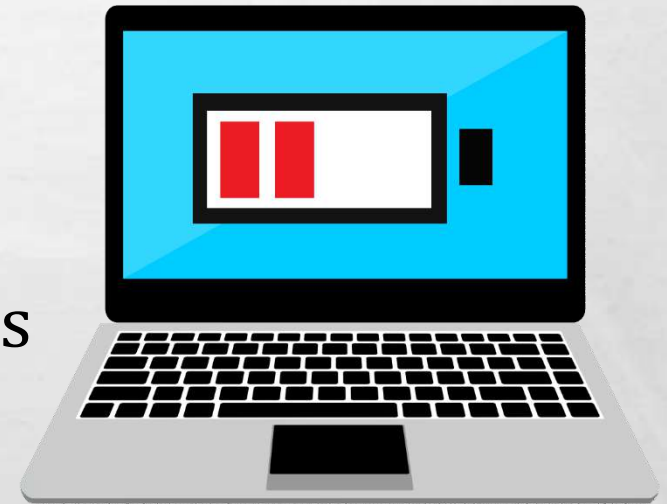
# Homework

- Teachers post assignments and upcoming assessments to Schoology.
- Sixth graders also receive an agenda book / planner. Students are encouraged to use these planners to keep track of their assignments throughout the year.



# Do I Need a Laptop or Chromebook?

- If you have a laptop or Chromebook, you can definitely bring it to use for your classes. Your teachers will let you know when you need them.
- If you don't have a laptop or Chromebook, there's no need to worry! We have plenty at Berkshire for you to use!



# Behavioral Expectations

- Berkshire Middle School is located on 3 Bs & K Road...
- This makes our behavioral expectations easy to remember!
- If you're wondering if you're on the right track, think of the 3 Bs & K Way!





# Can I Bring My Phone?

- Some 6<sup>th</sup> graders have phones and wonder whether or not they can use them at school.
- Usually, teachers do not allow phones in the classroom, so students will need to keep them in their locker throughout the day.
- Phones may be used during Lunch.



# Does Berkshire Have a Dress Code?

- The dress code at Berkshire is similar to elementary school.
- Some points to note:
  - Hats are typically not permitted;
  - Flip flops should not be worn to school (for safety);
  - No profanity or inappropriate content;
  - Clothing should be modest (shouldn't show too much skin).



# Can 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Have Detention?

- Sometimes, yes.
- However, there are different types of detention: after-school, and lunch detention.
- Usually, students will meet with one of our principals (Ms. Baker, Mrs. Nagel, or Mr. Bidlack) to resolve the discipline issue without the need for a detention.



# Berkshire's Principals

- Speaking of principals, Berkshire has 3 (and they're all very kind!).



Ms. Baker,  
Principal



Mrs. Nagel,  
Assistant Principal



Mr. Bidlack,  
Assistant Principal & Athletic Director



# Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities (clubs) are also offered at Berkshire.
- Most clubs are offered during the school day, but some do take place before or after school.
- Listen to the announcements and check Schoology for details.



# Extracurricular Activities

- We have a great variety of groups, but if there's a club that you'd like to start, let us know, and we'll try to find a teacher to run it for you.
- Some of our current offerings include:



# Sports



**SPORTS &  
ATHLETICS**



- As a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, unfortunately, you won't be eligible to participate in the school's team sports, but you're still welcome to attend games and matches:

Football

Cross  
Country

Softball

Track &  
Field

Wrestling

Golf

Volleyball

Cheerleading

Baseball

Lacrosse

Basketball



# Visiting Your Counselor

- School counselors provide a variety of services to students (conflict resolution, social/emotional support, academic advising, career advising, scheduling, and much more).
- Students typically come to see us during one of their Unified Arts periods or during G.O. Time.





# Visiting Your Counselor

- If you need to see one of us, stop by the Student Services office before school or between classes.
- When you come to the office, sign in with our secretary, Mrs. Bruening (Mrs. B), and then return to class until we send a pass to you.



Mrs. Bruening,  
Secretary: Student Services & Athletics

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

- The week before school starts, Berkshire's Student Services department hosts an orientation for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- More information will be provided to families during the summer, so stay tuned!



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

- Orientation is presented by Berkshire's counselors and a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, called WEB Leaders.
- This is a day when students will receive their schedule, tour the building, and learn more about Berkshire.





# Next Steps

- Make sure you have completed your schedule card and returned it to your counselor by **January 26<sup>th</sup>**.
- If you decide to make changes to your elective, you have until the last day of school (**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**) to do so. Changes will not be made after that.





# Questions?



- If you have additional questions about the scheduling process after today, feel free to reach out to your elementary counselor.
- You can also find a wealth of information on the Berkshire Student Services page on the school's website.

