



# BEN STEELE MIDDLE SCHOOL

5640 Grand Avenue  
Billings, MT 59106  
Phone - 406.601.1600 Fax - 406.652.3228  
www.bensteelems.com

Joe M. Halligan – Principal

Angie Gray – Associate Principal

August 8, 2019

Dear Ben Steele Parents and Families,

The most exciting time of the summer is upon us...the start of a brand new school year! We are, once again, looking forward to working with your students during this next year. As you wrap up your summertime activities and begin your back to school routines, I wanted to update you on a few important items you will need to be aware of in the coming days and weeks:

- **Student Immunizations:** If your child is missing immunizations, or if we don't have updated records for them, you recently received a postcard in the mail indicating so. **Per district and state policy, students will not be allowed to attend classes until immunization records are current.** You can scan, email, or fax updated immunization records to our office at the number above.
- **Remind 101 for Parents:** I am sorry to report that Remind 101 has changed their usage policy for large groups. We will no longer be able to utilize that messaging service for school wide communication. \*Teachers and coaches will still be able to utilize the app, on a more limited basis. We are currently searching for another means to provide fast updates to families.
- **Fall Sports in Middle School:** Cross Country, Football and Softball will start practicing on the afternoon of Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM at school. All student athletes must have a sports physical on file, in the office, before they will be allowed to practice/participate. It is not too late to schedule a physical or sign up for an activity! Please call the main office if you have questions about participation, activity fees, or anything else regarding sports at Ben Steele.
- **Ben Steele Open House 2019:** Our Open House this year, will be on Tuesday evening, August 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. From 6:00 to 7:30, parents and students will be able to come in, get their class schedule and locker assignment, tour the school, and meet their teachers for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. At 7:30 PM, everyone will convene in the gym with Mrs. Gray and Mr. Halligan for a brief, informative meeting. \*Students should not be left unattended at this time.
- **First Day of School for Students:** Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be the first day of school **for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new students only!** BPS is trying something new in the middle schools, allowing the first day to be just for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and any students new to Ben Steele. All returning 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will join us on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Enjoy one more day of summer!
- **Day Planners and ID Badges:** This year, Day Planners and ID badges will be required for all students and utilized throughout the school day. Please bring \$5.00 to the office on Open House night or send it with your student, the first week of school, to cover the cost of the planners. ID badges will be provided to all students on the first day at no cost. Replacement badges will cost \$5.00, if lost or broken during the school year.

We are excited to be starting our third year at Ben Steele! I want to thank you, in advance, for your support of our teachers and staff, and your students. The partnership we have between school and home is an essential part of our continued success. Here's to another fantastic school year!

See you soon!

Joe M. Halligan  
Principal