

# Middle School 8th Grade Parent Meeting Agenda

## February 2021 Billings West High School 281-5600

### Easing the Transition from 8th grade to 9th grade

- Incoming Freshmen Open House - TBD depending upon status of pandemic
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tours – TBD depending upon status of pandemic
- Mentor Program & First Day of School - welcome/support 9th & new students only
- Academic Interventions
  - Students can meet with teachers from *7:30am-8am* and *3pm-3:30pm*
  - Pre-Algebra, Reading Foundations
  - Innovative Learning Center (The Den)
- PowerSchool Parent/Student - Attendance, homework, communication with teacher
- “Paperless Progress Reports” at six & twelve weeks, semester grades mailed home
- School registration boundaries
  - Not a district of choice, students attend the high school based on the legal residential address of their parent/legal guardian
  - Out of Area Requests for incoming 9th graders go through our Executive Directors, Brenda Koch & Randy Russell, and must meet limited criteria
- Students are issued IDs they need every day at school to promote School Safety
- **Communication** is key – student, teacher, counselor, administration
- Attendance matters!! So does homework!!
- **Professional School Guidance Counselors & a Career Coach in the building**

### Typical Freshman School Day & Required Course Work

- Six class periods *8 a.m. to 3 p.m.* Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- Early Out Wednesday Schedule for PLCs (Professional Learning Communities)
  - Six class periods *8 a.m. to 2 p.m.*
  - Shorter classes and passing periods, longer and earlier “one lunch”
- Early Morning classes primarily for grades 10-12 honors and AP classes
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade “Big Four” – English, Math, Science, Health Enhancement
- Honors English, Honors Earth Science, Honors Geometry, Honors Biology
  - Guidelines - Test scores, grades, writing assessment, teacher recommendation
  - Parents and students will receive mailing over the summer (by July 1)
  - Required summer reading assignment in Honors English
  - Weighted Grades (Honors and AP Courses) A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1, F=0
  - Valedictorian Criteria (highest weighted GPA unrounded on 24 credits)
  - Platinum Program (see flyer on our website)
- Electives - Career & Technical Education (CTE), Visual & Performing Arts (VPA, World Languages
- Career Center Options
- Special Education- determined through IEP
- 504 follows the student with annual conversation (meet only if need to revise)

### **Registration for 2021-2022 School Year**

- Students have access to a registration guide and sample registration sheet during their pre-registration meeting with their middle school counselor and access to our Course Offerings Book online. Our counselors will visit middle schools in February to work with students to enter their course requests for their Freshman year.
- All registration information is available under Students - Student Registration on our website at <https://www.billingsschools.org/our-schools/high-schools/west>.
- 6 classes taken each semester = 6 Credits Possible as a Freshman (5.0 credits must be earned to maintain appropriate progress toward graduation).
- There are attendance guidelines for earning credit/grades (10 Day Rule, P Grades).
- Students must pass all of the graduation requirements listed in the Registration Guide in order to earn a West High diploma.
- Making up failed credits:
  - Fee-based options such as summer school or online courses.
  - Free options include credit recovery classes during the school day, after school, or MTDA Connect classes online.

### **Activity Involvement: Clubs & Sports**

**Honorary Groups (Application and Selection Process):** National Honor Society, Girls' State, Boys' State, HOBY, Youth Leadership Billings

**Service Clubs:** Key Club, Student Council (STUCO)

**Special Interest Groups:** Academic Team, Amnesty International, Art Club, Bears Experiencing the World, Business Professionals of America (BPA), Chess Club, Creative Writing Club, Drama Club, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), French Club, German Club, GSA, Math Club, Native American Club, Pep Band, Science Club, Ski Club, Spanish Club, Special Olympics, Tech Club, Westward.

**Career Center Organizations:** Engineering Club, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Future Health Professionals (HOSA), SkillsUSA.

**Golf begins August 12<sup>th</sup>** (tryouts are 2 days, need 3 days of practice before competition; students are strongly encouraged to establish a handicap during the summer)

**Football, Volleyball, Soccer begin August 13<sup>th</sup>; Cross Country begins August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**SST starts June 7<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheerleading Tryouts usually in early April, please check website in March**

**Dance Team Tryouts April 12, 14, 16 5:30-8:00pm; please check website in March**

**Speech/Debate practice begins October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Band, Choir, Orchestra Auditions Arranged with the teacher; contact the Music Office at 281-5738**

For eligibility information, financial obligations, physicals, and summer camp information, please contact Liz Welch, Activities Secretary, at 281-5617.

***Thank you for reading & welcome to the Golden Bear Family!***

*Updated 2/10/21*