



Newsletter 21 Sept 17, 2021



PRINCIPAL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

I am seeking your urgent attention and assistance: I am saddened to inform you that the national trend of theft and vandalism in schools popularized on the social media platform TikTok called "[licks](#)" or "[devious licks](#)" has manifested at Bedford Middle School.

This year already, BMS had a national flag stolen from the cafeteria; multiple instances of hand soap and towel dispensers torn off of walls, damaged and stolen; hand soap dispenser bags exploded covering bathroom floors; a gallon jug of common-use hand sanitizer was stolen and then destroyed in our boys locker room; urinal screen shoved into sink drain causing a flood; safety equipment taken and moved throughout the school.

We've successfully investigated most of these incidents with the help of the BMS security system and student upstanders/witnesses; BMS has taken disciplinary action against the few students responsible for these destructive behaviors.

Starting today at BMS:

- Boys restrooms that do not presently have hallway-level surveillance are now locked;
- Theft and vandalism will result in disciplinary action and, if warranted, referral to the Westport Police Department;
- Ongoing theft and vandalism will result in additional restrooms being locked-down with the addition of hallway-level supervision by staff.
- The restrooms in the cafeteria will remain open for use during all lunch waves.
- Teachers will be reinforcing the requirement that students sign-out and sign-in to classrooms to use the restrooms.

Needless to say, while only a small number of students are responsible for these senseless acts, which cost our school financial resources to replace commercial fixtures, human resources in cleaning, repairing, investigating and intervening when incidents occur, it's the negative impact on our school culture and trust is most concerning to me. Furthermore, our custodial staff, who have been working tirelessly to keep our school as clean and as safe as possible, are understandably upset and need this to stop immediately.

The BMS school community works tirelessly to provide the best possible school environment and learning experience to the limit of our collective capability and capacity. Likewise, we know that you, our parents and guardians, work tirelessly to send your children to our school and are proud to do so.

Please discuss this matter with your child so they understand the seriousness of this issue.

FIRE ALARM AT BMS FRIDAY, 9/17/2021

Due to some burnt food, the fire emergency response system was activated at BMS; students exited the building and were outside for approximately 20 minutes. We adjusted the time schedule accordingly to make certain all students had an opportunity to have their full lunch and recess waves.

***NEW* [\[LINK\] BMS CLUBS & ACTIVITIES BOOKLET 2021-2022](#)**

We will update club information as it becomes available; at this time we are filing a handful of clubs with staff advisors. Thank you for your patience as we work to fill these openings.

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE POLICY

The Safe School Climate Policy states that each and every school community member should be treated with dignity, should have the opportunity to learn, work, interact, and socialize in physically, emotionally and intellectually safe respectful and positive school environments as well as the opportunity to experience high quality relationships. We work together with staff, students and community members to promote conditions designed to create, maintain, and nurture a positive school climate. The Bullying Intervention and Prevention Policy states that we are responsible for creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe and thus free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In accordance with state law and the Board's Safe School Climate Plan, the Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program, whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the Board of Education. We will be reviewing all of this information in school with all students attending CMS/BMS. Please review these policies and discuss them with your children.

LINKS:

- [Bullying Intervention and Prevention Policy](#)
- [Safe School Climate Plan](#)
- [Westport Guiding Principles](#)

SCHOOL POLICY SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS' SCHOOL ATTIRE

Dress Code Reminder: Clothing and jewelry should be safe and free of writing, pictures, or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, or sexually suggestive or which advocate violence, racial, ethnic, or religious prejudice, or the use of drugs or alcohol. No clothing, article of clothing, or manner of wearing clothes that is inappropriately revealing is permitted. Underwear should not be visible.

As a timely reminder, we expect our students and families to recognize that Bedford Middle School is a learning environment in a public school setting. Expectations for school-appropriate attire are distinctly different from what may be deemed acceptable for a pool party. At BMS, the occasion is academics and learning in a public school environment; the Bedford Middle School teachers and staff fully expect our students to wear attire to school that commensurate and respectful to our learning environment. For additional information, please refer to the [school attire guidelines found in our handbook](#).

BMS Health Office REMINDERS

When to Keep Your Child Home:

- fever over 100;
- any Covid-19 symptoms
- an undiagnosed rash;
- vomited in the past 24 hours; • more than one episode of diarrhea; • copious yellow/green mucus discharge from nose;
- a severe earache, with or without fever;
- a severe sore throat with symptoms indicating possible strep throat; • conjunctivitis (pink eye) with discharge;
- an active infestation of head lice; • a communicable illness;
- an undiagnosed skin wound, sore or lesion that appears infected (is red, swollen or draining fluid).

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20th-24th	
DAY/DATE	SCHEDULE
Monday, 9/20/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Tuesday, 9/21/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Wednesday, 9/22/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Thursday, 9/23/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Friday, 9/24/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27th-OCTOBER 1st	
DAY/DATE	SCHEDULE
Monday, 9/27/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Tuesday, 9/28/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Wednesday, 9/29/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Thursday, 9/30/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Friday, 10/01/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)

VISIT THE BMS STUDENT NEWSPAPER [URSUS.NEWS](https://www.ursus.news)

Comments on articles are encouraged, and if you have a letter to the editor or an op-ed, we'd be glad to consider publishing your thoughts. [LINK TO URSUS](#)

VISIT THE AMAZING BMS LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER SITE

So many amazing titles! Please visit the [BMS LMC website](#) for more details. We have the ebooks and audiobooks available in Sora.

AWESOME ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

- [BMS Students Online Learning Resources Organized by Subject Area](#)
- [Parent Tutorial \(video\): Basics on Using Schoology and PowerSchool \(for parents\)](#)
- [BMS Library Media Center Presents: READING FROM HOME \(for students and parents\)](#)
- [Schoology: Calendar Tips \(for students\)](#)
- [Schoology: How to View All of Your Courses \(for students\)](#)
- [BMS Homepage](#)
- [Schoology](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)

PARENT TECH HELP

Please contact the parenthelpdesk@westportps.org or 203-341-1214 for technical issues with accessing district resources or district supplied Chromebooks.

Here are helpful directions for student Chromebooks: [Connecting at Home](#) and [Printing at Home](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Many of our Bedford families have been seeking ways to reach out and help members of our community who experience food insecurity. Here are three ways you can help support our community and Homes with Hope Westport:

1. Drop off non-perishable food and/or toiletry donations as usual at the center, but with no contact. Families can leave the food/toiletries at the door. Link to needed items: [Food/Toiletry List](#)
2. Send food/toiletries via Amazon and have it delivered to the center. [Food/Toiletry List](#)
3. Donate funds via the "donate" link on their website. <https://www.hwhct.org/>

Acts of compassion and kindness may help reduce stress, boost immune systems, and help reduce negative emotions such as anger, anxiety, and depression. Furthermore, reaching out and helping others may also increase one's sense of self esteem and emotional wellbeing. Thank you for supporting our community!