BEDFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
88 North Avenue, Westport, CT 06880
Tel 203-341-1500
Fax 203-341-1508

Adam Rosen	Principal
Megan Gallant	Assistant Principal
Denise Emmerthal	Assistant Principal
Jacquelyn Mellin	Assistant Principal

WELCOME TO THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR AT BEDFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL!



- SCHOOL HOURS: Full Day 8:30 am-3:15 pm; Half Day: 8:30 am-1:00 pm
- MAIN OFFICE HOURS: 7:45 am-3:45 pm
- BMS MAIN PHONE LINE: 203-341-1500
- (LINK) BMS Homepage
- (LINK) Westport Schools Parent Password Manager
- (LINK) BMS 2022-2023 Student School Supplies Guidelines for Grades 6, 7 and 8
- (LINK) BMS Summer Reading for Incoming 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students

Dear Bedford Middle School Community,

Welcome students and families to the 2022-2023 school year at Bedford Middle School! We are about to embark on what will be a fantastic and rewarding school year featuring engaging courses and learning activities with our team of kind and compassionate staff. Last year, BMS enjoyed an excellent school year; we worked toward rebuilding our school culture, traditions and norms. We look forward to welcoming your children to BMS and continuing this good work into the new school year.

During the course of this year, students will have opportunities to engage with new ideas, learn new skills, meet new friends in a compassionate, nurturing and trusting school environment. Middle school truly is an exciting and dynamic continuation of our students' intellectual, social and emotional development.

Our shared-vision for student success is grounded in these interlinked elements:

- Students should have positive and trusting relationships with the adults in our school;
- Students should have a sense of belonging and should benefit from personal meaning, connection, discovery and purpose within our wide-ranging programs;
- Students should sense fairness throughout our school environment;
- Students should feel physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe;
- BMS should be a happy and joyful place for all.

While these elements do not represent a guarantee, they are trail markers that serve to lead our entire school community--students, parents and staff--towards this shared vision in the best interest of our students and school.

Like always, we've had a busy summer actively preparing for the arrival of the new school year. Faculty continued to develop programs and update curricula; facilities and maintenance staff worked to clean, sanitize and prepare classrooms and campus. We are proud of our school and community and want to provide our students with everything they need to succeed.

Our shared goal is to provide our students with a rigorous, enriching and relevant educational program in a beautiful, clean and safe school environment. Below, we've included important and timely information to help students and parents become more familiar and comfortable with BMS. We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding school year!

Please be aware that this welcome letter contains enough information to open school and to get us all started in a positive direction; it does not contain exhaustive granular details associated with our entire school operation. During the opening orientation week and associated opening of school events, we will share plenty more information with our students and families.

Warmest regards, Adam Rosen, BMS Principal

Student Team Assignments & First Day of School

On Friday, August 26, 2022, at 4 pm, all BMS families will receive an email with their child's teaching team assignment and homeroom teacher's name. Students' complete and detailed daily class schedules will be provided to students during the first opening school day's extended homeroom on Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

PowerSchool Portal Access for Parents

Families will miss critical and timely communications from BMS if you do not verify that your email addresses and contact information is updated in the PowerSchool portal for parents/guardians. For assistance visit (LINK) Parent Tech Help To reset your parent portal passcode, please visit: WPS Parent Password Manager. Please be sure you have logged into the Powerschool portal and update your parent/guardian email addresses as needed so you will continue to receive timely communications from BMS.

Physical Exam Required for All Rising 7th Grade Students

The teaching team assignment and homeroom information will NOT be sent to students entering 7th grade who have not completed and submitted to the BMS Health Office a Health Assessment Record Form from a physical examination; the physical must be completed on or after June 1, 2021. For additional information, please visit Health Services Common Forms

Special Event: BMS New Families Orientation 2022-2023

On Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 10-11:30 am, the BMS Leadership Team, PTA Presidents and PTA New Families Committee will host an in-person orientation for all new to Westport families grade 6, 7 and 8. This event is for students and parents/guardians to both attend together, in-person, at BMS. All new families will receive an invitation to this event; if you are a new to Westport family and have a student attending BMS, please contact the main office for details if you did not receive your invite.

Special Event: BMS 6th Grade Student Orientation (LINK)

On Monday, August 29, 2022, BMS will host its Grade 6 Student Orientation events. These events will be in-person and are for our incoming 6th grade students only; this event is optional. BMS has three 6th grade teaching teams; we have planned three separate orientations, one event for each 6th grade teaching team. BMS will share students' individual team placement and homeroom information by email August 26th at 4 pm. We ask that students arrive at orientation knowing their team color, homeroom teacher name and room number. If, for any reason, you do not receive this email on 8/27/21, please contact the main office at 203-341-1500; the main office will provide you with the team placement information including homeroom teacher and location.

1. Grade 6 GREEN Team 9-10am
2. Grade 6 PURPLE Team 10:30-11:30am
3. Grade 6 RED Team 12-1pm

During orientation, students will be provided with an overview of BMS (LINK) and a tour of our school. Students will visit their homeroom location and practice opening their student hallway locker. Here is a helpful video that explains how to open your locker at BMS (LINK). We look forward to seeing your student at BMS on 8/30/21 for this welcoming event!

Teaching Team Leaders

Each of BMS's 9 teaching teams (3/grade level) have an official team leader. The team leader helps to coordinate the operations of the teaching team and are available to communicate with parents on a variety of issues. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our team leaders; they are happy to assist you navigate the issue at hand:

- Grade 6
    - Purple Team April Harvey: 203-341-1557
    - Red Team Liz Smith: 203-341-2482
    - Green Team Lou DeFichy: 203-341-2477

- Grade 7
    - Purple Team Kristina Rodriguez: 203-341-1528
    - Red Team: Nikki Pugliese: 203-341-1544
    - Green Team Emily Elterich: 203-341-1538

- Grade 8

- Purple Team Courtney Ruggiero: 203-341-1519
- Red Team Colleen Rondon: 203-341-1587
- Green Team Andrew Zold: 203-341-1595

Accessing Support at BMS

Students, parents and guardians can access our school counselors for support and assistance; each school counselor stays with their grade-level for all 3 years of middle school. Here are the 3 BMS school counselors, administrators and their grade-level designation for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Grade 6
  - School Counselor: Georgia Orlando 203-341-2494 gorlando@westportps.org
  - Administrator: Jacquelyn Mellin 203-341-1500 jmellin@westportps.org
- Grade 7
  - School Counselor: Sara Harding 203-341-2467 sharding@westportps.org
  - Administrator: Adam Rosen 203-341-1500 arosen@westportps.org
- Grade 8
  - School Counselor: Jessica Rabine 203-341-2462 jrabine@westportps.org
  - Administrator: Megan Gallant 203-341-1500 mgallant@westportps.org

Health and Safety at the School Building

- Protective face masks, hand washing and sanitizer
  - Staff and students have the option to wear a protective face mask
  - Students may wash their hands in the bathrooms located throughout the school and may use the sanitizing stations found at the main entrance and cafeteria.
- Morning arrival and afternoon dismissal
  - Students may arrive at BMS after 8 am. Students arriving prior to 8 am will not be permitted to enter the building and will be unsupervised.
  - For afternoon dismissal, students will go straight from their final class of the day directly to their school bus or passenger car;
  - There is no dismissal manager program at the middle school level in Westport.
- School Lunch & Student Account Payment System
  - Please refer to this document from our food service provider Chartwells: School Lunch Account Setup/Payment
  - All students will be assigned to a specific lunch wave and recess wave; students are required to report to their assigned wave
  - Students may bring lunch to school or purchase from our cafeteria;

- All students are required to go outside for their assigned recess wave unless moved indoors due to inclement weather;

Clubs, Activities and Specialty Music Ensembles

BMS will publish an updated Clubs Booklet in late September; once published it will be shared and posted to the BMS homepage.

Traffic Safety at BMS

In our ongoing efforts to improve the safety and security of our parking lots and driving lanes, we are asking all parents to carefully review and adhere to the following rules at all times when visiting the BMS campus:

- THE 'PULL FORWARD' RULE
  - During student drop-off and pick-up, please drive as far forward as possible; please do not stop in front of the main entrance doors leaving space in front of you, please pull forward.
- DO NOT DROP-OFF STUDENTS IN PARKING LOTS
  - Please do not pull your car into the main parking lot to drop off students; please wait patiently in line to drop off students curbside in front of the school building.
- DO NOT PARK IN THE EMERGENCY FIRE LANE
  - Parking in the emergency fire lanes for any length of time may place the students and staff at-risk in case of an unexpected event that would necessitate an emergency response. If you are parked in the fire lane, you will not be permitted to enter BMS until you have parked your car in visitor parking.
- AFTERNOON DISMISSAL TRAFFIC PATTERN
  - The BMS main entrance driveway becomes one-way into the campus starting at 2:30 p.m.; all passenger car traffic exits by way of Wakeman Farm Drive until the afternoon dismissal process is complete.
- CROSSWALKS
  - It's CT State Law to stop for all pedestrians in crosswalks. We want our students to use marked crosswalks to cross roadways; please reinforce this behavior by stopping completely for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES
  - Please do not park or stand in the designated handicapped parking spaces. We have students, parents and guardians who require the use of these reserved spaces.
- PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY - YOUR KIDS ARE HERE!
  - Please drive slowly and defensively at all times while at BMS. The BMS/SHS campus experiences significant congestion in the morning before school and in the afternoon around dismissal. Patience is essential; plan accordingly.