



# Welcome to Bala Cynwyd Middle School



# Lower Merion School District Mission Statement:



**Committed to excellence and continuous improvements, the Lower Merion School district strives to ensure that all students achieve their highest level of critical thinking and creativity, that they value themselves and the diversity of others, and that they are knowledgeable, contributing citizens capable of excelling in a rapidly changing world.**

**This is accomplished by individuals engaging in innovative, active experiences tailored to myriad ways of learning and in partnership with our community.**

# Welcome to Bala Cynwyd Middle School!



**Mr. Jeff Hunter, Principal**

**Mr. Nick Allen, Assistant Principal**

**Mrs. Christine Fleming-Hirshka, Assistant Principal**

**5th Grade Counselors:**

**Mrs. Annie McNally**

**Ms. Stephanie Brett**

**Mrs. Diana Zuroski**





# Home & School Association

## **Co- Presidents:**

Cicely Reece

Carolyn Giordano

## **What we do:**

- Newsletter
- Online Directory
- Staff Appreciation
- Social Events by Grade
- Spirit Wear
- Mini-Grants
- Book Sale
- Coordinate with ISC

**The BCMS HSA is  
partnership between  
parents, staff &  
faculty, and Student  
Council.**

For more information, write  
[hsa.bcms@gmail.com](mailto:hsa.bcms@gmail.com).



# Home & School Association

## Why volunteer?

The HSA is great way to find out what's going on directly from our principal, meet other parents and teachers, and be involved from a distance that's generally acceptable to middle schoolers. All are welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

## We Need Volunteers!

- 5th Grade Reps
- Staff Appreciation
- Treasurer
- Fundraising
- Directory
- Newsletter Editors

For more information, write: [hsa.bcms@gmail.com](mailto:hsa.bcms@gmail.com)

# Safe Learning Environments Promote Optimal Learning: School Safety Measures at BCMS



- Security checks upon entering the school: State issued identification card required when picking up students or visiting BCMS
- School Safety Task Force
- Drills: Fire, Lockdown, Severe Weather
- [Online form submission](#) for students who are absent, late or being picked up early from school
- Cyber bullying education
- Magnetic exterior door locks
- Security cameras in and around the building
- Cameras on buses
- Campus Aides



# Key Features of the Student Experience



- Teaming in Middle School
  - Teams serve as a “home base” for students
  - Students assigned to homerooms
- Importance of Team Size
- Bell Schedule



# Key Features of the Student Experience



- **Daily Intervention/Enrichment period**
  - Intervention / Enrichment for academic content areas
  - Social / Emotional Learning lessons in school
  - Team Building
  - Daytime Clubs/Activities
- **Scheduled Supports**
  - Challenge
  - ISL
  - Math Supplement
  - Reading
  - ELL
- **Daily World Language**
  - Family choice of French, Latin or Spanish
    - Grades 5 & 6 - 30 Minutes per Day
    - Grades 7 & 8 - 45 Minutes per Day





# Key Features of the Student Experience

## Specials in Grades 5 & 6

Grade	Year-Long Courses: 1 meeting every 4 days (45 meetings per year)	Rotational Courses: 45 Days Each - consecutively
5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Education</li> <li>Library</li> <li>Study Skills</li> <li>Music: General Music or Chorus or Band* or Orchestra*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Leadership (Team Dynamics)*</li> <li>Computer Applications 1</li> <li>STEM: Family and Consumer Science 1 OR Technology Education 1</li> </ul>
6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Education</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Leadership (Foundations of Leadership)*</li> <li>Music: General Music or Chorus or Band* or Orchestra*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Computer Applications 2</li> <li>STEM: Family and Consumer Science 1 OR Technology Education 1</li> </ul>

# Sample 5th and 6th Grade Schedules

5th Grade				6th Grade		
8:00-8:25	Homeroom			8:00-8:25	Homeroom	
8:29-8:59	World Language			8:29-9:09	Special 1	
9:03-10:07	Block 1			9:13-9:53	Special 2	
10:07-10:27	Recess			9:57-11:01	Block 1	
10:27-10:47	Lunch			11:01-11:21	Recess	
10:51-11:55	Block 2			11:21-11:41	Lunch	
11:59-12:39	Special 1			11:45-12:49	Block 2	
12:43-1:23	Special 2			12:53-1:23	World Language	
1:27-2:30	Block 3			1:27-2:30	Block 3	
2:30-3:05	I/E			2:30-3:05	I/E	

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES



## ➤ Services and Support may include:

- Autistic Support
- Learning Support
- Emotional Support
- Replacement courses
- Specialized Learning Support
- Speech and Language Support
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Adaptive Physical Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility
- Vision Support
- Hearing Support
- Instructional Support Lab

# Instructional Support Lab (ISL)

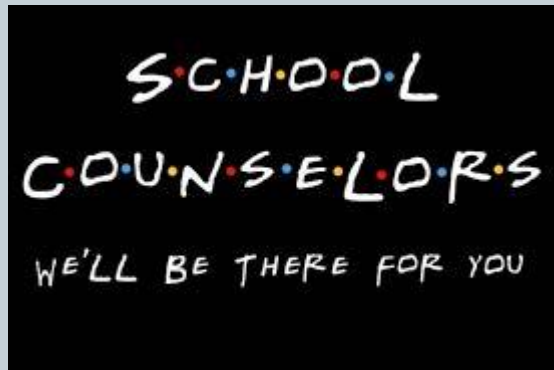


ISL is time reserved in the school day schedule where students interact with their case manager for progress monitoring and other special education supports that are written into the IEP.

- It is time for pre-teaching or re-teaching but is not time reserved for homework completion or to be thought of as a study hall.
- ISL can replace foreign language if needed daily
- ISL can also replace selected special area classes such as PE, Music, Library, Study Skills depending on the number needed each cycle

# STRUCTURE: Student Services

- School Counseling Program
- Health Services/Health Office
- School Social Worker
- School Psychologist
- Achievement Team/MTSS Team
- S.T.A.R.T.



# Challenge Program



Gifted services are offered through our Challenge program for identified students who have a GIEP:

- Challenge meets once in a four day cycle during special area classes.
- It replaces a one day special area class (example: PE, Health, Study Skills, etc).
- Students and guardians choose which class to remove from their schedule in order to take Challenge. Current case managers will gather this information for scheduling Challenge next year.



# Intervention/Enrichment(I/E) Period



- I/E teacher Assigned to Each Student
- I/E Daily for Enrichment or Remediation
- RALLY (SEL) lessons offered during I/E period



# Transition Activities



- **Counselors have visited 4th Graders at Merion and Cynwyd elementary schools**
- **4th Grade Students will visit BC during their regular school day**
  - **Cynwyd on May 30**
  - **Merion on June 1**
- **Family Tours with Counselor will be open in late August**
- **School Year Kick off family Cookout and Pot Luck Dinner in late August**
- **Self Guided tours available when schedules are released in PowerSchool, the week before school begins**



# ACTIVITIES



- Intramural Sports
- Art Club
- Anime Club
- Chess Club
- Community Service
- Fall Play, BC Applause
- Winter Musical, BC Applause
- Stage Crew
- Fall, Winter, Spring Sports PIAA 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Music Ensembles: Jazz, Chamber Orchestra
- Morning Basketball
- Running Club
- Bell Choir
- Gaming Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Reading Olympics



- Science Olympiad
- **Technology Student Association**
- Math Counts
- Environmental Action Club
- Minecraft Club
- Student Government
- Bala Cynwyd REACH
- Model UN
- Yearbook
- Newspaper
- GSA
- Student Government Activities

○ YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITY UPDATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE BCMS WEBSITE UNDER “ACTIVITIES”

# Bala Cynwyd Library Information Center



**Ms. Kelly Anne McDermott, Librarian**  
**Ms. Diana Gagliardi, Library Assistant**

## **Hours and Availability**

Library Information Center: Opens daily at 7:50 AM (With Pass from Teacher)

**Students are welcome and encouraged to use the library:**

- Before Homeroom (7:50 - 8:05 AM, With a Pass)
- During the day, when brought by a teacher to the library
- During I & E period, by signing up in EdEfficiency

# LATE BUS

- 4:30 p.m. Late Bus
- 5:30 p.m. Late Bus
- How do I Find My Late Bus?

- ✦ Late Bus schedules are available under “Activities->Late Buses” on the [BCMS website](#)

- Late Bus Stops



# COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

## Activities, Events and Important Information:

- Daily Announcements  
(Available on the Website)
- Email and Phone Messages
- Schoology
- Parent Portal
- The BCMS Student and Family Handbook
- Principal Newsletter (SMORE)
- HSA Weekly Newsletter
- Monthly Calendar

- Activities Bulletin
- Parent Conferences
- HSA Meetings
- Computer Handouts in-school September



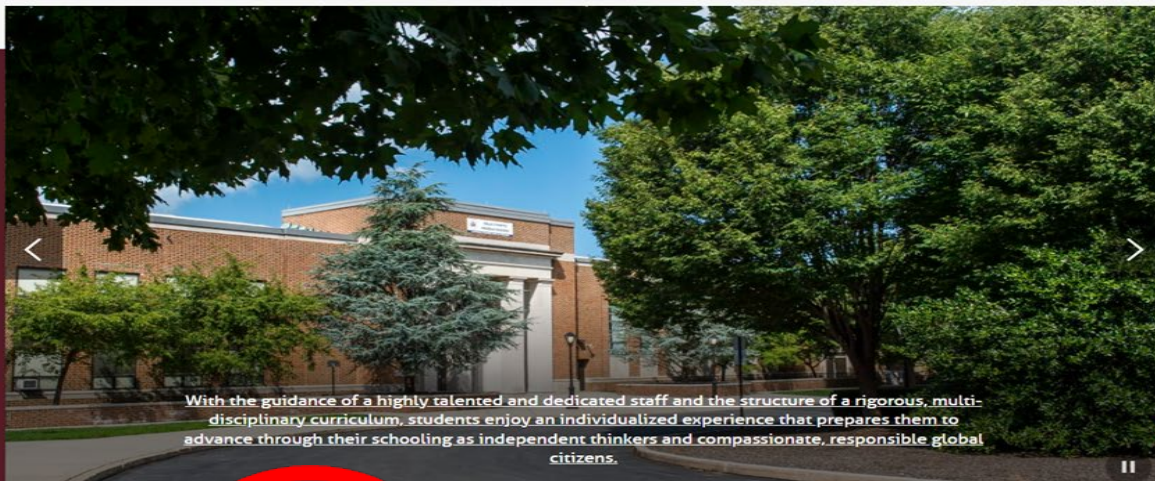


# Bala Cynwyd Middle School

[About Bala Cynwyd](#)[Academics](#)[Arts](#)[Athletics](#)[Activities](#)[School Counseling](#)[Parent Info](#)[Library](#)

## Welcome to Bala Cynwyd Middle School!

With the guidance of a highly talented and dedicated staff and the structure of a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, students enjoy an individualized experience that prepares them to advance through their schooling as independent thinkers and compassionate, responsible global citizens.

[Learn more!](#)[COVID-19  
RESPONSE](#)[CALENDAR](#)[FAMILY  
RESOURCES SITE](#)[GUIDE TO BCMS](#)[LUNCH MENU](#)[STRATEGIC PLAN](#)





## Daily Announcements

[Click Here to Access Announcements in Google Drive](#)

MATH/MA/ICIAN KATHERINE JOHNSON at the BCU Library! In this Top Pick of the Day, Katherine Johnson shares her life exelling in math as a young girl and her eventual career as a NASA mathematician. Explores her work on the Apollo 11 mission. \*Summary compliments of the publisher.

Geekery and Gaming: There will be a Geekery and Gaming meeting in the library this MONDAY and ALL Mondays until Spring Break. If you are part of an existing game, check with your Dungeon or Game Master if there is a different schedule; if you are NOT a part of an existing game you are welcome to come with Geek camaraderie or card and board games. Any questions, talk with Mr. G in the Library.

Yoga Club meets on Tuesdays after school in room 120 until 4:30pm! Yoga mats are provided. Namaste!

Anime Club will be held Thursday March 3rd after school this week. Club will run from 3:05 till 4:30 late bus. Please see Mrs Pops with any questions in room 102. We will return to Wednesday p.m. next week.

Playwriting: Hey, 8th graders! Do you like it when the plot thickens? Have you been known to take the words out of someone else's mouth? Are you drawn to drama? Well, then, this is for you! Our enrichment playwriting program, in partnership with Philadelphia Young Playwrights, begins this Friday, March 4th. It is open to all 8th grade students--no experience necessary. We will meet for 8 Friday sessions from 2-3 PM. Plan to attend the first session and go from there. Talk to your English teacher or stop by to see Dr. Nichols in room 202 if you have any questions. She will be waiting in the wings to write with you!

Girls Track and Field: Any runners interested in joining the girl's track team this spring should plan to attend an interest meeting on Thursday, March 3 in the cafeteria during LEARN. Please bring your charged laptop to this meeting, and email Coach Vogel at vogels@lmsd.org with any questions.









Have a Great Day!



Bala Cynwyd Middle School  
Daily Announcements

## Quick Links

[Click Here to Access Quick Links in Google Drive](#)

Bala Cynwyd Middle School FAMILY QUICK LINKS	
I NEED TO...	USE THIS RESOURCE
 Submit absences and early dismissals	<a href="#">Attendance Form</a>
 Add funds to MySchoolAccount (lunch extras)	<a href="#">Additional Services</a>
 Find out what's on the BCMS menus	<a href="#">BCMS Menus</a>
 Ask questions about school pictures	Call Legacy directly <a href="#">Legacy Photos</a>
 View student schedules, grades and attendance	<a href="#">Learn more about PowerSchool here</a>
 View information about student classes and assignments	<a href="#">Learn more about BlackBoard here</a>
 Find out about Laptop Insurance	<a href="#">Laptop Letter</a>
 Make a payment in School Bucks	<a href="#">School Bucks Information</a>

## Monthly Calendar

# How to contact a teacher at BCMS:

LMSD | Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve

▼ DISTRICT ▼ SCHOOLS ▼ QUICK LINKS PARENTS LOGIN 🔍 FIND IT FAST



## Bala Cynwyd Middle School

About Bala Cynwyd

Academics

Arts

Athletics

Activities

School Counseling

Parent Info

Library

### About Bala Cynwyd

Principal's Welcome

[BCMS Newsroom](#)

Calendar

Contact & Staff Directory

Daily Announcements

Equity & Anti-Racism

Facts & Stats

Highlights & Achievements

History

LMSD Reporting Form

Monthly Calendar (PDF)

Student and Family Handbook

Academics

Arts

Athletics

Activities

School Counseling

Parent Info

### Contact & Staff Directory

Keyword

First Name

Last Name

Search Directory

### Bala Cynwyd Staff Directory

#### Jeffrey Hunter

**Titles:** Principal (Interim)  
**Departments:** Principals  
**Email:** ✉

#### Nicholas Allen

**Titles:** Assistant Principal - Interim  
**Email:** ✉

#### Christine Fleming-Hirshka

**Titles:** Assistant Principal  
**Email:** ✉

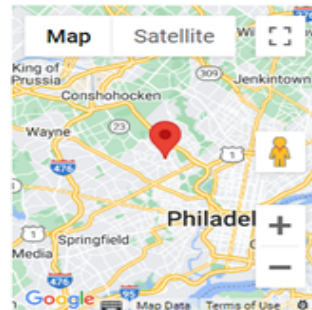
#### Diana Alesi

**Titles:** Office Secretary  
**Email:** ✉

**Bala Cynwyd Middle School**  
510 Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Jeffrey Hunter, Interim Principal

- **Phone Number:** 610-645-1480
- **Absentee, Lateness & Safe Arrival Hotline:** 610-645-1400
- **Fax Number:** 610-664-2798
- **School Closing Number:** 302



# Parent Portal: PowerSchool

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `powerschool.lmsd.org/guardian/home.html`. The page title is "Grades and Attendance". On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Grade History, Attendance History, Email Notification, Teacher Comments, My Calendars, and My Schedule. The main content area displays a table titled "Attendance By Class". Above the table is a link: "Click Here to see a list of all your students past assignments for this term." The table has columns for "Exp", "Last Week" (M T W H F), "This Week" (M T W H F), "Course", "Q1", "Q2", "Q3", "Q4", "Y1", "Absences", and "Tardies". The data rows show attendance for various classes, including Family & Consumer Cooking, Instructional Support LAB, Science, English, Algebra 1, Lunch, Advisory, Phys Ed, and General Music.

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Course	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Y1	Absences	Tardies
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F								
1(A-F)											8 Family & Consumer Cooking Haubrich-Kadyan, Mary Elizabeth	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
2(A-F)											8 Instructional Support LAB Aikens, Elizabeth	0 100	--	--	--	0 100	0	0
3(A-F)											8 Science Cook, Jason S	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
4(A-F)											8 English Thomas, Andrew B	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
5(A-F)											8 Algebra 1 Heibeck, Georgine E	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
6(A-F)											8 Lunch Brown, Gail J	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
7(B-D,F)						.	.				8 Advisory Thomas, Andrew B	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
8(A,D)						.	.				8 Phys Ed Stinson, Matt J	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
8(B,E)						.	.				8 General Music Elias, Robert D	0 100	--	--	--	0 100	0	0



# What Comes Next: Course Selection



Student will choose:

- Language: French, Latin, Spanish
  - We will try to honor as many first choice options as possible
- Music: Chorus, Band, Orchestra or General Music
  - Students can take chorus if they are also playing an instrument but it will require dropping another special area class to make room on their schedule

Google Form:

- Was sent on February 24th to Parent Email Addresses
- Please provide one submission per student
- Forms are due on March 24th

# What Comes Next: Course Selection Special Education



Student will choose:

- Language: French, Latin, Spanish (some students will not take a World Language due to needing Just Words as a reading support class)
- Music: Chorus (1 day class), Band(2 day class), Orchestra(2 day class) or General Music (1 day class)
- **CASE MANAGERS will gather information with Gina Virkler about which classes to drop for ISL and will provide programming guidance during the transition to insure all special education student schedules are in compliance with their IEP**

# Course Selection: Form Preview

Elementary School: \*

- ☐ Merion Elementary
- ☐ Cynwyd Elementary
- ☐ Other

Music Choice. Choose 1 or 2. (Example: Band and Chorus). Students who do not participate in Band, Chorus, or Orchestra must choose General Music. \*

- ☐ Band (Brass/Woodwind/Percussion)
- ☐ Chorus
- ☐ Orchestra (Strings)(Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass)
- ☐ General Music

If you chose Band or Orchestra, what instrument(s) do you presently play.

Short answer text

If you chose BAND or ORCHESTRA which class would be your first choice to drop in order to participate in the instrumental program?

- ☐ Study Skills
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Physical Education

World Language (1st choice): \*

- ☐ French
- ☐ Latin
- ☐ Spanish

World Language (2nd choice): \*

- ☐ French
- ☐ Latin
- ☐ Spanish

# QUESTIONS



Please do not hesitate to contact us:

**BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**610-645-1480**