

Berkshire Middle School



Welcome 5th Grade Parents!



Berkshire Middle School

Our Mission

The mission of
Berkshire Middle School is to
create a positive, supportive
environment which enables
students to become productive,
contributing, well-educated
members of society



Berkshire Pride

 Positive Attitude

 Respect

 Integrity

 Dependability

 Empathy



Berkshire Diversity

Berkshire Students

Caucasian-White	66.3%
African American/Black	22.2%
Multi-Racial	7.8%
Asian	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino	1.2%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	Less than 1%

Free or Reduce Lunch

15%

Students with IEP's

10.2%

Berkshire Student Population by Grade Level

6 th Grade	195
7 th Grade	226
8 th Grade	232
Total	653





Berkshire Staff





Administrative Team



Mr. Clinkscale

Principal



Mr. Lavigne

*Assistant Principal
Athletic Director*



Ms. Walker

Assistant Principal



Main Office Team



Mrs. VanFaussien

*Secretary to the
Principal*



Mrs. Leung

Receptionist



Mrs. Dacey

Attendance Secretary



Berkshire Counselors



Mrs. Battle



Ms. Erickson



Mrs. Hardeman



Berkshire Academics

*We focus on differentiated
Instruction and engaging
students for global
opportunities.*



Excellent academic programs in:

- Math
- Science
- Language Arts
- Social Studies



Berkshire Science

NGSS Standards

- The next Generation Science Standards are a new set of K-12 standards that identify science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, in addition to core ideas
- It's more about "how science is done" than just "what do you know"
- Students will experience a big shift during their middle school years and beyond with new resources and practices coming into their science classrooms

6th Grade Science Teachers



Mrs. Allen



Mr. Bruyneel



Science Education

Less:

- Rote memorization of facts & terms
- Teachers providing information to the whole class
- Students reading textbooks and answering questions at the end of a chapter
- Worksheets
- Pre-planned outcome for "cookbook" laboratories or hands-on activities

More:

- Facts and terminology learned as needed while developing explanations and designing solutions supported by evidence-based arguments and reasoning
- Students conducting investigations, solving problems, and engaging in discussions with teachers' guidance
- Students reading multiple sources and developing summaries of information
- Students writing journals, reports. Posters, and media presentations that explain and argue
- Multiple investigations driven by students' questions with a range of possible outcomes that collectively lead to deep understanding of established core scientific ideas



Berkshire Math

“Mathematics is the biggest motivation because it starts from zero and goes up to infinity.”

6th Grade Math Teachers



Mrs. Konen



Mr. Knoper



Math Education

Math Lab

- Math Lab is a support hour that takes place of an elective
- Student Knowledge gaps will be addressed through current content using a variety of different learning techniques
- Students are recommended for this class from their elementary school teachers

College Prep Math

- Students in this course will be learning content from the 6th grade Common Core State Standards
- Students will master content using Big Ideas Math textbook (green version)
- Students are engaged in activities in their Record and Practice Journals

Advance Math

- Students in this course will be learning content from the 7th grade Common Core State Standards using Big Ideas Math (Red version)
- The content covered will be more rigorous and at a rapid pace than college prep
- Students will deepen their mathematical thinking and learn to explain math concepts using correct math discourse



Berkshire ELA

“The journey of a lifetime starts with the turning of a page”

-Rachel Anders

6th Grade ELA Teachers



Mr. Fisher



Mr. Lince



ELA Education

Important Facts

All Middle School ELA curriculum follows the Common Core State Standards

Common Core Standards were adopted by the state of Michigan in 2010. BPS instituted a new ELA Curriculum in the 2017

What does the Curriculum “look” like?

The ELA curriculum is consistent from 6th grade through 8th grade. Each year students study curriculum through the use of thematic exploration. The themes discussed and explored at each level include:

6th Grade

Courage to be me
Decisions that matter
Making your voice heard
Dealing with disaster

7th Grade

Bold actions
The creative world
Perception and reality
Guided by a cause

8th Grade

Culture and belonging
Approaching adulthood
Impacting the world

During each unit students can expect to read short stories, poetry, articles and novels. Students will also learn and understand the writing of narrative, analytical, comparison and persuasive essays. The curriculum is rich with multi-culture pieces and is diversified to meet the needs of all students.

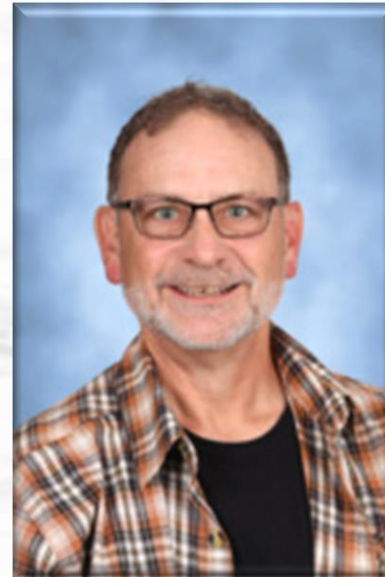


Berkshire Social Studies

*"History is the continuous
chain of events.
Understanding the past
helps us understand the
present and shape the
future."*

- Elliot Engel

6th Grade Social Studies Teachers



Mr. Stearns



Ms. Gutscher



Social Studies Education

The Ancient World:

Ancient Civilizations:

Mesopotamia
Egypt
India
China
Greece
Rome; Aztecs
Mayans

Major World Religions:

Judaism
Hinduism
Buddhism
Christianity
Islam

Global Competencies:

Communicating Ideas
Effectively Investigating the World
Recognizing Perspectives

7th Grade:

Geography

- Tools of Geography
- Mapping Skills
- Western World
- Economics

8th Grade:

American History

- U. S. Constitution
- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Washington D.C. Trip



Academic Support

*“You are braver
than you believe,
stronger than you
seem and smarter
than you think”*

6th Grade LRC Support Teachers



Mrs. McAdams



Ms. Steckler



Ms. Ferguson



ESL Class

*"The future of the
world is in my
classroom today"*

-Ivan Welton Fitzwater

Grade ESL Class



Mrs. Canfield



Ms. McLaughlin



French School of Detroit



French School Offerings

- 6th, 7th and 8th grade
- Math
- Language
- Social Studies
- Integrated into other courses with Berkshire students



Berkshire Media Center

The Media Center is open:



7:45 am every morning



Noon Rec



After School until 4:00 pm

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Thursdays



Saturday School: 9 – 11 am



Check availability to visit the Maker Space!



Mrs. Jefferson



UA Rotation

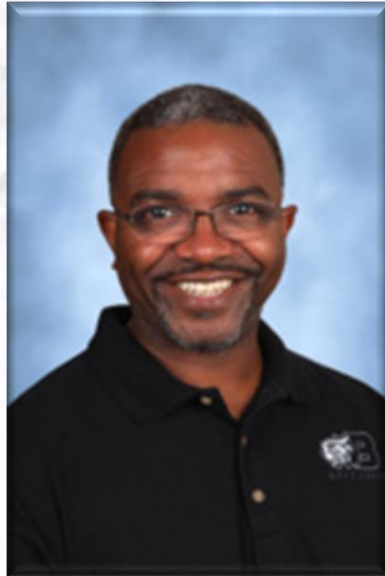
Physical Education	Skills for Living	Art	Engineering Tech
Mrs. Lincoln Mr. Wiska	Mrs. Yatooma	Mr. Orlando	Mr. Anspach Mr. Baldrige





Music Electives

Band	Band/Orchestra	Choir	Orchestra
Mr. Burkett	Mr. Smith	Mrs. Carrano	Mr. Shawver





World Language Electives

Chinese	French	Spanish	Spanish
Mrs. Billinger	Mrs. Takenaga	Ms. Rodriguez	Mrs. Toth





Academic Extension

*"Education is the passport
to the future, for tomorrow
belongs to those who prepare
for it today"*

-Malcom X

- ☐ **Reading Enrichment**
- ☐ **Advanced Math**
- ☐ **Differentiated Instruction**





Additional Support



- ☐ **Literacy**
- ☐ **Student Support Coaches**
- ☐ **Learning Strategies**
- ☐ **Saturday School**
- ☐ **Summer Academy**
- ☐ **Berkshire Bound**
- ☐ **AM Math Help**



Before and After School

STUDENT
CLUBS
AND
ORGANIZATIONS



Before and After School Activities

Sports

- IM Basketball
- Cross Country
- IM Flag Football
- IM Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Swimming
- Track
- Tennis

Clubs

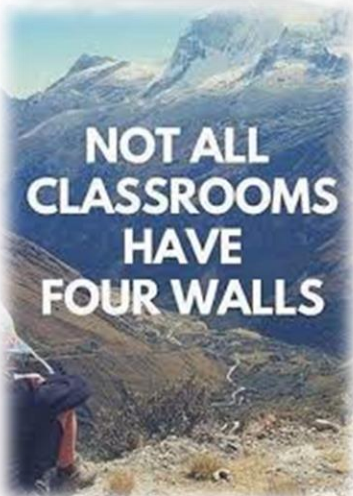
- Forensics
- Crochet Club
- NJHS
- Snow Club
- Art Club
- Jazz Band/Honors Orchestra
- Improv
- Show Choir
- Musical
- Yearbook Club
- Coders Club
- Robotics
- Green Team



Traveling Classroom Experiences



World Language Trips
8th Grade WDC Trip
7th Grade BAM Trip

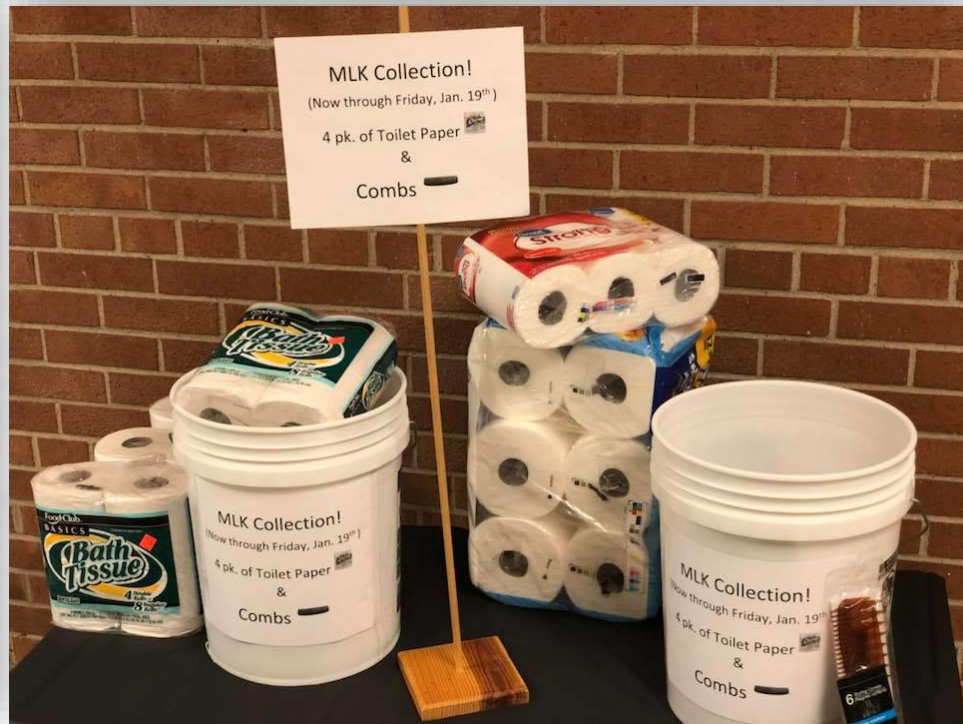


Washington, DC





Community Service Projects





Community Service

At Berkshire, we embrace helping to develop well rounded students that are encouraged to give back to the community

- ☐ **Community Garden**
- ☐ **C3 Food Drive**
- ☐ **Global Partnerships**
- ☐ **Draw Bucket Project**
- ☐ **Hoops for Heart (American Heart Association)**
- ☐ **Gleaners and Grace Centers of Hope**
- ☐ **Service Learning Infused within the Curriculum**



Middle School Readiness

*School is a student's job.
Students need to OWN
their learning.*

*Students who do these
things tend to be more
successful, enjoy school,
and are less stressed the
first marking period.*

- ☐ **Developing an organizational plan for him/herself**
- ☐ **Communicating with his/her teacher regularly**
- ☐ **Self-advocating**
- ☐ **Engaging in the Berkshire family through clubs, sports, and other special events**



Self Advocacy



Teaching and rehearsing with your child to speak to a teacher about an assignment, grade, or homework...

- ☐ **Practice by:**
- ☐ **Order for her/himself at a restaurant**
- ☐ **Find the family's seats at a ball park**
- ☐ **Ask about a book at the library**
- ☐ **Ask a clerk where she/he can find something at a grocery store**



Communication

“In many ways, effective communication begins with mutual respect, communication that inspires, and encourages students to do their best.”

-Zig Ziglar

Practice by:

- ☐ **Order for her/himself at a restaurant**
- ☐ **Find the family's seats at a ball park**
- ☐ **Ask about a book at the library**
- ☐ **Ask a clerk where she/he can find something at a grocery store**



Communication



- ☐ **Helps keep student organized**
- ☐ **Enhances communication**
- ☐ **Improves classroom experiences**
- ☐ **Track Achievements**
- ☐ **Improves student Responsibility**



Sample Student Schedule

Day	Time		1	2	3	4	5	6
E	Semester 1	Q1	Spanish	Science	Math	Social Studies	Skills	LA
		Q2					Art	
	Semester 2	Q3					Eng. Tech	
		Q4					PE	
O	Semester 1	Q1	Reading	Science	Math	Social Studies	Skills	LA
		Q2					Art	
	Semester 2	Q3					Eng. Tech	
		Q4					PE	



Power School

PowerSchool supports educators, administrators, and families to help students learn in a way that's right for them.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool login interface. At the top, the 'PowerSchool' logo is displayed in a dark blue font. Below it, the 'Parent Sign In' section contains two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. A blue 'Sign In' button is positioned to the right of the password field. A link that says 'Having trouble signing in?' is located below the password field. The 'Create an Account' section follows, with a paragraph explaining that users can create a parent account to view all their students and manage preferences. A blue 'Create Account' button is at the bottom right of this section. The background of the login area features a large, faint, stylized tiger head graphic.

PowerSchool

Parent Sign In

Username

Password

[Having trouble signing in?](#)

Sign In

Create an Account

Create a parent account that allows you to view all of your students with one account. You can also manage your account preferences. [Learn more](#)

Create Account



Power School — Grades/Attendance

PowerSchool



Grades and Attendance



Grades History



Attendance History



Email Notification



Teacher Comments

Grades and Attendance

Attendance By Class

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Course	Q1	Q2	Q3
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F				
1(E-O)											Math 6 Yaldo, Sylvia	A 93	A 94	A 97
2(E-O)											Social Stu 6 Goldberg, Rebecca	B- 80	B+ 89	A 100
3(E-O)						P					Lang Arts 6 Fisher, Daniel	A- 90.37	A- 92.51	--
4(E-O)											Science 6 Bruyneel, Scott	A 95.1	A 94.2	A 96
SR(E-O)											SS Reading6 Bruyneel, Scott	0	--	--
5(E-O)						P					Eng Tech 6 Baldridge, Brian		--	--
5(E-O)											Art 6 Kackley-Szalma, Sandra		--	--
6(E)						.		.		.	Band 6 Pierce, Jeanne	A 131	A 100	--
6(O)							.		.		French 6 Laginess, Lauren	A 94	B 86	--



Power School — Assignments

Course	Teacher	Expression	Final Grade ¹
Math 6	Gallardo, Sara	3(E-O)	A- 90%

Teacher Comments: EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENSHIP A PLEASURE TO HAVE IN CLASS

Section Description:

Due Date	Category	Assignment	Codes	Score	%	Grd
11/09/2009	HW	ATN Vocabulary		9.5/10	95	A
11/09/2009	HW	xATN 1ACE#1-8 pg16		10/10	100	A
11/10/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#9-19 pg16-17		9.5/10	95	A
11/11/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#20-30 pg17		7.5/10	75	C
11/12/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#42-47 pg19		10/10	100	A
11/13/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#48 pg20		10/10	100	A
11/13/2009	W-U Quizzes	Warm Up Quiz#1-2MP		9/10	90	A-
11/16/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#31 & 39-41 pg18-19		8/10	80	B-
11/17/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#32-35 pg18		9/10	90	A-
11/18/2009	HW	ATN 1ACE#36-38 pg18		10/10	100	A
11/19/2009	HW	ATN 2ACE#1-3 pg32		10/10	100	A
11/20/2009	HW	ATN 2ACE#6-8 pg33		10/10	100	A
11/24/2009	QUIZ	ATN I-1&2 QUIZ		16.5/29	56.9	E
11/24/2009	ADD's	ADD's 13,14,15		22/30	73.33	C
11/30/2009	HW	ATN Skill: Coordinate Graph/Labsheet 2.5		10/10	100	A



Ways to Communicate



- Berkshire Website
- Email
- Remind Text Messages
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Voicemail
- PowerSchool
- E-Blast



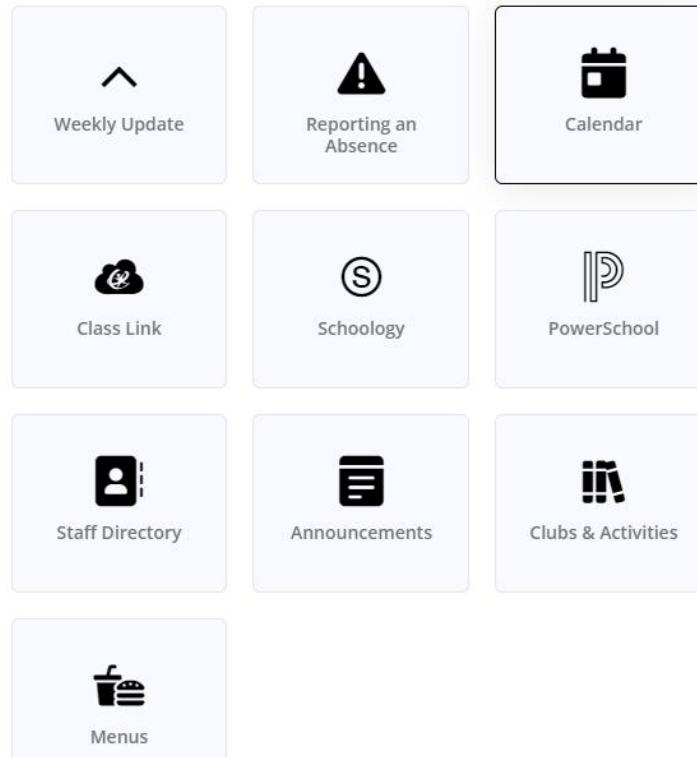
Berkshire Website



District Home Schools Safety Concerns BPS Community English

OUR SCHOOL ACADEMICS STUDENT LIFE FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENROLLMENT LIBRARY ATHLETICS

- <https://berkshire.birmingham.k12.mi.us/>
- Mr. Clinkscale's Newsletter
click **Weekly Update**
- Click **Announcements** to see
current events





Lunch Procedures

Lunch Times :

- ❖ **8th Grade 11:12**
- ❖ **7th Grade 11:32**
- ❖ **6th Grade 12:07**

- **Students return their backpack and laptops to their lockers before going to the cafeteria**
- **Students line up to purchase lunch or go to their tables to start eating**
- **Students clean up their lunch space and then are excused to go to REC**
- **Students go to 5th hour once the release bell has rung**



6th Grade Scheduling Form

Return this form to your 5th grade teacher by: Friday, February 3rd.

Use a pencil to complete this form.

Berkshire Middle School
6th Grade Course Selection Sheet

NAME: _____
Last Name First Name Parent's Cell Phone Number

Elementary School: _____ 5th Grade Teacher: _____

- Sixth Graders will have 6 periods in each school day. Five of the six periods will be required classes: Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and the Encore Rotation (10 weeks of each: Art, Engineering Tech, PE and Skills for Living).
- One period per day will be reserved for elective courses. Choose from the following:

STEP 1 → **CIRCLE TWO ELECTIVES FROM THE FOUR CHOICES BELOW:**

CHOICE #1

You may only select 1 modern language class.

Spanish-1A
Chinese-1A
French-1A

CHOICE #2

This Physical Education Class is in addition to the required 10 week rotation class.

Physical Education

CHOICE #3

Reading Enrichment

CHOICE #4

You may only select 1 music class.

Orchestra

Choir

Band.

What instrument are you playing in 5th Grade Band?

STEP 2 →

WRITE ONE ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE FROM ABOVE:

This elective class will only be used if one of your other choices is not available.

ALTERNATE ELECTIVE CLASS

***Note: Elective classes are subject to change due to spacing or staffing.**

Parent Signature: _____

Guidance Counselors are available to address your questions or concerns:

Students whose last name begins with letters A-L contact Mrs. Hardeman: (248) 203-4714; RHardeman@birmingham.k12.mi.us
Students whose last name begins with letters M-Z contact Mrs. Battle: (248) 203-4711; ABattle@birmingham.k12.mi.us

- **When**
- **Where**
- **What**
- **How**
- **Due Date: Friday 2/2/24**



Berkshire Bound TBD

Berkshire Bound



Welcome Future Wildcats!

Berkshire
Middle School