



BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

J. E. Harrison Middle School

129 Windvale Drive • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236
Telephone: 412-885-7530 • FAX: 412-885-6766 • www.bwschools.net

6th & 7th Grade Middle School Families,

As we eagerly anticipate the start of the 2024-25 school year, we are delighted to welcome you, the 6th & 7th Grade Middle School Families, to what promises to be an exciting and fulfilling year. We hope the summer break provided you with an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family and recharge your energy. We are genuinely excited for this coming school year as we start the year in a newly remodeled Harrison Middle School. The bright and inviting environment, along with the innovative design of the classrooms and facilities, will provide the foundation for our faculty and staff to implement middle school programs and activities that will foster our students' social, emotional, and academic growth. As we complete the final touches to the first phase of construction and begin the second, we will continue to work with the contractors to ensure that the construction does not negatively impact the instructional day and the building is a safe and productive environment.

Over the past summer, both faculty and administration have explored ways in which we can collaborate throughout the school year to fulfill the mission and vision of the district's strategic plan. Using the Journey of a Highlander as a guide, we have begun to develop and outline plans focusing on the five competencies of being a Highlander: Adaptive Learner, Communication, Creative and Critical Thinking, Empathy, and Responsible Collaborator. As part of this process, science teachers have begun exploring the new STEELS standards and developed a plan to transform their curriculum to incorporate newly defined standards. We are excited to announce the newly adopted "Leader in Me" program, which is a whole-school transformation model and process that helps students and staff develop essential leadership skills. This program aims to create a dynamic school culture where everyone can thrive. The lessons from the "Leader in Me" program will be used to shape our homeroom program.

We will continue our No Cell Phone procedure to help ensure that our students are focused during the day. This will enable students to better concentrate during class and alleviate many distractions that negatively impact our students. Students are permitted to carry their cell phones, but they will be expected to keep the Cell Phones turned off and in either their locker, pockets, or purse. If you need to contact your child, you can either call the Middle School main office at 412-885-7530 or email your child using their school email, which they can access via their Chromebook.

The Middle School faculty and staff will continue to develop further opportunities for our students and families to connect with the school and the community, making the middle school years positive and memorable for all students. We look forward to working with talented students and a dedicated faculty to develop lifelong learners and responsible citizens as we start the new school year on Tuesday, September 3, 2024!

Sincerely,

Scott D. Ross M.Ed.
Principal

Alicia Johnson MS, LPC
6th & 7th Grade Assistant Principal

6th & 7th Grade Bell Schedule:

Arrival	Homeroom	1 st Period	2 nd Period	3 rd Period	4 th Period
7:50-8:15 AM	8:15-8:36 AM	8:40-9:26	9:30-10:16 AM	10:20-11:06 AM	11:10-11:56
5 th Period	6 th Period	7 th Period	8 th Period	Dismissal	
12:00-12:30 PM (6 th Gr. Lunch) 12:00-12:46 PM	12:34-1:20 PM 12:50-1:20 PM (7 th Gr. Lunch)	1:24-2:10 PM	2:14 – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM	

Middle School Counselor Information:

- Ms. Rachel Johnson (A-L) – rjohnson@bwschools.net
- Ms. Jessica Thomas (M-Z) – jthomas@bwschools.net
- Students' schedules can be accessed via Skyward starting August 23rd. Please contact our school counselors if you have questions about your child's schedule.

6th & 7th Grade & New Student Orientation:

- The 6th & 7th Grade & New Student Orientation is scheduled for August 28 from 6:30 -8:30 PM
- This orientation will start with a presentation from the administration and school counselors highlighting the key procedures and expectations.
 - 6th Grade presentation will start at 6:30 PM
 - 7th Grade presentation will start at 7:30 PM
- Students and parents will then have the opportunity to walk their schedules. Department Leaders will be present to assist families as they navigate the building.
- Due to limited parking, there will be additional parking at Whitehall Elementary School. Starting at 6:00 PM, a shuttle will run between the two schools.

Transportation to-and-from School:

- Buses will drop off and pick up students at the gym lobby entrance/exit (#1)
- Parents dropping off their students are to use the upper parking lot – Main Entrance (Entrance/Exit 12), and drop-off is from 8:50 to 9:15 AM (Parents are not to use the lower parking lot during arrival)
- Parents picking up their students are to use the upper parking lot – Main Entrance (Entrance/Exit 12), and pick up starts at 3:40 PM. (Parents are not to use the lower parking lot during dismissal)
- Students must use the Main Entrance (Exit 12) if they arrive late or are picked up for an early dismissal.

Food Service Information:

- The National School Lunch Program returns for SY 2024-2025. All students not on government assistance will be FULL PRICE meal status UNLESS families apply for benefits. If you feel you may qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits, please go to schoolcafe.com & complete an application.
- Lunch will be served at a cost of \$4.00 daily rate, and new for this year, students that are eligible for Reduced Price benefits will receive free meals.
- Breakfast will be free for all students regardless of their eligibility status. Students can drop by the cafeteria to pick up their breakfast upon arrival at school. Students are permitted to eat their breakfast in their classrooms.

Technology and Chromebook Information:

- [Click for the BWS D Technology Services Overview](#) – The page contains information on:
 - 1:1 Initiative and the BWS D Chromebook Handbook.
 - Chromebook Self-Protection Plan – Parents are reminded that there is an annual cost of \$30.00 to participate in the Chromebook Protection Plan. All payments must be made using the District's e-Funds electronic payment system (select Chromebook Protection Plan).

Additional Information:

- Information from Food Services can be accessed here: [Food Services Updates](#)
- Back-to-School Supply Lists – [Click to Access](#)