



# BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Baldwin High School

4653 Clairton Blvd • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236  
Telephone: 412-885-7500 • FAX: 412-885-6652 • [www.bwschools.net](http://www.bwschools.net)

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8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Families,

As we eagerly anticipate the start of the 2024-25 school year, we are delighted to welcome you, the 8<sup>th</sup> 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. The 8<sup>th</sup> grader students will continue to attend the High School for the 24-25 School Year. Our 8<sup>th</sup>-grade faculty and staff are genuinely excited to continue to implement middle school programs and activities that foster the social, emotional, and academic growth of our students. We will collaborate with our dedicated middle school faculty and staff to develop and promote a positive learning environment where all students can grow academically and socially.

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, 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 412-885-7505 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

Jonathan Peebles M.Ed.  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

## **Updated 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bell Schedule:**

<b>Arrival</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Period</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Period</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Period</b>
7:00-7:30 AM	7:30-8:18 AM	8:22-9:09 AM	9:13-10:00 AM	10:04 – 10:51 AM
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Period (Lunch/HR)</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Period</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
10:55-11:42 AM	11:46 AM-12:33 PM	12:37 -1:24 PM	1:28-2:15 PM	2:15 PM

## **Middle School Counselor Information:**

- Ms. Johnson (A-L) – [rjohnson@bwschools.net](mailto:rjohnson@bwschools.net) & Ms. Thomas (M-Z) – [jthomas@bwschools.net](mailto: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.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade & New Student Orientation:**

- The 8th Grade & New Student Orientation is scheduled for August 29th from 6:30 -8:30 PM.
- Families can grab dinner at various food trucks in the BHS Central Lot before the orientation.
- Parents are to park in either the Auditorium or South Lot.
- Administrators will have an informational presentation in the auditorium starting at 6:30 PM
- From 7:00 – 8:30 PM, students and parents will then have the opportunity to walk their schedules, meet their 8th-grade teachers, and learn about their teachers’ classroom expectations.

## **Transportation to-and-from School:**

- Middle school students' morning drop-off (7:00– 7:30 AM) will be at the Central Lot Auditorium Entrance (#24).
- Middle school student afternoon pick-up will be in the Central Lot from 2:15-2:30 PM.
- If students arrive late or are picked up for an early dismissal, they must follow the check-out procedures and use the Security Entrance at the front of the school.
- The South Lot will be closed to personal vehicles during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.

## **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](http://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 stop by the cafeteria to pick-up their breakfast upon arrival at school. Students are permitted to eat their breakfast in their classrooms.
- A mid-morning snack item of a cereal/nutritional bar and/or whole fresh fruit will be included with every school breakfast served. Students can save the snack until they need a mid-morning snack for energy.

## **Technology and Chromebook Information:**

- [Click for the BWSD Technology Services Overview](#) – The page contains information on:
  - 1:1 Initiative and the BWSD 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:**

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