



Berkshire Middle School

**Welcome 5th Grade
Parents!**



Berkshire Middle School

6th Grade

Wednesday, February 25, 2025





*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	70.7%
African American/Black	16.1%
Multi-Racial	8.9%
Asian	2.7%
Hispanic or Latino	1.6%
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	226
7 th Grade	233
8 th Grade	245
Total	704





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. Hardeman

A - G



Mrs. Gohl

H - O



Mrs. Battle

P - Z



Academics

Excellent academic programs in:

- *Math*
- *Science*
- *Language Arts*
- *Social Studies*



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



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



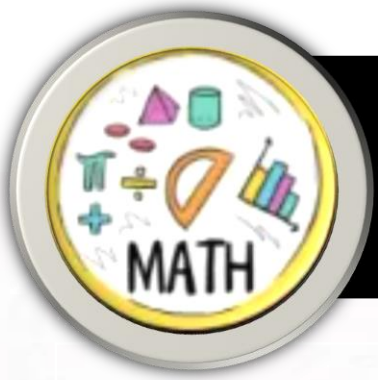
Science Education

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



Math

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

6th Grade Math Teachers



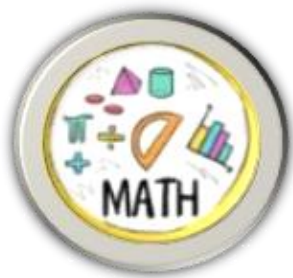
Mrs. Konen



Mr. Knoper



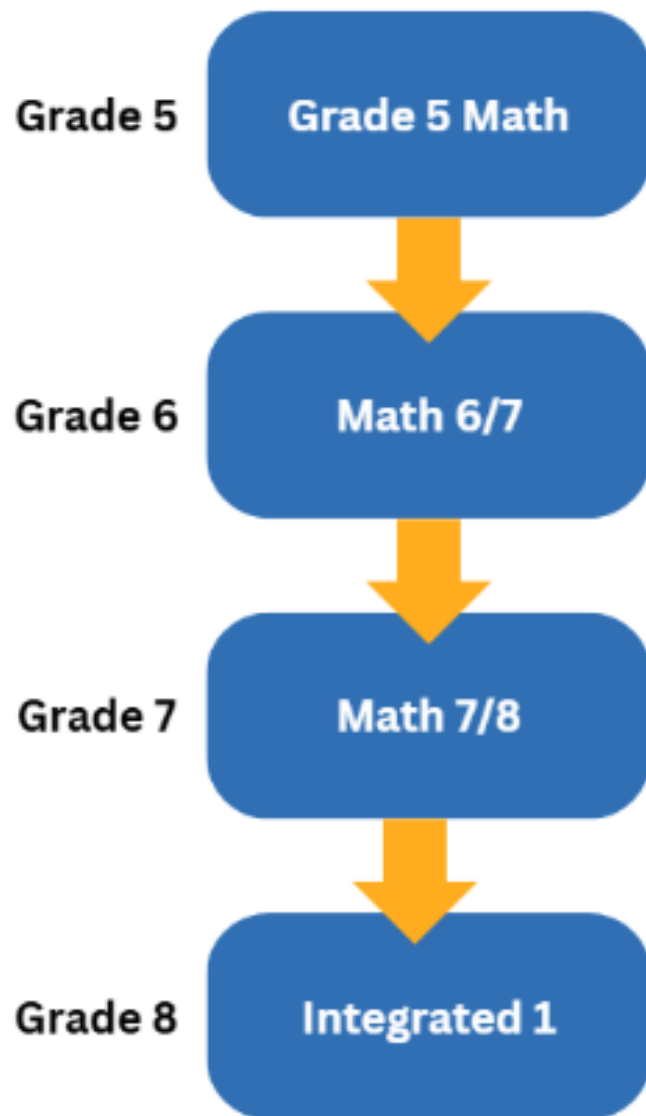
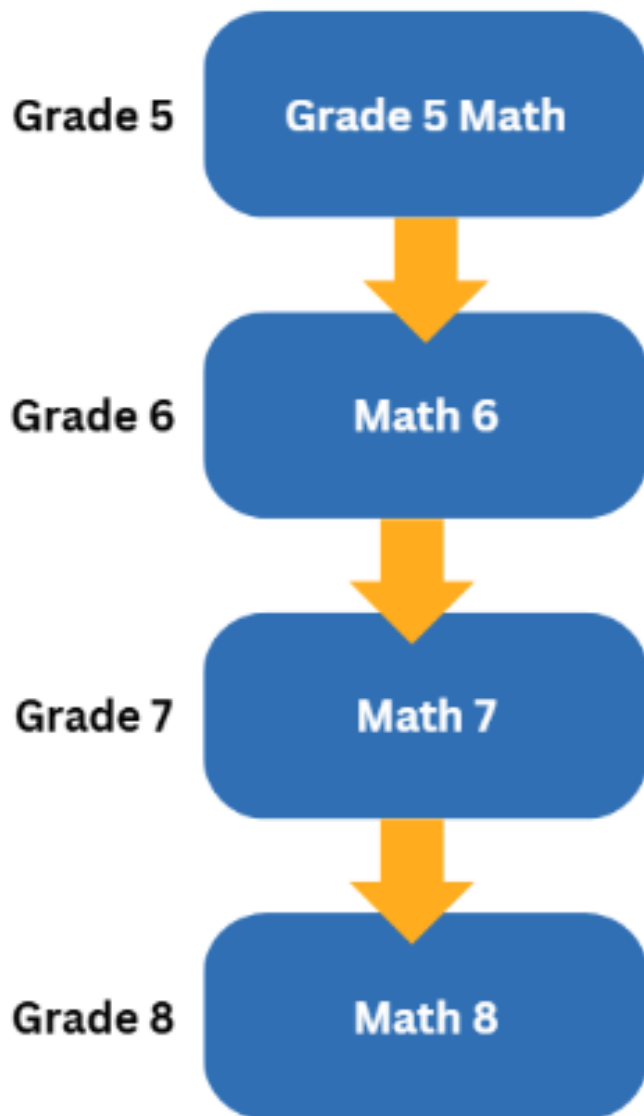
BPS Middle School Math Course Options



Sixth Grade Math Options

- Math 6
 - Grade 6 Standards
- Math 6/7
 - Grade 6 & some Grade 7 Standards

- Acceleration beyond these pathways requires participation in the Math Pathways Assessment.
- If you 5th grade student is already enrolled in a course above grade level, they may continue on that path without an assessment.





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.

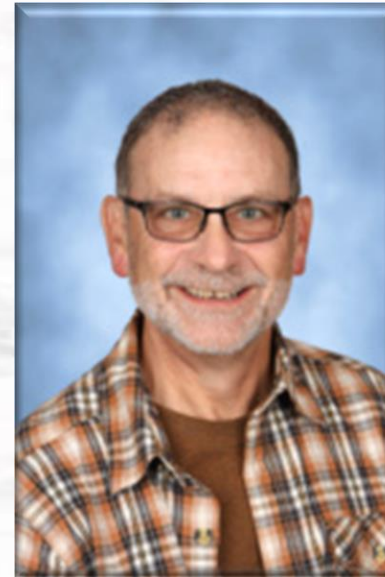


Social Studies

*"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

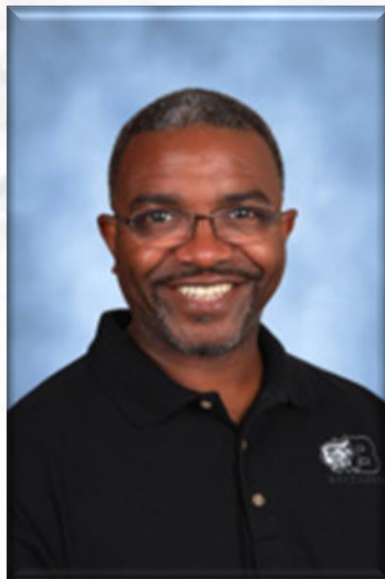
Physical Education	Skills for Living	Art	Engineering Tech
Mrs. Lincoln Mr. Wiska	Mrs. Yatooma	Mr. Orlando	Mr. Anspach Mr. Baldridge





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. Brandenburg	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



- ☐ **Reading Lab/Math Lab**
- ☐ **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

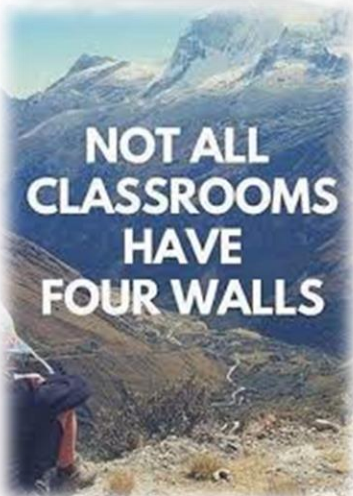
- Forensics
- Crochet Club
- NJHS
- Snow Club
- Art Club
- Jazz Band/Honors Orchestra
- Improv
- Show Choir
- Musical
- Yearbook Club
- Coders Club
- Robotics
- Green Team



Traveling Classroom Experiences



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

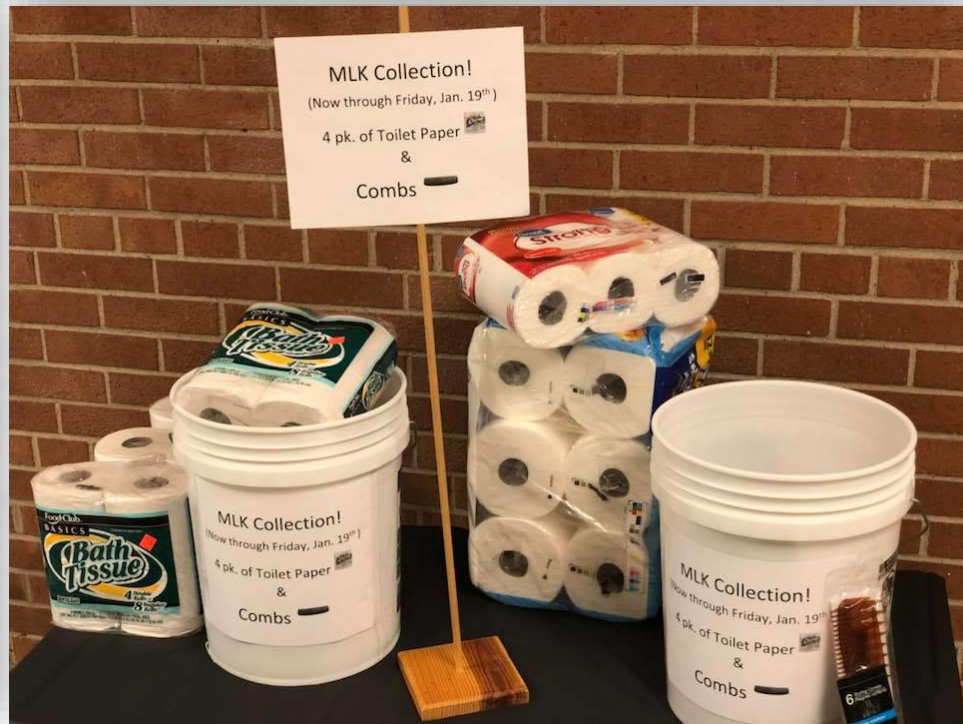


Washington, DC





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**



Middle School Devices

This Year 6th Grade students will receive a Dell Chromebook with a charger and protective cover.

- Students are responsible for the general care of a device.
- Loaners are available to students who need them while their Chromebook is in repair.
- School devices are for schoolwork only!



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 ballpark**
- ☐ **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



**Student
Planner**

2025-2026

- ☐ **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. Below it, the 'Parent Sign In' section contains two input fields for 'Username' and 'Password', followed by a blue 'Sign In' button. A link for 'Having trouble signing in?' is positioned between the password field and the sign-in button. The 'Create an Account' section below features a descriptive paragraph about creating a parent account, a 'Learn more' link, and a blue 'Create Account' button at the bottom right.

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

Most of the information you need can be found on the website...

- **Berkshire Website**
<https://berkshire.birmingham.k12.mi.us/>
- Mr. Clinkscales's Weekly Update click [Announcements](#)
- **Berkshire 6th Grade webpage**
<https://berkshire.birmingham.k12.mi.us/student-life/6th-grade>



Reporting an
Absence



Calendar



Class Link



Schoolology



PowerSchool



Staff Directory



Announcements



Clubs & Activities



Menus



Lunch Procedures

Lunch Times :

- ❖ **8th Grade 11:11**
- ❖ **7th Grade 11:31**
- ❖ **6th Grade 12:11**

- **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 C3 hour once the release bell has rung**



6th Grade Scheduling Form

Return this form to your 5th grade teacher by:
Friday, February 14th.
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).

STEP 1 → CIRCLE YOUR MATH CLASS: Math 6 Math 6/7

➤ One period per day will be reserved for elective courses. Choose from the following:

STEP 2 → CIRCLE TWO ELECTIVES FROM THE FOUR CHOICES BELOW:

CHOICE #1

You may only select 1 modern language class

Intro to Chinese
Intro to French
Intro to Spanish

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

*Band

Choir

*What Instrument do you play?

STEP 3 → 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: _____

School Counselors are available to address your questions or concerns:

Students whose last name begins with letters A-G contact Mrs. Hardeman: (248) 203 - 4714; RHardeman@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Students whose last name begins with letters H-Q contact Mrs. Gohl: (248) 203 - 4708; AGohl@birmingham.k12.mi.us

Students whose last name begins with letters R-Z contact Mrs. Battle: (248) 203 - 4711; ABattle@birmingham.k12.mi.us

- **When?**
- **Where?**
- **What?**
- **How?**
- **Due Date: Friday (2/28)**



Berkshire Bound TBD

**August 11th – 15th or 18th – 22nd
Depending Upon Start of School Year**

Berkshire Bound



Welcome Future Wildcats!

Berkshire
Middle School