

Sarah Banks Middle School

A photograph of Sarah Banks Middle School, a large, modern building with a dark roof and light-colored siding. The building features several dormer windows and a prominent entrance on the left. It is surrounded by a green lawn and some trees. A tall light pole stands in the foreground. The sky is clear and blue.

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night
March 10, 2025
Class of 2032

We Are Banks!

Administrative Team

Mrs. Jennifer VanWagnen, Principal

Ms. Becky Smith, Interim Assistant Principal

School Counselor for the Class of 2032

Mrs. Amanda Hart

Orientation Objectives



To cultivate a sense of confidence and trust in our school

To learn a valuable piece of information about middle school that will bring reassurance and aid both you and your child in the transition to middle school

Extend our ongoing commitment to helping your child succeed

Question and Answer Opportunity



Administrator Values & Commitments

- Importance of Relationships
 - Positive School Culture
- Visible, Approachable, and Available
 - Standard for Student Behavior
- High Expectations for Staff and Students
- Focus on Academic and Social Growth
 - “Whatever it Takes” Attitude
 - Communication



Communication

- Check Out our [Website](#)
- Skyward Family Access
- [The Banks Bulletin](#) -sent weekly beginning in August-
check your SPAM folder
- [PTSA Facebook Page](#)
 - Monthly PSTA Meetings in the Banks Media Center
- The Banks Blast-Off - August 19th 8 AM - 4 PM*



Skyward Family Access

- Required for Fall online registration process
 - Must have a parent login for fall registration process
 - All families must complete fall online registration prior to Banks Blastoff in August
 - Direct link available on Banks homepage – www.wlcsd.org/banks
- Skyward Family Access has many tools:
 - Teacher communication
 - Grades
 - Calendar
 - Food Services
 - Link for online payments (eFunds)
 - Attendance Reports
 - Discipline Reports
 - Emergency Contacts



A Day in the Life of a 6th Grader

- Parent Drop-Off Loop or Bus (routes available in late August)
- Lockers (access @ 8:00 a.m.)
- Breakfast (access @ 7:45 a.m.)
- Start time = 8:10 a.m.
- Four Core classes (approximately 60 minutes)
- Lunch (30 minutes) - by grade level
- Passing Times (five minutes)
- Two Encores classes (approximately 60 minutes)
- Dismissal time = 3:00 p.m.

Note: Order of classes & lunch times are not set until next fall. This represents our typical day for the 2024-2024\5 school year.



Building Layout and Parking

Lockers are located in lower A/B Hallway





Counseling Services

Mrs. Amanda Hart - Class of 2032

- Students sign up to see counselor
- Consult with parents and teachers
- Provide new student orientation
- Assist students with personal challenges and school related issues
- Support social emotional wellness
- Facilitate Career Guidance Program
- Provide referrals for outside services
- Provide academic guidance



Course Scheduling - CORE

- **English/Language Arts (ELA)**

- Reading various genres of text both narrative and informational.
- Writing personal narrative, argument paragraph, literary essay, cause/effect essay
- Journaling
- Book Talks...lots of reading novels
- Public speaking

- **Math - Units of Study**

- Relationships among factors, multiples, divisors, products
- Fractions and decimals
- Using variables to represent unknown values
- Percent and ratios
- Expressions and equations
- Perimeter and area

Course Request
Google Form
(located in 5th grade
teacher's Google
Classroom) is DUE
no later than

**Monday,
March 17**



Course Scheduling - CORE

- **Science – Units of Study**
 - Water and Land Use
 - Body Systems
 - Plant Growth
 - Recycling Matter
 - Invasive Species
- **Social Studies – Units of Study**
 - Foundations of World Geography
 - The World in Spatial Terms
 - Population and Migration
 - Human/Environment Interaction
 - Economics and World Trade
 - Civics, Government, Global Politics, and Culture

Course Request
Google Form is
DUE no later than

**Monday,
March 17**



Course Scheduling - ENCORE

Either This Schedule

1. Band or Orchestra
(Full Year Commitment)
And...
1. Four of the Courses to the right



Google Form Registration
Due Monday, March 17

Or All 8 Listed Below

- Vocal Music
- Strategies for Success *
- Digital Readiness *
- Comm Arts / Theatre
- PE (Gym)
- World Lang / Cultures
- Art
- Design Tech



Intervention Courses

- **Math Essentials** – This semester course is an extension of the core grade level CMP math class. Students will be placed into this course based on criteria that includes: iReady score, benchmark scores, and teacher recommendation. Final placement will be determined by administration.
- **Reading Essentials** - This semester course is a targeted intervention course utilizing the AARI curriculum. Students will be placed into this course based on criteria that includes: iReady score, QRI scores, and teacher recommendation. Final placement will be determined by administration.

Course Request Google Form is due no later than
Monday, March 17



Summary Data

Each student's reading level, as measured by the Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI)*, was collected at the beginning and end of the intervention to track reading growth. As a whole, AARI participants showed large increases in reading level and growth toward grade level proficiency.

Increases in Reading Level

96% of participants

increased 1 or more reading levels

83% of participants

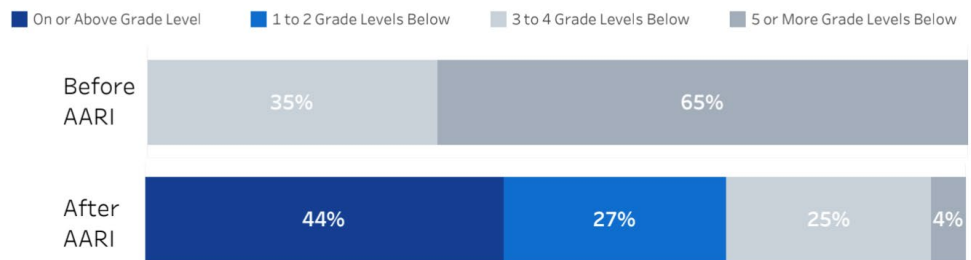
increased 2 or more reading levels

Change in Reading Level	Percent	Number
Maintained	4.2%	2
+1 Levels	12.5%	6
+2 Levels	12.5%	6
+3 Levels	12.5%	6
+4 or more Levels	58.3%	28
Total Number of Students	100.0%	48

Growth Toward Grade Level Proficiency

0% to **71%**

The change in the percentage of students reading on grade level or within 2 grade levels.





Lunches

- Lunch is 30 minutes
- Lunch includes 15 minutes of recreation time
- Main Food Service Line
- Snack Line
- Microwaves





Middle School Activities

After school activities and offerings vary:

- by school year
- based on interest

Typical Offerings Include:

- Homework Club
- Chess Club
- Spelling Bee
- Student Council
- NJHS - National Junior Honor Society - invite in spring of 7th grade year for membership during 8th grade
- Yearbook Club
- Spirit Weeks
- Ski & Snowboard Club



Middle School Athletics

Athletic offerings vary by season and grade level

Fall Sports (Aug - Oct)

Winter II (Feb - March)

Girls Volleyball (6/7, 8)

Girls

Basketball (6/7, 8)

Cross Country (6, 7, 8)

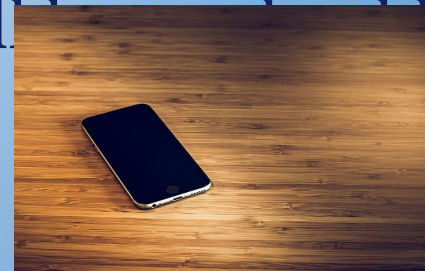
Wrestling (6, 7, 8)

Winter I (Nov - Jan)

Cell Phones



- Phones: stored in lockers—all day!
 - Provides a safe and focused learning environment for our students
- Teachers discretion—cell phone use for instructional purposes (infrequent with Chromebook One to One)
- For accountability, all students needing to call home will use the Attendance Office phones





Backpacks/Bags/Lockers

- Students will be required to utilize their locker during the school day
- Students will not be permitted to carry bags during school day
- Lockers are small, please note dimensions when purchasing locker organizer or backpack



Chromebooks: One-to-One

- Secondary students in WLCSD have the opportunity to receive District-issued Chromebook devices
- More information about that process will be shared in August



Questions over the years

- Lockers, what fits? How do I open it?
 - Not much - books, small backpack, coat, and supplies only (no rolling cart!)
 - Helpful Hints: Locker combination - purchase a comb lock and practice!
- How do I communication with teachers?
 - Please seek to understand |Email is best and we request the teachers respond within a 24 hour time period
- How much HW is expected?
 - Varies by time of card marking
 - Typical day 30 – 60 minutes/day
 - During weeks when there are many BA's, this will likely increase



Looking Ahead

- **Class Scheduling**

- Google Form Due: **Monday, March 17**

- **Back to School**

- Expect a communication in Early August
- Banks Blast Off – **Monday, August 18 or Tuesday, August 19**
 - Receive schedule and locker
 - School pictures
 - Drop off medications
 - Tour building and practice locker combinations





Helpful Resources on our Website

Be sure to check out all the resources on our website

- Family and Student Pages
 - Parent Orientation Presentation
 - Encore Class Presentation
 - Scheduling Letter for Band/Orchestra – Very important info for any student planning to take the **full year** course
 - Commonly Asked Questions
 - School Supply List

For information related to athletics, please visit the athletics tab on the website



Connect With Us

- Following Orientation, this presentation will be available for review at www.wlcsd.org/banks
- Do not hesitate to contact us via phone or email
- Multiple communications will be sent between before the start of the 2025-26 school year

