



Scheduling: Rising 6th Graders

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



Meet Your Counselors



- Students are assigned to counselors based on the first letter of their last name. This year, our counselors have the following students:
 - Mr. Vyrostek: Last Names A-K
 - Mr. Rock: Last Names L-Z



Berkshire Student Services



Meet Berkshire's Student Services Department (Left to Right):

- Mrs. Wiehe: Mental Health Specialist
- Mr. Schafer: School Psychologist
- Mr. Vyrostek: School Counselor, A-K
- Mr. Rock: School Counselor, L-Z
- Ms. Hurd: School Psychologist
- Mrs. Demostenes: School Social Worker
- Mrs. Johnson: Secretary, Student Services & Athletics

Berkshire's Principals

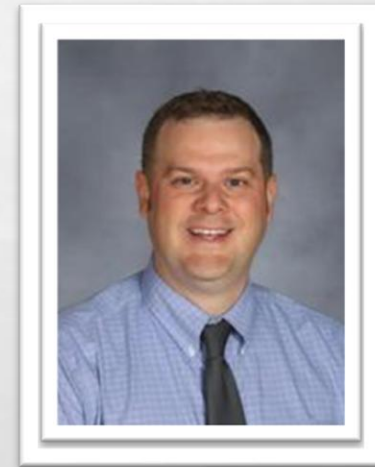
- Our administrative team is fabulous, too! Berkshire has 3 principals:



Mrs. Nagel,
Principal



Mr. Craig,
Assistant Principal



Mr. Bidlack,
Assistant Principal & Athletic Director

Who's Ready to be a Sentinel?!



- Berkshire Middle School's mascot is The Sentinel!
- Sentinels are leaders and protectors, keeping watch over others. Sentinels Know Their Impact!
- Because much of the land in our community was part of the Underground Railroad, the significance of The Sentinel is even greater!

What does it mean to be a Sentinel?

- Berkshire Middle School is located on 3 Bs & K Road...
- This makes our school culture easy to recognize!
- If you're wondering if you're headed in the right direction, just think of the 3 Bs & K Way!
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Responsible
 - Be Thoughtful
 - Know Your Impact!



Welcome To 6th Grade (almost)

- Today, we're going to talk about 6th grade and middle school life.
- There's a lot to cover, so we're going to wait until the end for questions (they'll likely be covered in the presentation, anyway).



So... What's 6th Grade Like?

- Well, it's a LOT different from 5th grade!
- We'll take some time to discuss some of the most common details from the life of a middle schooler.
- But first, let's check out the scheduling process!



Your Scheduling Card

- In order to build your schedule for next year, we need you and your folks at home to complete your scheduling card.



OLENTANGY BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH GRADE 2026-2027 COURSE SELECTION SHEET

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Elementary: _____

REQUIRED FULL-YEAR CORE COURSES (Year-long courses automatically scheduled)

☒ Student Assist ☒ Lunch ☒ Integrated English 6 ☒ Science 6 ☒ Social Studies 6 ☒ Math 6

REQUIRED UNIFIED ARTS COURSES (Six-week courses automatically scheduled)

☒ Physical Education 6 ☒ Academic Lab 6 ☒ Visual Art 6
☒ Physical Education 6 ☒ Health 6 ☒ Digital Exploration

ELECTIVE COURSES

For the second Unified Arts period, Sixth-Grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall, both of which are year-long courses (36 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts may request up to two courses; if a student selects two Performing Arts courses, they will alternate between the two throughout the week during the same class period. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select **ONE FULL YEAR** option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

☐ Band ☐ Band/Choir ☐ Study Hall 6 - All Year
☐ Choir ☐ Band/Strings ☐ Choir/Strings
☐ Strings

☒ (This completes your elective request)

If you selected Band, Strings, or Both, please list the instruments you play or may be interested in playing this year. This is not a final selection, but it helps create tailored sections to support music development. Please contact the music teacher at the middle school if you have any questions.

Please return to your Elementary Counselor by 1/16/2026

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mr. Vyrstek (School Counselor A-K): michael_vyrstek@oleb.org
Mr. Rock (School Counselor L-Z): andrew_rock@oleb.org

OBKMS School Scheduling Webpage

Student Signature _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

First Things, First

- On the top of your scheduling card, neatly write your name, your Student ID number (if you know it), and your elementary school.

OLENTANGY BERKSHIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH GRADE 2026-2027 COURSE SELECTION SHEET



Student Name: _____

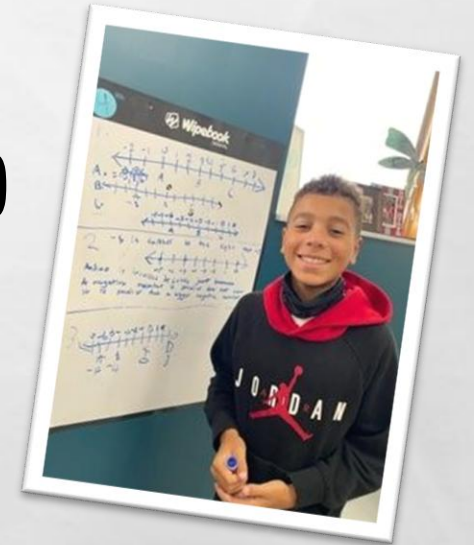
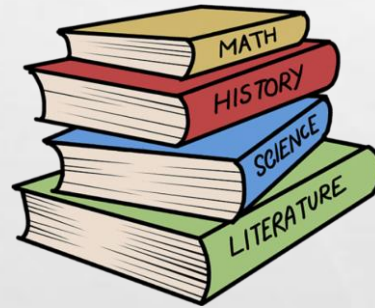
Student ID: _____

Elementary: _____



Required Core Courses

- Next year, you'll have 4 Core courses:
 - Integrated English 6 (Reading, Writing, & Language)
 - Social Studies 6
 - Science 6
 - Mathematics 6



REQUIRED FULL-YEAR CORE COURSES (Year-long courses automatically scheduled)

☒ Student Assist ☒ Lunch ☒ Integrated English 6 ☒ Science 6 ☒ Social Studies 6 ☒ Math 6

Required Core Courses

- Next year, you'll have 4 Core courses:
 - Each of these courses is about 51 minutes long.
 - Every 6th grader takes the same Core courses (but with different teachers).



Teams

- In middle school, students are assigned to teams of 3-4 teachers (one for each Core subject).
- Everyone on a team has the same 4 teachers (just in different periods).
- Most years, we have three 6th grade teams at Berkshire: Teams 601, 602, and 603.

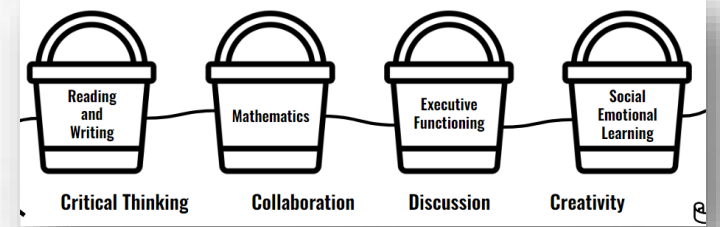


Teams

- You may have students from your elementary school on your team, but you'll also have students from the other 3 elementary schools that feed into Berkshire (Alum Creek, Cheshire, Johnnycake Corners, Walnut Creek).
- Students are randomly assigned to teams through PowerSchool's scheduling program.



What is Student Assist?



- You'll also have another course in your schedule that all 6th graders will take (51 minutes, as well).
- It's labeled *Student Assist* in PowerSchool, but we call it *G.O. Time (Growth Opportunity Time)*.
- You can think of this like the *W.I.N. (What I Need)* time in Elementary school.
- For this course, you'll be assigned to one of your team's teachers, but you won't go there every day.



What is G. O. Time?

- Students rotate through their Core teachers for G.O. Time.
- You will not earn a grade in this course; teachers provide extension activities, enrichment, guided practice, and even invite guest speakers from time to time.
- Each team handles this course a little bit differently, so they'll have more to share with you the first week of school.



Unified Arts Courses

- Sixth grade students also have two periods for Unified Arts courses (*Specials*).
- For one of the periods, students will have a rotation of 6 different courses, each lasting 6 weeks.
- The other period will be a year-long, Elective course.
- These periods are also 51 minutes long.



Unified Arts Courses

- Every sixth grader will be required to take the 6-week Unified Arts courses listed.
- The order in which you have them will be random.
- Academic Lab 6
- Digital Exploration 6
- Health 6
- Physical Education 6 (twice)
- Visual Art 6

REQUIRED UNIFIED ARTS COURSES (Six-week courses automatically scheduled)

☒ Physical Education 6

☒ Physical Education 6

☒ Academic Lab 6

☒ Health 6

☒ Visual Art 6

☒ Digital Exploration



Elective Courses

- For the other Unified Arts period, students may choose to take either:
 - Study Hall 6 [OR]
 - Performing Arts (one or two of the following):
 - Band 6
 - Choir 6
 - Strings 6



ELECTIVE COURSES

For the second Unified Arts period, Sixth-Grade students have the option to enroll in Performing Arts Courses or a Study Hall, both of which are year-long courses (36 weeks). Students electing to enroll in Performing Arts may request up to two courses; if a student selects two Performing Arts courses, they will alternate between the two throughout the week during the same class period. Study Hall cannot be combined with a Performing Arts course.

Please select **ONE FULL YEAR** option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

- ☐ Band
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Strings

- ☐ Band/Choir
- ☐ Band/Strings
- ☐ Choir/Strings

☐ Study Hall 6 - All Year

☒ (This completes your elective request)

Elective Courses

- Check out our Course Descriptions in the Middle School Course of Study. You can also review the Olentangy Learning Pathways and other details there, too!
- The QR Code on your Scheduling Card will take you to our Student Services Scheduling site; the MS Course of Study is located at the bottom of the page.



Unified Arts Courses

- Elective courses:

Please select **ONE FULL YEAR** option below by placing a check mark in the appropriate blank:

☐ Band	☐ Band/Choir	☐ Study Hall 6 - All Year
☐ Choir	☐ Band/Strings	
☐ Strings	☐ Choir/Strings	
☒ (This completes your elective request)		

- If you select Study Hall, you will not take a Performing Arts course (Music).
- If you select Performing Arts, you may choose one OR two of the options.
- If you do take two Performing Arts courses, you will alternate days. You'll have Performing Arts every day, but will have one of them one day, and the other the next.

Unified Arts Courses

- If you'd like to take a Performing Arts course, you do NOT need to have taken any in elementary school.
- However, your future Performing Arts teacher will need some information to prepare you for next year.

If you selected Band, Strings, or Both, please list the instruments you play or may be interested in playing this year. This is not a final selection, but it helps create tailored sections to support music development. Please contact the music teacher at the middle school if you have any questions.



Final Details

- Take some time to talk with your parents/guardians about the schedule you'd like to request.
- Once complete, turn your card in to your elementary school counselor no later than **January 16th**.

Please return to your Elementary Counselor by 1/16/2026

If you have any questions, please contact: Mr. Vyrostek (School Counselor A-K): michael_vyrostek@olsd.us Mr. Rock (School Counselor L-Z): andrew_rock@olsd.us	OBKMS School Scheduling Webpage 
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Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



What Is a Typical Day Like?

- School begins at 7.40, and ends at 2.45.
- Classes are 51 minutes long (extra time in first & last period for announcements).
- Students travel from class to class; we use bells throughout the day for class changes.

Period	Class	Time
1	Core 1	7.40-8.36
2	Unified Arts 1	8.40-9.31
3	Core 2	9.35-10.26
4/5	Core 3	10.30-11.21
6	Lunch	11.25-11.55
7/8	G.O. Time	11.59-12.50
9	Unified Arts 2	12.54-1.45
10	Core 4	1.49-2.45

Lunch

- All 6th graders eat lunch together (11.25-11.55) in our cafeteria.
- You can typically sit where you like at lunch (seats are not usually assigned).
- You may bring your lunch from home, or...



Lunch

- You may purchase your lunch.
- If you decide to purchase your lunch, you'll find your seat, and then wait for the cafeteria monitors to call you to the lunch line (to avoid over-crowding).
- A standard lunch (daily special) costs \$2.75.



Lunch

- The cafeteria is much larger than what you have in your elementary school, and has a greater variety of offerings, should you choose to purchase your lunch (a la carte items, sandwiches, salads, daily special offerings, etc.).



What about Recess?

- Unfortunately, middle school students do not have recess, but you'll be moving around the building throughout the day, so you'll certainly get a chance to burn off some energy!



What's the Building Like?

- Each grade's Core classrooms are grouped into grade-level *houses*.
- This means that all 6th graders are in the same hallway for most of the day, and will not mingle with 7th or 8th graders.



What's the Building Like?

- Unified Arts classes are in their own areas of the building, but are fairly easy to locate, as well (most are in the main hallway).



What's the Building Like?



[Video Tour](#)

Lockers

- Lockers are usually assigned in the hallway where a student's first class is located.
- Because lockers are assigned, students do not carry backpacks during the school day.



Is Berkshire Crowded?

- As of 01/07/2026, we have 921 students in our building, with roughly 301 6th Graders.
- Believe it or not- a few years ago we had close to 1300 students!



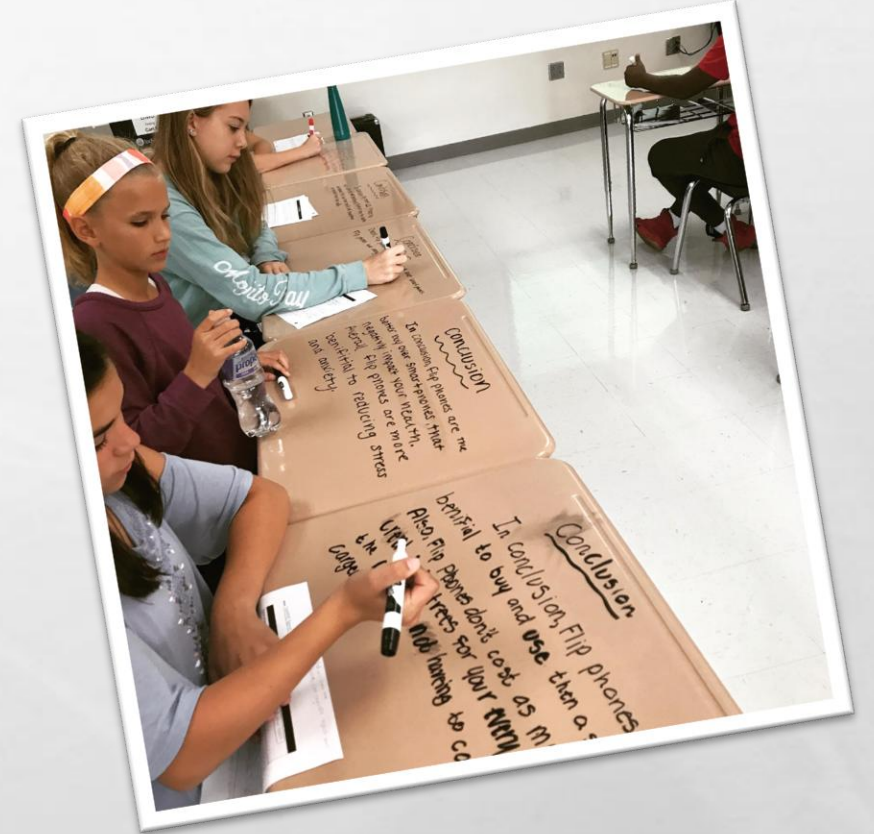
Homework

- Some incoming middle school students wonder if they will have a lot of homework.
- The short answer is maybe...
- Middle school is more rigorous than elementary, but if you maintain good study skills, you should have no problem being successful!
- There may be some nights you don't have homework, but it's still a good idea to study and review content.



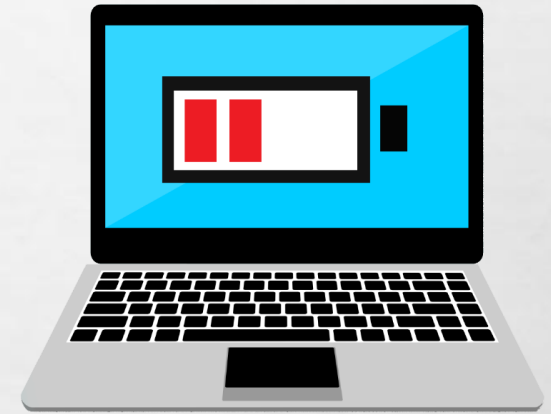
Homework

- Teachers post assignments and upcoming assessments to Schoology.
- Sixth graders also receive an agenda book / planner. Students are encouraged to use these planners to keep track of their assignments throughout the year.



Do I Need a Laptop or Chromebook?

- If you have a laptop or Chromebook, you can definitely bring it to use for your classes. Your teachers will let you know when you need them.
- If you don't have a laptop or Chromebook, there's no need to worry! We have plenty at Berkshire for you to use during the school day!



Can I Bring My Phone?

- Some 6th graders have phones or other personal communication devices, and wonder whether or not they can use them at school.
- Ohio law now states that devices must be silent and away all day. If you do bring a phone, it must be kept in your locker for the entire school day (bell to bell).



Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities (clubs) are also offered at Berkshire.
- Most clubs are offered during the school day, but some do take place before or after school.
- Listen to the announcements and check Schoology for details.

Courses



STUDENT SERVICES

[Berkshire Middle School Student Ser...](#)
Counselors, 6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8t...
Olentangy Berkshire Middle School

Websites and Resources



WEBSITES & RESOURCES

5 sections

Clubs and Extra-curricular Activities



CLUBS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Astronomy Club



Astronomy Club

Do you ever look up at the sky and wonder what lies beyond the clouds? Do you have an interest in all things celestial? Join us and other star-gazing Sentinels in Astronomy Club!

Advisor: Mrs. Wisniewski (Room 106) | (Sarah.Wisniewski@oled.us)

Informational Meeting: Monday, 1/5/26, from 2.45-3.45, in the Library

Regular Meetings:

- Every Monday, beginning 1/5/26, until 2/9/26
- After School, from 2.45-3.45
- Library

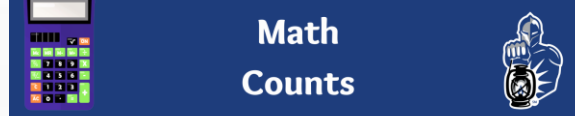
Deadline to Join: 1/5/26 (our first meeting)

Cost to Participate: \$0 | There is no cost to participate!

Who Can Join?: Astronomy Club is open to Everyone!

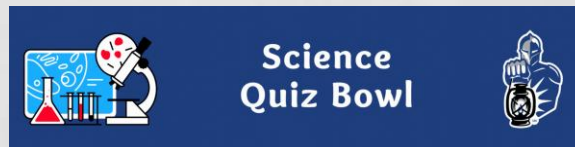
Schoology Course Access: Use the interest form linked below to have Mrs. Wisniewski add you to the Schoology Course.

[Astronomy Club Sign-Up](#)



Extracurricular Activities

- We have a great variety of groups, but if there's a club that you'd like to start, let us know, and we'll try to find a teacher to run it for you.
- Some of our current offerings include:



Sports



- As a 6th grader, unfortunately, you won't be eligible to participate in the school's team sports, but you're still welcome to attend games and matches:

Football

Cross
Country

Softball

Golf

Track &
Field

Wrestling

Volleyball

Baseball

Cheerleading

Lacrosse

Basketball

Visiting Your Counselor

- School counselors provide a variety of services to students (conflict resolution, social/emotional support, academic advising, career advising, scheduling, and much more).
- Students typically come to see us during one of their Unified Arts periods or during G.O. Time.



Visiting Your Counselor

- If you need to see one of us, stop by the Student Services office before school or between classes.
- When you come to the office, sign in with our secretary, Mrs. Johnson, and then return to class until we send a pass to you.



Mrs. Johnson,
Secretary: Student Services & Athletics



6th Grade Orientation

- The week before school starts, Berkshire's Student Services department hosts an orientation for incoming 6th graders.
- More information will be provided to families during the summer, so stay tuned!



6th Grade Orientation

- Orientation is presented by Berkshire's counselors and a group of 8th graders, called WEB Leaders.
- This is a day when students will receive their schedule, tour the building, and learn more about Berkshire.



Next Steps

- Make sure you have completed your schedule card and returned it to your counselor by **January 16th**.
- If you decide to make changes to your elective, you have until the last day of school (**May 28th**) to do so. Changes will not be made after that.



Questions?



- If you have additional questions about the scheduling process after today, feel free to reach out to your elementary counselor.
- You can also find a wealth of information on the Berkshire Student Services page on the school's website.

