



Parent Welcome and Orientation

Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)

Welcome with Karen Blankenbeckler

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Division Summary with Jenn McDonough

Middle School Division Head

Academics and Student Life

Breakout Groups (5/6 & 7/8)

Logistics

Q&A

Middle School Team



Jenn McDonough
Middle School
Division Head



Daniel Bates
Middle School
Dean of Students



Nathan Campbell
Middle School
Athletics Director



Kelsey Bolton
Middle School
Counselor



Suzanne Grant
Middle School
Division Assistant

Middle School Teachers



Daniel Bates
Middle School Dean of Students
Middle School, Administrative Faculty



James Besaw
Faculty
Middle School



Kelsey Bolton
School Counselor K-8
Middle School, Health Team, Lower School,
Counseling



Christina Brandao
Faculty
Middle School



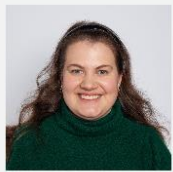
Katie Brandao
Faculty
Middle School



Sherrie Brown
Mentor Dean of Academics
Middle School, Administrative Faculty



Dan Broyles
Faculty
Middle School



Catherine Carruth
Class of 2015
Faculty
Middle School



Courtney Cohrs
Faculty
Middle School



Emily Coleman
Faculty
Middle School



Heather Cook
Classroom Assistant Coordinator
Middle School, Classroom Assistant



Alexandra Corrick
Middle School



Kelly Cross
Faculty
Middle School



Amy Fowler
Faculty
Middle School



Suzanne Grant
Division Assistant
Middle School, Office Staff



Phil Higley
Faculty
Middle School



Ashley Hsieh
Faculty
Middle School



James Kuhle
Faculty
Middle School



Hana Lee
Faculty
Middle School



Josie LeQuatte
Faculty
Middle School



Joshua Mattson
Faculty
Middle School



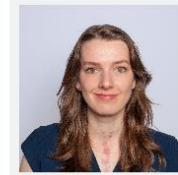
Jenn McDonough
Middle School Division Head
Middle School, Administrative Faculty



Tyler Mendezona
Faculty, Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach,
Physical Education Specialist
Upper School, Middle School



Stephanie Meyer
Faculty
Middle School



Kara Morris
Faculty
Middle School



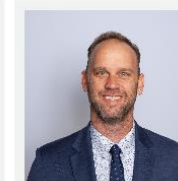
James Rounthwaite
Faculty
Middle School



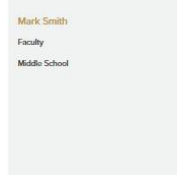
Jacky Schnarre
Faculty
Middle School



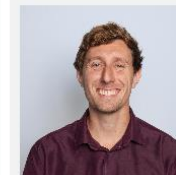
Jennifer Sinclair
Faculty
Middle School



Robert Smith
Faculty
Middle School



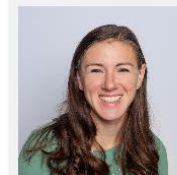
Mark Smith
Faculty
Middle School



Joey Starr
Faculty, Varsity Boys Soccer Head Coach
Middle School



Katherine Steinkraus
Middle School Literacy and Innovation Lead
Middle School, Library



Kelsey Thompson
Faculty
Upper School, Middle School



Janice White
Faculty
Middle School



Bethany Wong
Faculty
Middle School

Division Summary

Grades 5 – 8

Breakouts

Logistics

Sports

Grades 6 – 8

2026 – 2027

School Calendar

Middle School

- Uniquely formative years as students are developing physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually
- Students are curious, open, adventurous, vulnerable, and often unpredictable
- Each student's progress will vary, as each student is growing and developing at his or her own rate



Why do we do what we do?

- Moving from Grammar to Dialectic
 - Academic Curriculum
 - Executive Function Skills
 - Social/Emotional Behavior
 - Greater Independence
- Adaptive Program and Teachers
 - Students' progress will vary
 - One size does not fit all
 - Students will grow leaps and bounds



Parent Role/Partnership

- Parents “*get*” to transition also
 - Hand-hold *or* Space
 - Conductor *or* Coach
- Take cues from child(ren)
- Parent partnership can work together to adapt to evolving needs



Student Role and Expectations

- Independence and Accountability
- Self-Advocacy and Self-Initiation
- Behavioral Growth and Social Maturity



Prepared for Upper School



INDEPENDENCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY



SELF-ADVOCACY AND
SELF-INITIATION



BEHAVIORAL GROWTH
AND MATURITY

Student Life Goals

- **Faith:** Nurture student growth in theological understanding (Orthodoxy) and practice (Orthopraxy)
- **Virtue:** Help students grow in wisdom, compassion, and courage.
- **Leadership:** Develop leadership skills and provide opportunities for student voice and service.
- **Culture:** Foster a respectful, supportive, and fun student community.



Chapel

Students gather weekly for worship, praise, teaching, and reflection.

The service includes a student-led worship team, a variety of speakers, and topics to help students better understand and live the Christian faith in thought and action.



Socials

Provide opportunities for community building and development of deeper relationships in safe and nurturing environments beyond the classroom.

Here are a few examples. Plans will be finalized at the start of the year.

- September – Icebreaker (5 – 8)
- October – Family Game Night (5 – 6)
- November – Clue Night (7 – 8)
- March – Movie Night (5 – 6)
- March – Movie Night (7 – 8)
- April – Neon Night (5 – 8)
- May – Field Day + Grizzly Color Run (5 – 8)

Student Life Outcomes



WISDOM



COMPASSION



COURAGE



Breakout Time

5 and 6 – Stay Seated

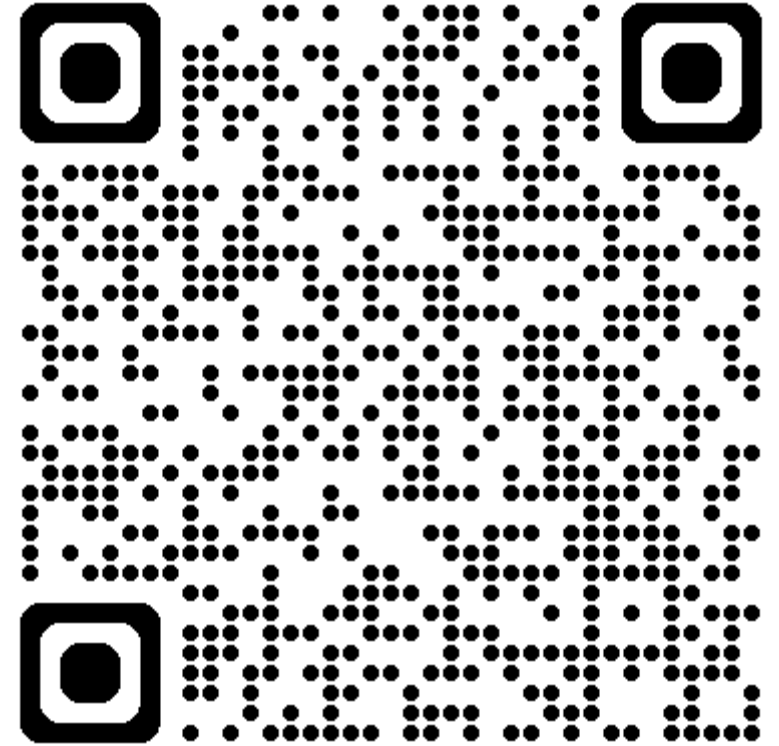
7 and 8 – Move to Back

Grades 5 and 6 Schedule

Homeroom teacher, as well as:

- **Subject experts in:**
 - Reading/Writing
 - Science and Geography (5) or History (6)
 - Math
- **Student Life block each week:**
 - Organization and planning
 - Developing executive functioning skills
 - Rooted – our character development program
- **Specialist Rotation**
- **Daily recess**

*Daily Schedule and
Sample Block Rotations*



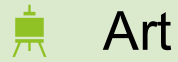
Note: individual student schedules will be posted 1 week prior to the start of school.

Grade 5 Block Schedule (15-day ABC rotation)

Week 1					Week 2					Week 3				
Monday A	Tuesday B	Wednesday C	Thursday A	Friday B	Monday C	Tuesday A	Wednesday B	Thursday C	Friday A	Monday B	Tuesday C	Wednesday A	Thursday B	Friday C
Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom
Music	Art or Library ¹		Band	Office Hours	Music	Art or Library ¹		Band	Office Hours	Music	Art or Library ¹		Band	Office Hours
PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING
P.E.	Comp. Prog. S1 Drama S2 ²	Student Life	P.E.	Science Lab	P.E.	Comp. Prog. S1 Drama S2 ²	Student Life	P.E.	Science Lab	P.E.	Comp. Prog. S1 Drama S2 ²	Student Life	P.E.	Science Lab
PASSING		Office Hours	PASSING		PASSING		Office Hours	PASSING		PASSING		Office Hours	PASSING	Science Lab
Latin			Latin		Latin		Latin		Latin	Latin		Latin	Latin	Science Lab
Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Math	Reading	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Math	Reading	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Math	Reading	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Math	Reading	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Math	Reading
Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
Writing	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Bible	Writing	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Bible	Writing	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Bible	Writing	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Bible	Writing	Geography S1 Science S2 ³	Bible

Grades 5 and 6 Specialist Classes

*Note: All grade 5 students participate in both band and general music, which are taught by specialists and meet once each week. Grade 6 students may choose either band or choir and attend twice each week.



Art



Band/Choir*



Latin



Lab Science



Library



Physical Education



Computer Programming (1 semester)



Public Speaking (1 semester)

Executive Function

- Students in grades 5 – 8 participate in weekly office hours.
 - Grades 5 and 6 office hours are more prescribed and structured
 - Grades 7 and 8 will include more choice and autonomy
- Office hours are led by Homeroom teachers and provide a dedicated time for students to get organized, plan their week, study, and meet with teachers.
- Executive function targets:
 - Organizing time and materials
 - Self-advocacy
 - Test taking skills
 - Note taking skills
 - Digital citizenship

Field Trips



Grade 5:

- Camp Gilead Service Day
- Orienteering and Map Reading
- Edgeworks Climbing Gym
- Outdoor Ed

Grade 6:

- Camp Gilead Service Day
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
- Nature Hike

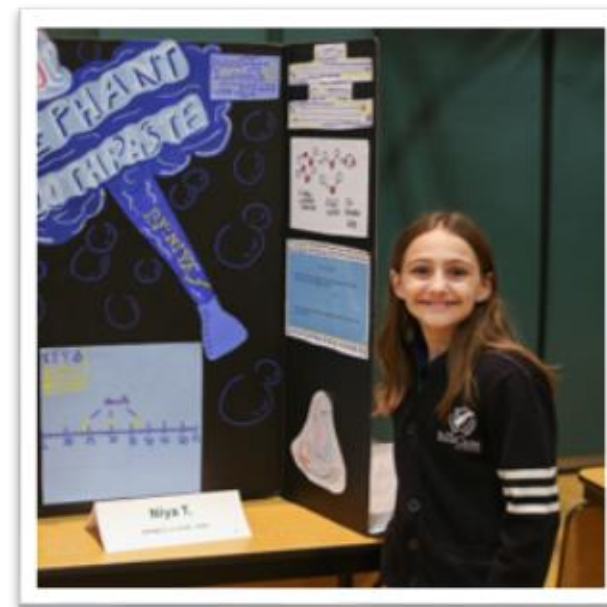
Immersion Weeks

During the first two weeks of January, students in grade 5 immerse themselves in science while students in grade 6 are engrossed in Shakespeare. These culminate with two wonderful events.

Grade 6 Performances



Grade 5 Science Fair



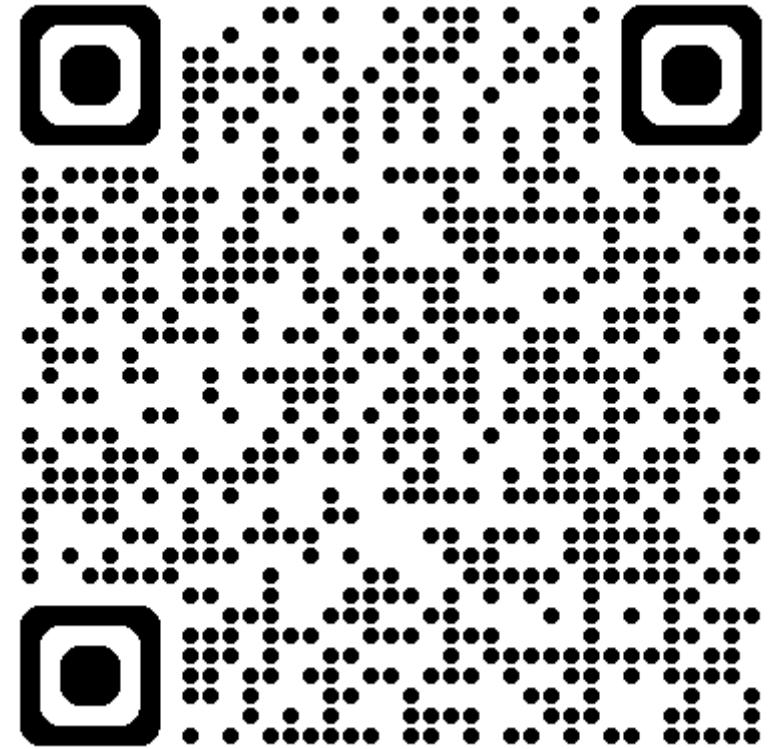
An experience our students look forward to each year

Grades 7 and 8 Block Schedule

Homeroom teacher, as well as

- **Six required class teachers:**
 - Math
 - History
 - English
 - Science
 - Latin (and Logic in grade 7)
 - Christian studies
- **Student Life block each week:**
 - Organization and planning
 - Developing executive functioning skills
 - Rooted – our character development program
- **Daily breaks**

*Daily Schedule and
Sample Block Rotations*



Note: individual student schedules will be posted 1 week prior to the start of school.

Grades 7– 8 Block Schedule (15-day ABC rotation)

Week 1					Week 2					Week 3				
Monday A	Tuesday B	Wednesday C	Thursday A	Friday B	Monday C	Tuesday A	Wednesday B	Thursday C	Friday A	Monday B	Tuesday C	Wednesday A	Thursday B	Friday C
Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Late Start	Homeroom	Homeroom
Block 1	Block 5		Block 1	Block 5	Block 3	Block 1		Block 3	Block 1	Block 5	Block 3		Block 5	Block 3
PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Chapel	PASSING	PASSING
Block 2	Block 6	Student Life	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Block 2	Student Life	Block 4	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Student Life	Block 6	Block 4
Break	Break	Block 3	Break	Break	Break	Break	Block 5	Break	Break	Break	Break	Block 1	Break	Break
Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A		Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A		Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A		Arts or Elective Block A	Arts or Elective Block A
PASSING	PASSING	Block 4	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Block 6	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	Block 2	PASSING	PASSING
Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Lunch	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Lunch	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B	Lunch	Arts or Elective Block B	Arts or Elective Block B
Lunch	Lunch		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours		Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours		Office Hours	Office Hours
Block 3	Block 1	Block 5	Block 3	Block 1	Block 5	Block 3	Block 1	Block 5	Block 3	Block 1	Block 5	Block 3	Block 1	Block 5
PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING	PASSING
Block 4	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Block 2	Block 6	Block 4	Block 2	Block 6



Invested in students. Intentional in outcome.

Grades 7 and 8 Fine Arts and Elective Classes

** At least one elective each year must be an Arts elective*

- Art*
- Band*
- Choir*
- Drama*
- Percussion*
- Rhetoric
- Computer Programming
- Creation Lab
- Creative Writing Lab
- Digital Storytelling
- Strength Training
- Robotics
- Guided Study Hall
(only with permission)

Note: Physical Education is a required course (1 semester each year)

Executive Function

- Students in grades 7 and 8 choose to participate in office hours.
 - Students may plan for office hours up to 4x/week, during the school day, with respective teachers.
 - After-school office hours are by appointment only.
- Executive function targets integrated into core curriculum:
 - Organizing time and materials
 - Self-advocacy
 - Test taking skills
 - Note taking skills
 - Digital citizenship

Field Trips



Grade 7:

- SAMBICA Service Day
- Seattle Aquarium
- Nordic Museum

Grade 8:

- High Trek
- Fort Nisqually Museum

JanTerm

JanTerm is much like a collegiate mini semester. Students choose **four** topical two-week seminars that offer a greater opportunity to explore new course topics which may not fit into the traditional academic year, but are perfect for shorter, more intensive study. Typically, **about 80** unique classes are offered each year.

More details are sent home in the October timeframe for what and how to choose options.



An experience our students look forward to each year

Grades 5 – 8 Drop-off and Pick-up

Drop-off Time Drop-off Location

7:40 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
M, Tu, Th, F

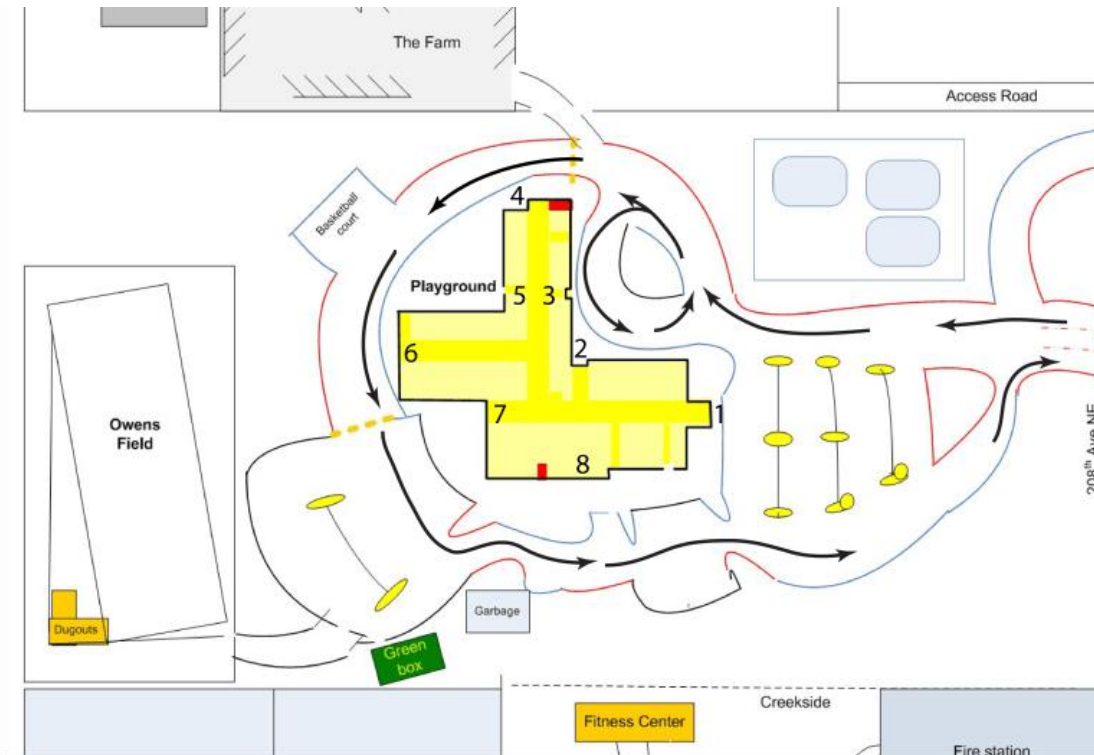
8:40 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
W

Parents drop off along the south side of the building (see blue arrow on map). Pull car as far forward as possible toward the front of the building (X). Students exit the car on the left side and enter through either the main hallway door by the gym (7) or at rear of the Main Commons (8).

Pick-up Time Pick-up Location

2:45 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.

Parents pull car up to the Main Commons door (8). Students exit through that door (under awning if raining).



Family Handbook

Attendance Policy: (all of grades 5 – 8)

- An absence is recorded if a student is more than 15 minutes late for a class period.
- If a student accumulates **15** absences in a semester, or **20** absences in a school year, a family will need to petition for credit.
- Accommodations for extended illness-related absences.

Late Work Policy:

- Late assignments are docked **10%** each day, up to **50%** off. No late work will be accepted after the specified late work deadline dates as noted on the school calendar.

Uniforms

Foster a supportive and consistent environment where everyone feels valued and part of the community and ensure our students are dressing for success.

Weekly Schedule (all grades 5 – 8):

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays are **formal dress** uniform days
- Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays are **casual** uniform days
- Special dress days throughout the year – noted on school calendar

P.E. Uniforms:

- Optional for grades 5 – 6
- **Required** for grades 7 – 8



MIDDLE SCHOOL
UNIFORM GUIDE

GIRLS dress



LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY OR KHAKI UNIFORM PANTS, SKIRT, OR SKORT
TOMMY HILFIGER CHRISTOPHER PLAID ITEMS

NAVY, WHITE, OR GREEN POLO WITH OR WITHOUT LOGO

Bear Creek logo required on sweaters and vests. (casual and dress)

LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY OR GREEN SWEATER OR SWEATER VEST

NAVY LOGO FLEECE OPTIONAL

GIRLS casual



NAVY OR KHAKI UNIFORM-STYLE PANTS OR SHORTS OR NAVY, KHAKI, OR CHRISTOPHER PLAID SKIRT OR SKORT

NAVY, WHITE, OR GREEN POLO WITH OR WITHOUT LOGO

LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY OR GREEN SWEATER OR SWEATER VEST OR SCHOOL-BRANDED, SCHOOL TEAM, OR BEAR CREEK LOGO SWEATSHIRT OPTIONAL

See the complete uniform guidelines in the Family Handbook. Allowed vendors linked on tbc.org/mybc/parents/school-uniforms. Students may also wear items previously purchased from DENNIS Uniform.



MIDDLE SCHOOL
UNIFORM GUIDE

Boys dress



LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY BLUE OR GREEN SWEATER OR SWEATER VEST

NAVY, WHITE, OR GREEN POLO WITH OR WITHOUT LOGO OR BLUE OR WHITE OXFORD

Bear Creek logo required on sweaters and vests. (casual and dress)

Boys casual



NAVY, WHITE, OR GREEN POLO WITH OR WITHOUT LOGO OR BLUE OR WHITE OXFORD

LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY OR GREEN SWEATER OR SWEATER VEST OR SCHOOL-BRANDED, SCHOOL TEAM, OR BEAR CREEK LOGO SWEATSHIRT

NAVY BLUE OR KHAKI UNIFORM-STYLE PANTS OR SHORTS

LANDS' END OR TOMMY HILFIGER NAVY OR KHAKI UNIFORM PANTS

NAVY LOGO FLEECE OPTIONAL

See the complete uniform guidelines in the Family Handbook. Allowed vendors linked on tbc.org/mybc/parents/school-uniforms. Students may also wear items previously purchased from DENNIS Uniform.

Special Note: Tommy Hilfiger running a promotion this week!

Middle School Academic Teams

Several after school academic team opportunities offered* across three seasons. Signups are part of Summer Registration and require an additional fee.

FALL (Sep – Dec)	WINTER (Jan – Mar)	SPRING (Apr – Jun)
Chess Creative Writing Math National History Day Robotics	Chess Coding Creative Writing Math Memory Robotics Science	Coding Game Design Memory Science

**Offerings subject to change.*

Middle School Athletics (Grades 6 – 8)



Commitment – Embracing teamwork and learning to be a valuable team member

Growth – Developing skills and becoming the individual God intends

Fun – Fostering a love for the game and encouraging students to continue playing

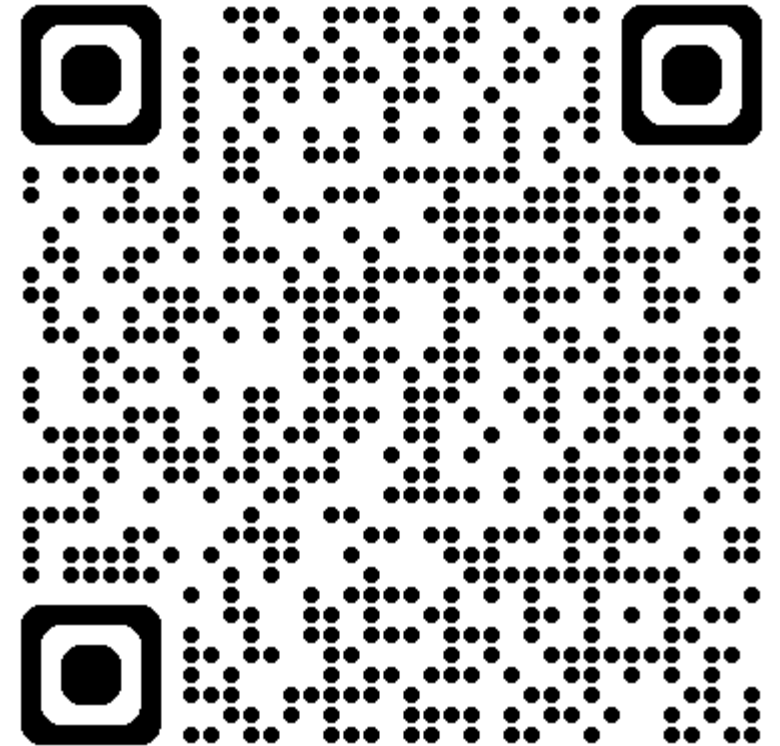
Middle School Sports Teams

Fall*	Winter	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys Soccer• Girls Soccer• Volleyball• Boys and Girls Cross Country <p>* Register July 7 – August 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys Basketball• Girls Basketball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys and Girls Track & Field• Baseball• Boys and Girls Golf <i>(7 and 8 Only)</i>• Boys and Girls Tennis <i>(7 and 8 Only)</i>

Middle School Sports Teams

Athletics Program Overview

Online Information Meeting
Middle School Athletics Program
Wednesday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m.



Dates are subject to change.

Aug 26	First Day of School US
Aug 27	First Day of School MS
Sep 1	First Day of School of LS
Sep 7	No School – Labor Day
Sep 8/9	First Day of School PS
Oct 15 – 16	No School MS/US – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct 16	No School LS – Teacher In Service
Oct 19	No School – Teacher In Service
Oct 30	No School PS/LS – Teacher In Service
Nov 11	No School – Veterans Day
Nov 12 – 13	No School LS/PS – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov 25 – 27	No School – Thanksgiving Break
Dec 16	Early Dismissal US
Dec 17	Early Dismissal Grade 8 and US
Dec 18	Early Dismissal All
Dec 21 – Jan 1	No School – Christmas Break
Jan 4	School Resumes
Jan 8	No School MS/US – Teacher In Service
Jan 15	No School – Teacher In Service
Jan 16	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 15 – 19	No School – Midwinter Break
Mar 5	No School – Teacher In Service
Mar 15 – 16	No School PS/LS/MS – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar 26	No School – Good Friday
Mar 29	No School – Easter Monday
Apr 12 – 15	No School – Spring Break
May 31	No School – Memorial Day
Jun 3/4	Last Day of School PS
Jun 7	Early Dismissal US
Jun 8	Early Dismissal Grade 8 and US
Jun 8	Last Day of School US
Jun 9	Early Dismissal LS/MS
Jun 9	Last Day of School LS/MS

August/September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- No School – All students
- No School – Some divisions – PS, LS, MS, or US see details
- Early Dismissal or combination – See details for division and specifics
- First Day of School – See details for specifics

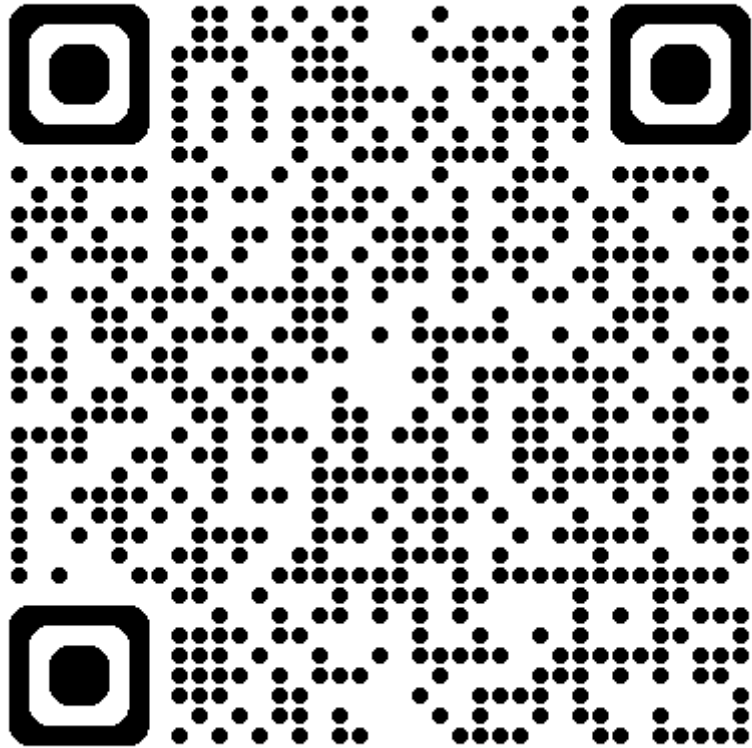
Middle School Key Dates

- September 10:** Inside Bear Creek
- September 16:** Middle School Curriculum Night
- September 22:** Individual Picture Day
- October 15 – 16:** Fall Conferences
- November 5:** Middle School Division Connection
- January 4 – 14:** JanTerm/Immersion Weeks
- January 28:** Middle School Division Connection
- February 25:** Middle School Division Connection
- March 15 – 16:** Spring Conferences
- April 7:** Dads 'n Donuts
- May 5:** Mothers Tea

All dates subject to change.

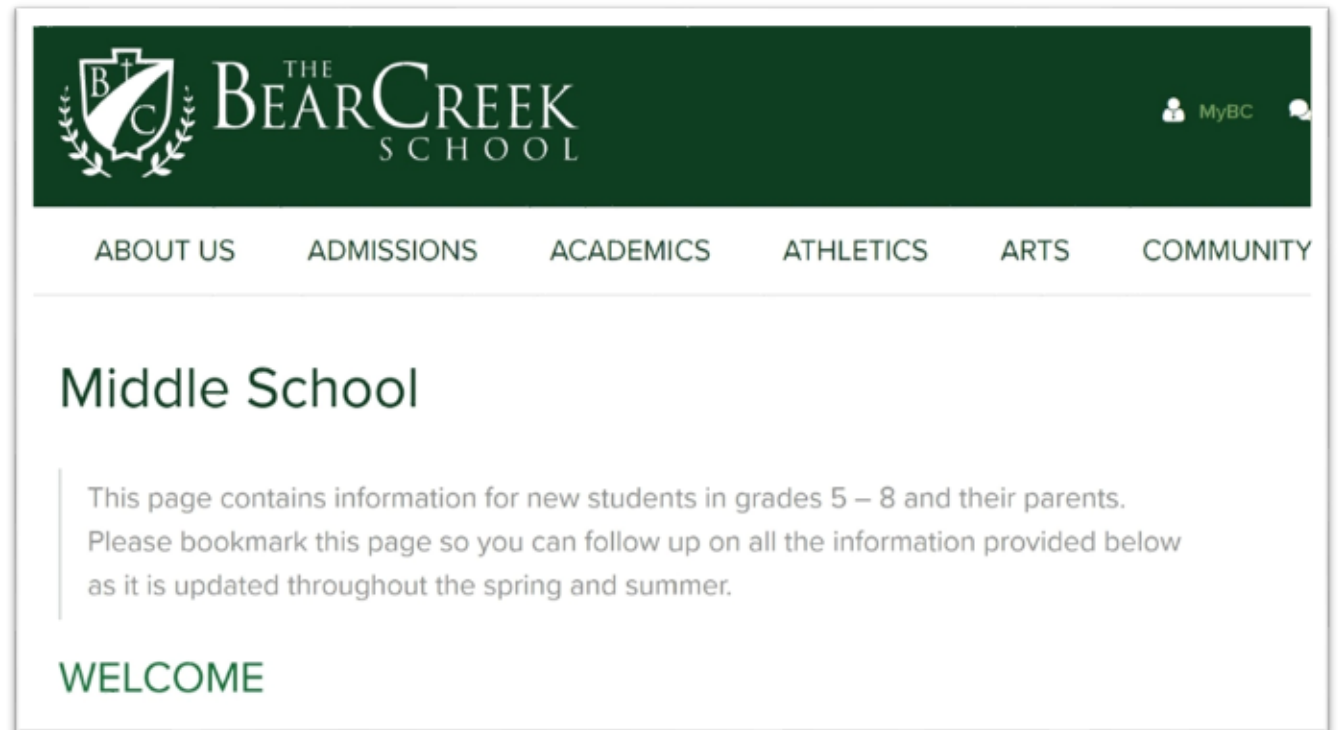
Please check the School Calendar (tbcs.org/calendar) and the weekly publication of *The Bear Facts*.

MyBC/Parents

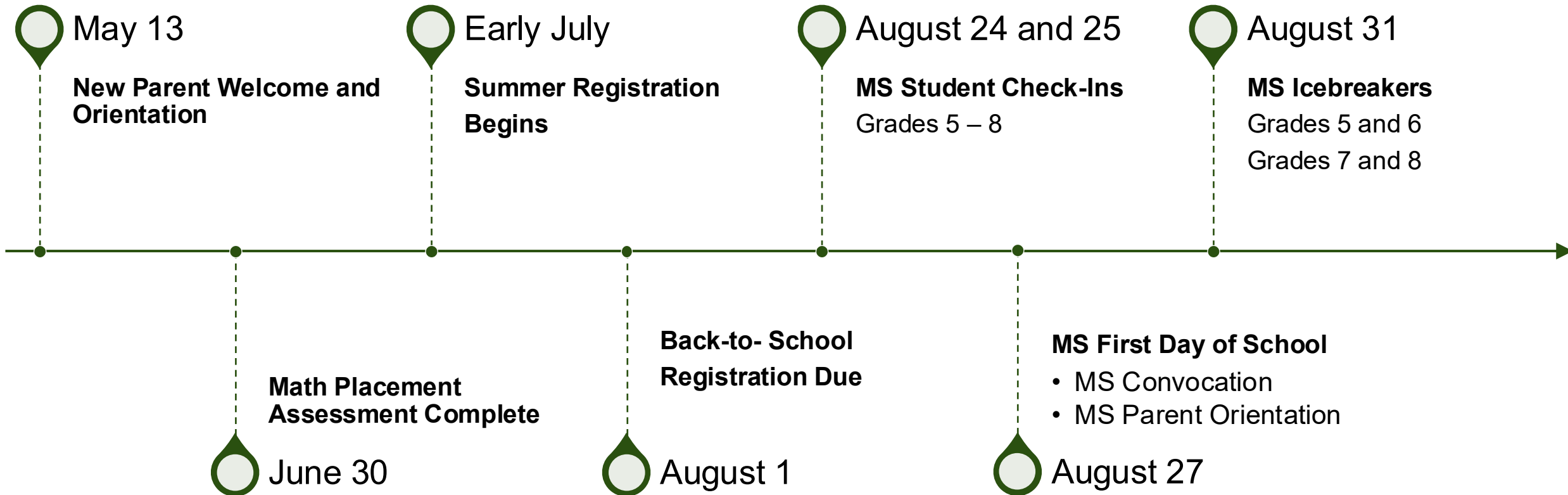


All the information and links covered in this presentation are listed on your New Student Information page.

Please visit this page often:



Summer Key Dates





Required: Math Placement Assessment
(June 30th)

Required: Math Packet

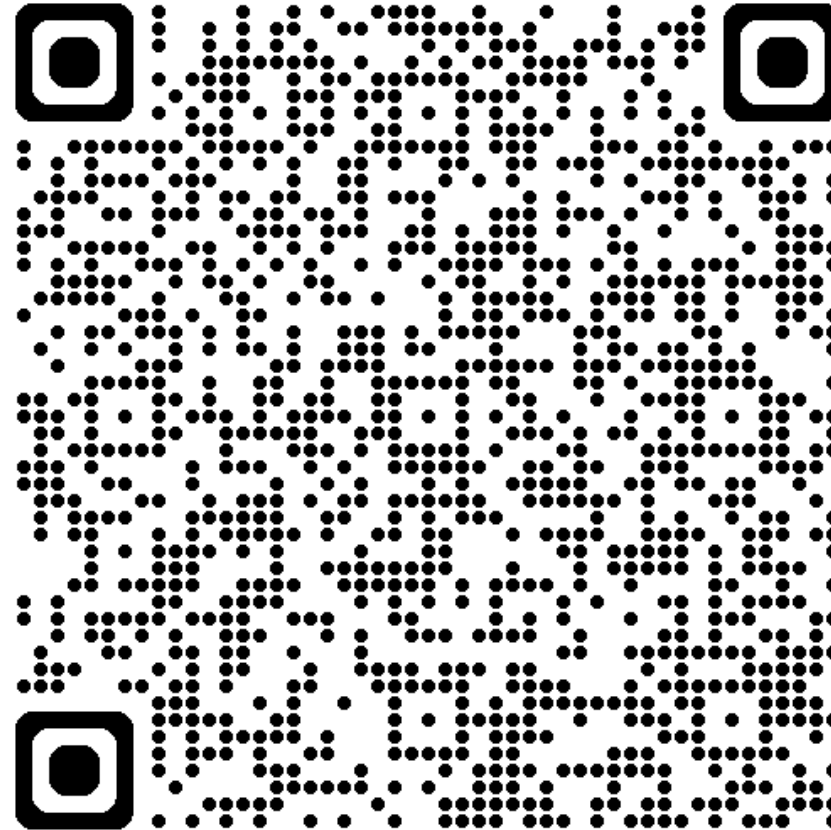
Recommended: Reading List

Recommended: Typing Courses

Optional: Journal / Thank-You Notes

Still have questions specific to your child? We would love to connect

***New to BC Parent Teams Chat
Book time with MS Division Head***





Q & A



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Invested in students. Intentional in outcome.