

THE BULLDOG BARK



THE HEART OF BROOKLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL DEPARTS

BY AISHA AHMED AND SUREYA ABDI

Ms. Monette, our principal, is sadly retiring this year! She made an enormous impact on BMS and will be missed greatly. Here are some questions we asked her that you should know about her before she retires! Mrs. Monette will always be remembered as one of BMS's best principals, we all hope that she has a nice retirement.

How old are you?

I am 62 years old but prefer to be called 52.

How long were you in the Osseo Area Schools district?

I have been in the district for 39 years, but I left the district for a little and went to Robbinsdale district.

How long have you been at BMS?

I have been at BMS for 32 years, but when I was at BMS it used to be Brooklyn Junior High. I was a counselor, then assistant principal and then principal for 13 years.

What urged you to become a principal?

I didn't originally want to be a principal. I was studying to become an English teacher, but then it hit me that I wanted to help children. So, I became a counselor and then a principal.

Do you have a family?

I do not have any kids, but I have a lot of nieces and nephews and cousins. Around 30! I also have a dog named Paisley who is 4 years old that I love and adore.

Did you teach at any other schools in the district?

Yes, I taught at Palmer Lake and Park Brook as a counselor

If you were not a principal what would you be?

I would be a reading lab teacher.



Credit: Kim Monette

What do you plan on doing after you retire?

I am planning on traveling, staying with family and camping. I also plan on helping the school health clinic.

What is was your favorite place you've traveled to?

My favorite place that I have traveled would have to be a tie between Greece, Portugal, and Morocco. All of those places had the best and most beautiful sight seeing.

How many years were you a counselor?

I was a counselor for 7 years at Palmer Lake, Park Brook, and Brooklyn Junior high (BMS).

STUDENT'S FAVORITE MUSIC ARTISTS

I interviewed some people at our school for their favorite music artist. There is a huge variety of artists, pop, rap and alternative music are some of the popular choices.

Pop

Pop music is fun and energetic.



Tate McCrae- Etta Truong, Nora Siegel

Olivia Dean- Scarlet Klein

Taylor Swift- Piper Maurer

R&B

R&B is smooth and jazzy sometimes.



Summer Walker- Mia Allen

Sza- Zare Kendricks, Harper Moses, Dior Johnson, Sophia Terry,

Jhene Aiko- Brooklyn Walker

Partynextdoor- Nay Naidu



Rap/Hip Hop

Popular artists: Kendrick Lamar, Drake, Kanye West, Cardi B, Nicki Minaj, Eminem.

Childish Gambino- Brooklyn Walker

Tyler the Creator- Brooklyn Walker, Olivia Haynes

Vince Staples- Brooklyn Walker

Rock/Punk/Alt.

Punk rock/ alternative music is raw, electric music, originating in the 1980's



Post Animal- Sureya Abdi

Wednesday 13- Ilah Stamper

Murder Dolls- Ilah Stamper

Weezer- Georgia Bryan



Beabadoobee- Brooklyn Walker, Raiden Vang

Jack Johnson- Mr. Oar

BY OLIVIA HAYNES

DID YOU KNOW...

Sabrina Carpenter has gone viral online for her performance at Coachella.

Carpenter's facing backlash over a comment she made about a cultural practice, and the internet is divided on the issue. A fan was making a sound, which is called a "zaghrouta." After the fan told Sabrina it was her culture, Sabrina continued to say things like, "That's your culture? It's yodeling?" "Is this Burning Man? What's going on? This is weird." This reaction shocked the internet. Currently, the video is being taken down for copyright, but many social media users have been reposting the clip and reacting to it anyway.

The question is, racism or genuine ignorance? None of Sabrina's full sets have been publicly uploaded by Coachella yet. Therefore, the controversial clip's consistent takedown has gotten some social media speculators riled up. Due to all of the backlash, Sabrina Carpenter immediately issued an apology. She wrote on X about the incident, "My apologies. I didn't see this person with my eyes and couldn't hear clearly. My reaction was pure confusion, sarcasm and not ill intended. Could have handled it better! Now I know what a Zaghrouta is! I welcome all cheers and yodels from here on out." Many say she meant no harm and was genuinely confused, while many also argue she could've done it way differently while not offending anyone.



Credit: Raph_PH

BY KEMIRA KING

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PHOEBE OGHUMAH



Who is your favorite staff member and why?

Mr. Meyer and Ms. Pettat.

What do you usually do after school?

Homework if she has it, read, watch TV, and do her chores

What is your favorite color?

Lavender

What are three things you like to do outside of school?

Play volleyball, hang out with friends, and play the violin.

Do you have any pets?

Phoebe said, "No, I have no pets"

If you had the chance to do anything, what would it be?

Ride a motorcycle!

What is your favorite class and why?

Orchestra!

What is your favorite movie?

Enola Homes!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

She said "When I'm cooking or eating and someone is watching me over my shoulder"

How many shoes do you have?

15 pairs of shoes.

Do you ride the bus or your parents drive you?

Phoebe said "Ride the bus"

What is your favorite and least favorite holiday?

Christmas is my favorite holiday, and Valentine's day is her least favorite.

How are you feeling about going to high school next year?

Phoebe said "I feel pretty good at the start of the year. I was a little nervous. And I know that my brother will be there for me."

What is your favorite day of the week?

Wednesday.

Do you like water slides or roller coasters more?

Roller coasters!

Have you lived in Minnesota your whole life?

Yes.

MAY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Get ready for some nostalgic tunes with the May orchestra concert! This concert was on the 14th of May at the Park Center Auditorium. The Intro To Orchestra students played "French Folk Song" and "Poseidon's Temple". The 6th graders played "Defender Of Time", "Russian Music Box", "Celtic Dance", and a traditional Somali song called "Huuwaya Huuwa".

Mr. Meyer, the orchestra teacher here at BMS, says, "I made my arrangement of "Huuwaya Huuwa" when I found a book of Somali music collected by Qorsho Hassan and Becca Buck. Minnesota has the highest population of Somali people outside of Somalia, and I think it is important to honor the diverse cultures that make up our community."

The 7th graders played Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", a cello and viola feature of "C-Serpents", "Deep Sea Fandango", and another titled "Dragon

BY SCARLET KLEIN

Dances”.

The 8th graders played Coldplay’s “Viva La Viva”, “Remember Me” from the movie Coco, and a quite challenging, bass featured, piece titled “Waltz of The Wicked”. They performed a melody which is Sci-Fi inspired by Richard Meyer, no relation, called “Rosin Eating Zombies From Outer Space” that has a few quite blood-curdling screams that certainly give you a shock.

As sad as it is to see the 8th graders go on and become freshmen at Park Center, their songs will live on and most definitely be played from the upcoming 8th graders next year.

BY NORA SIEGEL

STAFF SPOTLIGHT MS. KELLER

Ms. Keller is an amazing staff member here at BMS. She is a 6th and 8th-grade science teacher and spends her time outside of school reading, cooking, spending time with her sister, and enjoying being an aunt. She also hangs out with her friends (and her cat, Dill) and watches movies. Her all-time favorite movie is 10 Things I Hate About You, and to Ms. Keller,

“10 Things I Hate About You is the best, and Heath Ledger is amazing in that role.”

If Ms. Keller weren’t a science teacher, she says she would be a national park ranger and would be out in the woods, almost never talking to people. She says she would be “living amongst the bears”, which would be her dream. “I would be there, Acadia National Park, patrolling the park, probably on a moose, and just having a great time in nature.”

Instead of being a park ranger, Ms. Keller kind of stumbled into her job as a science teacher. “I originally wanted to be a geneticist and work in hospitals, but when I got into some of those college classes, I realized that really was not what I wanted to do.” Once she graduated, she had no idea what she wanted to do with her science degree, so she started working in special education at schools. Then she realized that she liked working at a school and got her teaching degree. Ultimately, Ms. Keller decided that teaching science would be the best fit.

Since she became a teacher, Ms. Keller’s favorite part about her job has been bonding with her students and explaining a topic so that a student can fully understand. “It makes me happy and feel fulfilled when I can see a light go off in a kid’s eyes, and it was something that they were struggling with to understand, and they’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, I got it, you just explained it in the perfect way.’” One of her most memorable stories as a teacher is when her class was silently working on a project, and out of nowhere, one student started to sing to themselves, California Gurls by Katy Perry. “I laughed so hard, I started crying, and just the whole class was like, ‘How is that song in your head?’ It was just like a really funny moment.” Ms. Keller really is a great teacher, and we love having her here at BMS.

BY AUDREY VENTURA

Dear Bulldog Bark,

I'm so busy with sports and I'm overwhelmed with schoolwork. How can I manage my time and stay organized?

*Sincerely,
Busy Benny*

Dear Busy Benny,

That's a really good question, and a real concern for a lot of students here at BMS. Let's break it down. You have sports practice, and it's most likely every day. You come home exhausted, tired, and hungry, but you have so much schoolwork to catch up on so you pass your classes. Your whole day is gone, and you have no time for yourself because it's already time to sleep. Repeating this schedule daily can affect your mental health.

Clearly some changes need to be made. You can't change when school is held or when practice is scheduled. The thing here that you can adjust is homework. First, make sure you ask your teachers about deadlines. Some teachers are more chill and will let you have a couple extra days, maybe even the weekend. The other thing you could do is make a schedule. There are apps you can download, or you can buy a planner. This will help you visualize how much time you have to do homework and other things you want to do.

Another suggestion is to break down your homework. Instead of doing a bunch of hard homework while exhausted from practice, maybe just do the easy parts for 10 minutes. Find different parts of your day where you can just do 10 minutes of homework, and slowly it will get done. If possible, try to find a break in your schedule to breathe and do something for yourself. Take a nap, shower, or eat, or anything else that will make you feel good. If you're constantly busy your personal hygiene and self care may decline, and that should be avoided at all costs. For as much as you do, you deserve a rest and refresh.

Another recommendation is to find a day where you don't have school or sports practice, and catch up on everything. Late schoolwork, homework, and your health. Even though it's annoying to do school on a day off, it can help get more available time in your schedule when you do have school and sports. Hopefully this helps!

Yours Faithfully,
The Bulldog Bark

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT THE babybrooks

What is your favorite food(s)?

I have a passionate love for chicken alfredo and cheeseburgers.

What is your favorite sport?

My favorite sport is basketball, and I really love playing it. I also might do track just to increase my stamina and speed.

What is the best place you've been to?

The best place I've ever been to in my 12 years of living is D'zire's house.

What is your favorite colour(s)?

I love every shade of purple and blue.

What is your favorite restaurant?

My favorite place to eat is Chick-fil-A and Angela's soul food.

What is your favorite season?

Summer is the best season.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite books are Blended and Mustaches for Maddie.



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What are your favorite subjects?

My favorite subjects are math, orchestra, and social studies.

What is something that brings you joy?

Something that brings me joy is music.

What is something that annoys you the most?

The thing that annoys me the most is when my music doesn't play.

What is your favorite movie(s)?

I really love the movies ATL, Friday, Hamilton, Four Brothers, and Heathers, but the 1988 version, not the musical, because it lowk sucks.

What is one of your strengths?

One of my strengths is that I do not have social anxiety.

What is one of your weaknesses?

My weakness is not listening to music for more than a day.

Where do you find yourself in the next 5 years?

Where I see myself in 5 years, I will be playing PC varsity basketball.

What college do you want to go to?

The college I want to attend is the University of Minnesota.

What is your dream car?

My dream car is definitely a Batmobile.

What is your dream job(s)?

My dream jobs are being a WNBA player, violinist, architect, and dancer.

What instrument do you play?

The instrument I play is the violin.

What extracurricular activities do you do?

The extracurricular activities I do are playing basketball.

What's something people might not know about you?

I throw up every time I eat pork for some reason.

What is your favorite store?

I love Hollister and Bath & Body Works.

What are your favorite snacks?

I LOVE peach rings, strawberries, and peanut butter M&M's.

Who is your favorite celebrity?

I would say my top 4 musicians and the original Broadway cast in Hamilton.

What are your favorite animals?

My favorite animals are bears, dodobirds, and capybaras.

Who are your best friends?

D'zire, Olivia, Mia, Rosie, Thea, Anneliz, Camilla, Arabella, and I would name all of them, but I have a lot of friends.

Who are your favorite musicians?

My top four musicians are Tyler, The Creator, Childish Gambino, Michael Jackson, and Kanye West. Also, Drake is NOT better than my top 4, Dj.

Who is the best athlete in your opinion?

My queen, Judea Skies Watkins (aka juju Watkins), is the best athlete EVER.

When is your birthday?

February 12th, 2014.

How many siblings do you have?

I have one sibling, her name is Lauryn.

What's your style?

I really like baggy shirts and jorts.

Are you left or right-handed?

I'm not left-handed.

Who's your favorite teacher?

No offense, actually, all offense if you're not on here, but my favorite teachers are Mr. Meyer, Ms. Worrell, Ms. Keller, Mrs. Erickson, Mr. Voitlander, and maybe Mr. Orton, but he makes us run the pacer test every week, and I get tired of it. Also, he should just do Big Base and basketball for the whole week, then I'll consider him to be one of my favorite teachers.



BY OLIVIA HAYNES

ARTEMIS II CREW AND MISSION

Backed by years of preparation, Artemis II marks NASA's return to lunar spaceflight after more than half a century. The strength here lies not just in technology but especially in the team - and how its members shaped one another through shared effort.

Among those chosen were Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen. Command rests with Wiseman, while flight operations fall to Glover. Mission tasks are split between Koch and Hansen, each bringing distinct expertise. What stands out is how their varied origins shape the team's makeup. Differences in background define much of what this group brings forward.

Into deep space, Christina Koch becomes the first female traveler. Following her path, Victor Glover makes history as the first African American to fly on a lunar orbiter. On this journey, too, appears Jeremy Hansen - breaking ground as Canada's representative in such an expedition.

Orion carried them through space, its engines guiding the way. From launch onward, their path curved near the Moon, checking how navigation held up alongside comms gear. Close approach came without touchdown - still, details poured in. What emerged was data, sharp and useful, gathered while circling above silent gray terrain.

Smooth sailing marked the journey back, with the crew touching down without issue. Future lunar landings edge closer thanks to what Artemis II sets in motion. Collaboration across varied backgrounds stands out, seen clearly during this phase of discovery. A rocket soars upward, symbolizing more than just flight.



Clockwise from left: NASA Astronaut Christina Koch, Victor Glover, Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Jeremy Hansen, NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman
Credit: Josh Valcarcel

BY BLESSING FOLLY

BY SUNSHYNE VANG

ADVICE TO NEXT YEAR'S 8TH GRADERS

Hello everyone, as you know, we only have a few weeks left of school. For some people, that might be great, but for some, it might be more emotional. And for me as an 8th grader. I can say I have changed in many ways. For all the upcoming 8th graders this year, I wanna share some advice from me and from other current 8th graders, and from me.

8th grade is the last year of middle school, which is crazy, right? I can literally still remember my first day of 6th grade at this new school, with a bunch of new people around me. I didn't know a lot of people, I was nervous, and I was never the type of person to talk to people first. It wasn't until a few weeks into school that I made a new friend.

When you're a 6th graders everything feels new. You start to actually realize you're not just doing simple things anymore in English, math, or science class. No more of just reading, no more of just adding and subtracting. Middle

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anymore in English, math, or science class. No more of just reading, no more of just adding and subtracting. Middle school is when you start to face challenges in your life, whether it's about your grades or anything else in life.

6th grade can be challenging, especially if you don't know anyone, and you're not the type of person to talk to a lot of people. All I can say is that you should try to be friends with people you enjoy being around. 7th grade for me was a pretty calm year. Not really any drama for me, I was more in my own little circle with my friends, just taking down notes in class and trying my best to do better in class. This is the year you can start to realize

Now, 8th grade. The last year of middle school, and being in this school for a long time. My best advice is to cherish every single moment because you may not see these people around you for quite some time.

"Stay focused in class because it will help you in high school, and stay out of drama." - Lexi Jenkins

"Cherish every moment, it goes by so fast." - Athena McBain

"Be responsible and don't take things for granted and achieve your dreams." - Ava Moua

"Stick your neck out and talk to people you might not think to" - Bella Johnson

"Time moves quickly, so enjoy it, keep the grades up, and don't do things you'll regret later. Have a fun year and enjoy every day of it." - Bella Jimbo Paredes

"Don't stop being tired, stop when you finish." - Felix Vang

"Stay out of drama, and keep to yourself." - Alaina Holmes

"Don't take anything for granted." - Alinah Hang

"Never stop being a good person because of bad people, and don't do things for people that shut you out."

- Precious Phillips

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FREDDIANNA TANUI

BY AISHA AHMED



How old are you?

I am 12 years old and was born Oct. 10th 2013

Do you have any pets?

No, but I used to have a baby rabbit, we rescued her and we returned her back to the wild.

How many siblings do you have if you have any?

I have 5 siblings, 3 sisters, and 2 brothers.

What do you want your future career to be?

I wanna go to college for medical school then be a NICU nurse

On a scale of 1-10 how much do you like school generally?

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6.5/10 because I have most of my friends at school and wouldn't have much cause of school. But at the same time I don't like it because it's stressful sometimes.

What is your favorite subject in school?

Minnesota Studies because it's easy and this whole year I have had a 3.51 or above all year.

What class was hardest for you?

Science because its mentally doesn't make sense, especially the way teachers are explaining it, (No disrespect to Science teachers).

What are you excited to learn about next year?

Nothing really besides AVID.

Are you doing AVID next year if not why? If yes, what are you most excited for?

Yes, I am most excited for field trips if I get in all the way, and because I think that it will be an easy A cause all you really do is talk about college and career readiness, and take notes on how to do projects.

Do you think 6th grade and 7th grade will be the same?

No, because 6th grade so far was more not strict and I feel like it will be way more heavier, just like the starter pack.

What are gonna miss most about 6th grade?

I am going to miss my friends the most because some are not coming back next year.

What do you plan on doing over the summer?

Hanging out with friends and chilling all summer long.

What do you think makes a good friend?

Mostly loyalty and being trustworthy of actually being friends.

What is your favorite memory of your friends?

When we got to watch a movie with all my friends in advisory we all got to bring snacks.

What's your dream field trip?

My dream field trip is going to the valley fair because our

school didn't get to go in elementary school (I went to Weaver Lake).

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

It would be Mexico cause I love Mexican food and I want to go to a tropical place.

If you could describe 6th grade in 3 words what would they be?

Scary, maturity, and positive. I feel like this year was very scary in the beginning and that I have matured a lot, and I also feel like more positive things have happened this year.

What advice would you give to incoming 6th graders?

Elementary school is nothing like middle school, you need to be way more mature, and responsible. If you are, 6th grade will be a piece of cake.

Some Student input on Freddianna:

Aisha A.

I think that Freddianna is a great friend and that she is one of the kindest people I know.

Zare K.

I think Freddianna is unique in her own little way, and she is really pretty and she's goated.

Malachi C.

She is really nice, kind, hard-working, and gives me snacks.

Nayvadius N.

She is kind, and generous, and she doesn't curse or do bad stuff. She is a great influence and is smart.

Abel N.

She is generous, cool, very nice and doesn't ever say any mean things.

Kiya M.

She is nice, caring, thoughtful, pretty athletic, and fun to have around.

SAYING GOODBYE TO BULLDOG BARK

BMS SCHOOL NEWSPAPER'S FIRST WRITERS HEAD TO HIGH SCHOOL

"Bulldog Bark has been absolutely amazing and fun and I have loved every single day of after school since I joined in 6th grade. Ms. Moberg has helped me improve my writing skills so much and I always have so much fun talking to her. I love having Ms. Moberg as a teacher and she is always so cheerful and definitely has made me laugh." -**Audrey Ventura**

"I have been in Bulldog Bark, the school newspaper, since 6th grade, and it has been a great experience for me. I still remember my first day and meeting older students who are now freshmen. Over the years, Bulldog Bark became a place where I could share my thoughts, have fun with friends, and enjoy writing. It will always have a special place in my heart because of the people, the teacher, and how it made me want to write more." -**Sunshyne Vang**

"I have learned so much from being in the Bulldog Bark newspaper for 3 years. My writing skills have improved a ton, and I have been able to make really good friends. There have been ups and downs, but I've learned so many good life lessons. None of it would be possible without Ms. Moberg, who has been such a good teacher even when it was hard. I don't regret joining the newspaper and I have so many good memories and experiences I'll never forget." -**Brooklyn Strom**

"Being part of Bulldog Bark since 6th grade has been one of the best parts of middle school for me. Over the past 3 years, it became more than just an after-school club because it gave me a place to have fun with friends, share my ideas, and grow as a writer. My writing skills have improved so much, and I've learned a lot of important lessons along the way. A huge reason why Bulldog Bark has meant so much to me is because of Ms. Moberg. She always made after school something to look forward to with her cheerful personality and awkward sense of humor, and I always enjoyed talking with her. I'm really grateful for all the time, patience, and encouragement she gave us (even when I had an attitude towards her), and I'll always remember the memories and experiences I made in the newspaper. -**Blessing Folly**

As you can see, Bulldog bark helps and improves so many students' writing skills, and bulldog bark is more than just writing. Bulldog bark has had an impact on everyone in it, and brought everyone closer. Ms. Moberg makes everyone feel welcomed and comfortable, and Bulldog bark is a safe space due to her. She cares about her students so much and Bulldog bark wouldn't be what it is today without her. Bulldog Bark is an important aspect of school and after-school activities, and it matters to every student who joins.

BY KEMIRA KING

HOW TO GET A JOB AS A 14 YEAR OLD

If you are an 8th grader this year, you might be 14 or turning 14 very soon, which could mean getting a job! Getting a job is so exciting because you get to earn money, so you can spend more on things like clothing, video games, food, etc. Working your first job as a teen can help you learn skills, like navigating work and your day-to-day life, communicating clearly with others, and developing a strong work ethic. But before you even get the job, you have to turn in an application, which means you also have to put together a resume and be interviewed. Going to an interview and writing your resume may seem scary or even hard, but I can give you some tips on how to get the job or even what jobs you can apply for. The skills that you need to apply for a job, like communication, organization, and critical thinking, are the same skills you need to apply for college. Having a good application and interview is going to help you get into college more easily. The first step to a good application is researching the company and/or job that you want to apply to. Researching a company can help you prepare your interview answers to appeal to the company or to identify how much the salary is and what hours you might be available to work.

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The next step is to “tailor your resume”. You might hear this a lot when preparing to get a job. This just means to write your resume in phrases that match up with the job description. Including your extracurricular activities, volunteer work as a student, and leadership programs that you have been a part of, for BMS, this would be GPS or AVID, and even babysitting, could also help you improve your chances of getting the job. This demonstrates to the employer that you are a leader, responsible, and have good management skills. After finishing your resume and your application, you might need to be interviewed. This part of the job process can be a little scary, but don’t worry. Just remember to dress nicely and act professionally. Before the interview, you can also practice answering questions you think might come up. Questions like “Tell me about a time you faced a difficult problem. How did you solve it?” and “What are your biggest strengths and weaknesses?” and “Why do you want to work here?” are common ones that can come up in your interview. You can ask a family member or friend to help you with this. Doing all of this work beforehand can make you feel more prepared and ready for the interview.

Now, if you want to earn some money but don’t know which places will accept 14-year-olds, here are some places where you can apply. Small shops, like an ice cream shop or a bakery, and sometimes grocery stores, are good options for potential jobs. Places like Dairy Queen, McDonald’s, Chick-fil-A, Culver’s, Burger King, and even AMC Theaters are open to hiring 14-year-olds. In Brooklyn Park, specifically, there is the Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks organization, where you can get a job as a camp counselor as a 15-year-old, but you can still assist as a volunteer at a youth camp when you are 14. At the Brooklyn Park Community Center, you could also get a job as a Skating Lessons Aide if you have had previous experience in figure skating. You can always talk to neighbors, family, friends, teachers, coaches, or anyone else to help you look for more job opportunities. In Minnesota, as a 14-year-old who works, there are going to be laws set in place to protect you at your job. It is important to know these laws so you can make sure that your job doesn’t interfere with school and getting your education. Knowing these laws will also ensure that you don’t get overworked physically and mentally, and will help you avoid workplace exploitation. When you start working, you can only work between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM from the day after Labor Day through May 31st. From June 1st through Labor Day (or when school is closed), you can work through the hours 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM. While the school year is still in session, you can only work 3 hours during a weekday and 18 hours, at the most, every week. However, during the summer or during breaks/non-school weeks in the school year, you can work up to 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week.

There is another option for finding a job that only works certain hours (which can be decided by you!) These jobs don’t pay much but you have much more control of when you work. Babysitting, mowing lawns, dog walking, tutoring, selling handmade items, or any job that is not part of a company are all included in this list. If you would like to do one of these things, one of the first steps you might have to take is to get certified, which, for a job like babysitting, you can do by taking classes to do so. The next step to starting your own job is to determine your prices. For jobs like mowing lawns, you have to consider all of the aspects, the size of the lawn, the terrain, is it flat or really hilly? How long does it take you to mow the lawn? These variables will help you calculate your fees. After you have done this, the next thing you will want to do is advertise. Advertising promotes your business and is how people find out about you. You can put up flyers around your neighborhood and ask anyone you know to spread the word. The last thing you need to know is communication is key. Whether you are babysitting and need to communicate with the family about allergies, bed times, etc. Or you are walking dogs, and need to communicate with the owner about what times you can do and what your rates are.

All this preparation for a job can help you a lot when searching, applying for, and actually working the job.

BY AUDREY VENTURA

THE GREAT 8TH GRADE ADVENTURE

8th grade. Oh, naughty little 8th grade. You came in acting all innocent, and before I knew it, you had me juggling homework, projects, tests, friendships, and the constant fear of seeing a missing assignment notification. But somehow, through all the chaos, laughter, and late-night studying, you turned out to be one of the most memorable years yet.

After 175 school days, hundreds of assignments, countless laughs, and more Chromebook chargers borrowed than anyone can count, another school year at Brooklyn Middle School has come to an end. As an 8th grader looking back on the year, I can confidently say that 8th grade was a unique experience—one that taught me lessons about responsibility, friendship, and surviving group projects.

Walking into school on the first day felt different from previous years. We were no longer the new kids trying to figure out locker combinations or memorize our schedules. We were the oldest students in the building. Suddenly, younger students looked up to us, and teachers expected a little more maturity. Whether we actually delivered that maturity is still up for debate.

One thing that stood out this year was how much more independent we became. Teachers trusted us to manage our work, keep track of deadlines, and prepare for high school. At first, that sounded great. Then I realized that being responsible means nobody reminds you about the assignment you forgot until you see the grade in the online gradebook.

Academically, 8th grade definitely kept us busy. The assignments were more challenging, the projects were bigger, and the expectations were higher. There were days when it felt like every teacher had secretly agreed to schedule a test on the same day. Somehow, though, we survived.

Math continued its mission of convincing us that letters belong in equations. English classes pushed us to think deeper about what we read and write. Science gave us opportunities to explore how the world works, and social studies helped us better understand events that shaped our country and the world. Even when the work felt difficult, there was a sense of accomplishment whenever we finished a major project or did well on a test.

One of the most important things I learned this year was time management. At the beginning of the year, I thought I had plenty of time to complete assignments. By the end of the year, I learned that "I'll do it later" is one of the most dangerous phrases a student can say. Later arrives much faster than expected.

Friendships were another big part of 8th grade. Over the course of the year, I learned that good friends can make even the

longest school day better. Whether we were working together on projects, laughing at lunch, or helping each other study for tests, friendships made many of the best memories of the year possible.

Of course, middle school wouldn't be middle school without a little drama. There were misunderstandings, rumors, and disagreements here and there. Looking back, most of those situations seem much smaller than they felt at the time. One lesson I learned is that communication solves a lot more problems than arguing ever will.

Another highlight of the year was our field trip to Valleyfair, which happened just yesterday. It felt like the perfect way to celebrate the end of middle school before heading off to high school.

I went on seven rides, including Corkscrew, Wild Thing, Steel Venom, High Roller, and a few others. Some of them had me questioning my life choices while waiting in line, but once the ride started, it was totally worth it.

My favorite part wasn't just the rides—it was getting to spend time with my friends outside of the classroom. After months of homework, projects, and tests, it was nice to relax, laugh, and make one last middle school memory together. The screams, the long lines, and the slightly wobbly legs afterward made it a day I'll never forget. Looking back, Valleyfair felt like the perfect ending to 8th grade: exciting, a little scary, full of ups and downs, and over way faster than I expected.

The teachers at Brooklyn Middle School deserve a huge amount of credit for making this year successful. They challenged us when we needed to be challenged, supported us when we struggled, and encouraged us to keep improving. They answered questions, explained difficult concepts, and somehow managed to stay patient even when students asked, "Is this graded?" for the hundredth time.

One thing that deserves special recognition is the school lunch. School lunches often get a bad reputation, but honestly, our cafeteria staff did a great job this year. There were meals that students genuinely looked forward to, and the lunchroom was often one of the most enjoyable parts of the day. Good food and good friends make a pretty strong combination. Perhaps one of the biggest themes of 8th grade was preparing for high school. Teachers frequently reminded us that high school is right around the corner. Sometimes that thought felt exciting, and sometimes it felt a little scary. High school represents new opportunities, new challenges, and a chance to continue growing as students and individuals.

Throughout the year, I gained confidence in ways I didn't expect. I became more comfortable speaking in front of groups, taking leadership roles, and advocating for myself when I needed help. These are skills that don't always appear on report cards, but they are just as

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important as anything learned in a textbook. school lunch. School lunches often get a bad reputation, but honestly, our cafeteria staff did a great job this year. There were meals that students genuinely looked forward to, and the lunchroom was often one of the most enjoyable parts of the day. Good food and good friends make a pretty strong combination. Perhaps one of the biggest themes of 8th grade was preparing for high school. Teachers frequently reminded us that high school is right around the corner. Sometimes that thought felt exciting, and sometimes it felt a little scary. High school represents new opportunities, new challenges, and a chance to continue growing as students and individuals.

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Looking back, some of my favorite memories were not necessarily the biggest events. They were the small moments: laughing with friends before class started, celebrating after finishing a difficult assignment, and hearing a teacher tell us they were proud of our work. Those moments are what made the year special.

I would also like to give a special shout-out to three teachers who have helped me throughout my years at Brooklyn Middle School.

Ms. Green, thank you for being the amazing person and teacher that you are. I'll definitely miss roasting you. Without you, 6th grade would never have been as fun or memorable as it was.

Ms. Nordin, thank you for all the support and wonderful memories. Your optimism always made me feel better, even when I didn't always show it. You always knew how to brighten someone's day.

And last but certainly not least, Ms. Futrell, thank you for all the laughs and giggles we shared. You are an incredible teacher who always gives her best to her students, no matter what challenges come your way. Never stop being yourself.

I am so grateful for all three of these amazing women because, honestly, I don't think I would be the same person I am today without them. They helped shape my middle school experience, and I will miss them more than they know. I can only hope my future teachers are just as supportive, caring, and inspiring.

As graduation approaches and we prepare to leave Brooklyn Middle School behind, there is a mixture of excitement and nostalgia. We are ready for the next chapter, but we will also miss the place that helped shape us over the past three years. If I had to summarize 8th grade in one sentence, it would be this: It was a year of growth, challenges, friendships, and discovering that you can accomplish more

than you think when you put in the effort.

To next year's 8th graders, here is my advice: stay organized, ask questions, make memories with your friends, and don't stress too much. The year goes by faster than you think.

As I walk out of Brooklyn Middle School for the last time, it's hard to believe this chapter is really over. The hallways that once felt huge now seem small, the teachers who reminded us about deadlines every day will become memories, and even the assignments I complained about don't seem so bad anymore. It's funny how the things you couldn't wait to leave behind become the things you'll miss the most.

So goodbye, 8th grade. You were stressful, hilarious, exhausting, and unforgettable. I'll miss the friends, the teachers, the lunchroom conversations, and even some of the classes. High school is waiting, and while I'm excited for what's next, a part of me wishes I could stay just a little longer.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have one final middle school assignment to complete: pretending I'm not emotional about leaving.

BY BLESSING FOLLY

HOW TO MAKE NEXT YEAR GREAT AT BMS

As we all know, the end of this year is coming up quickly. This year has had its ups and downs, and there has definitely been some struggles. Maybe this year did not go how you hoped it would, and you want to be able to excel next year. This article is to help you so that next year goes smoothly, and hopefully you can enjoy school and have good grades. I decided to interview some teachers to give you their advice for next year. Your teachers care about you, and it's important that you listen to their advice because they have lots of experience and know how to help you. Your lives and theirs will be easier if you do well in class. I asked all the teachers the same question, and I asked 14 teachers in total. I worked in order from subject and started with music.

What advice would you give to your future students so that they excel in your class?

Mr Davidson (Band) said "Don't blurt out everything you think all the time. Raise your hand, and only talk when it's appropriate"

Ms Benett (Art) said "Just be creative and always do your best effort, even if you're having a hard time with your project. The more you push yourself the better you'll do."

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Ms Keller (Science) said “Keep up on your notebook pages, and make sure you know where the schoology resources are. I cannot count how many kids come up to me at the end of the year and say ‘wait, you put the slides in schoology?’ They’ve been there the whole time. Make sure you know what the resources are and how to use them.”

Mrs Futrell (Science) said “I would say the same thing as Ms Keller, keep your notebooks up to date, they are your lifeline and you have to keep them with you at all times. Know where your schoology resources are and use them, if you are sick or absent for a day that does not mean you are exempt from learning you still gotta keep up the work.”

Mr Oar (Science) said “The number one thing to do is to be here every day working hard, that’s the best thing you can do. If you can do that then you know what to do for your tests.”

Mrs Nordin (English) said “Just try your best every day, and don’t give up on things too easily. Be respectful of others and their learning, so that everyone can put forth their best effort and succeed.”

Mrs Green (English) said “Don’t be afraid to have a little fun, and meet others. I don’t like it when my students don’t know each other- get to know your classmates”

Ms Swoyer (English) said “Know that you can do hard things, it won’t always be easy but as long as you try and ask questions you can achieve a lot.”

Ms Harbison (English) said “Ask questions when you need help, and know that it is a learning experience where everybody is learning together, and we’re not striving for perfection, we’re just striving to continue making progress and to ask for help when you need it.”

Mr Voightlander (Avid) said “Come ready to learn every day with the proper materials.”

Mr Shannon (Social studies) said “Stay organized and get your work in on time”

Ms Pelant (Social studies) said “Respect everyone, listen to everyone’s opinion, and remember you’re not always right.”

Ms Hlavka (Math) and Ms Engeman (Math) both agreed “Stay organized, remember it’s okay to be bored, and ask questions-be curious.”

BY BROOKLYN STROM

2025–2026 BULLDOG BARK STAFF

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