HERSHEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAT MEETING SUMMARY | OCTOBER 2026

Meeting Attendees: Erick Valentin and Denise Grudi

PowerPoint Presentation

New Staff

- Kim DeWitt – French
- Cory Hess – Nursing
- Mackenzie Forrester – Science 7
- Caleb Liddick – Orchestra
- Drew SanAngelo – Science 8
- Grace Young – Band

Schoolwide Strategy and Construction

- The school's winning strategy is centered on MTSS, PLCs, and Culture.
- Construction restricts access to the back of the building: no PE, student walking, or student exits through rear doors. Bus-riding and walking students enter/exit through the library. Staff taking students outdoors may use only the front or library doors. Free Flex Friday outdoor space is unavailable. Staff should follow signage, remain flexible, and anticipate frequent logistical changes.

Schedule and WIN (What I Need)

- Mid-Day Meeting is scheduled after lunch this year.
- All WIN sessions in 2026–2027 will last 20 days. Previously, intervention sessions lasted 24 days and extension sessions 12 days. Six intervention cycles allow more frequent, flexible, homogeneous grouping and targeted instruction. Extension provides time for students to update their Arena and work on individual IXL skill plans.
- **Intervention schedule:** Day 1 get-to-know-you activity; instruction/coursework on most days; IXL Arena updates on Days 6, 12, and 18; reflection and wrap-up on Day 20.
- **Extension schedule:** Day 1 get-to-know-you activity; instruction/coursework on most days; IXL Math and ELA days on Days 6–7, 12–13, and 19–20; reflection/wrap-up on Day 18.
- All students will select extension courses during reorientation. Course submissions were requested by Google Form by Wednesday, August 19, 2026, including title, grade level, and description.

Learning Journal, AI, REACH, and FLEX

- The presentation included updates/topics on Learning Journals and Artificial Intelligence + Academic Integrity.
- Beginning this year, the first 10 minutes of every FLEX period are Tech-Free 10. Students should work on executive functioning skills, Learning Journals, or reading.
- REACH returns to the 2024–2025 schedule, with Encore teachers supporting during REACH.

Removing iPads at Lunch: Phased Implementation

- The phased approach responds to screen-time concerns:
    - 2026–2027 – Grade 6
    - 2027–2028 – Grades 6 and 7
    - 2028–2029 – All grades