Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AUGUST 2017**

The Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School Mission statement is as follows:

Each member of the school community possesses individual gifts and needs. In preparing students for the societal and technological demands of the future, we at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School support an environment that promotes respect for self and others, high academic and ethical standards, contributions to community, and appreciation for learning. We strive to provide an atmosphere, which fosters individual and cooperative decision-making abilities, creative problem solving skills, and physical and emotional wellbeing. In doing so, we help all community members acquire an appreciation for education.

The core components of this driving document focus on individual gifts, preparation for the demands of the future, and promoting behaviors that support a respectful community that supports education. These areas will serve as the foundation when processing school wide decisions and student reflection.

The school has been working throughout the summer in preparation for August 28th (which is the first day of school in case you may have forgotten). Each year, there is a continual focus on making the school operate more smoothly, create programming that supports high school success, and always improving the climate and culture of the school community. As the first day approaches, there are some key components that I would like to highlight for you specifically:

**PowerSchool/ PowerLunch Online Program:** Each parent has unique access to this system, which is accessible from the school district website. The areas available for parent access are term grades (progress report/ report card), attendance, and lunch account info. Parents can see in real time the balance and expenditures of your child’s account. Log in information is available on the website. Student PIN numbers will remain the same for their duration in the Canterbury School District (CES & BMS).

**Building Upgrades:** During the summer, student bathrooms were upgraded with new partitions, auto-flush toilets, and new student sinks. This has been an ongoing project with the Facilities Committee. The technology lab was renovated with fixed counters and cabinets replaced with ergonomic student seating and more space for the second 3-D printer in operation. The family and consumer science classroom received new furniture that will allow greater access for students to work on various content related projects. On the exterior of the building, a new maintenance storage garage was completed in the rear of the building, where the tennis court was once located.

**Assessment and Curricular Resource Upgrades:** During the spring, students in Grade 4 through 7 participated in the pilot administration of the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment. This tool will serve as the internal measurement in the areas of Reading and Math. The results are enclosed in this mailing and a guide to interpret the components of the report accompanies the student report. Additionally, students will be accessing new curricular resources in all core areas across all grades as well as health. By updating all text resources, students will be able to access materials digitally and be exposed to the most current resources. These materials align with the state standards and teachers are receiving training in understanding the intricacies of the programs and texts.

**Daily Schedule and New Staff Members:** Students will have seven (7) 50-minute classes per day; 5 core classes and 2 specials. The day formally begins at 8:20 with a 10-minute homeroom period and classes beginning at 8:30. All students have a 40-minute lunch/recess period. Classes end at 3:00 as students transition back to a 10-minute homeroom period and dismissal beginning with parent pick up at 3:10 and bus dismissal at 3:15. There will be no study hall period at the end of the day, such as 8th or 10th period, which occurred in the past. The two new faculty members joining the BMS staff are Mrs. Kaitlyn Shafer (Grade 7/8 Science) and Ms. Mariah Rae (district school psychologist).

**Communication and the School Website:** The school will continue to utilize the school website where one can find all important forms available, current school and district calendars, and links to ways to communicate with teachers and staff members. Please take the time to bookmark this site and visit often for up to date information. The use of the Blackboard mass notification system will be used routinely (mainly the text platform) to keep parents in the know regarding important information.

**School Policy and Student Handbook:** Students will receive a hard copy of the student handbook and it will also be available on the school website for reference to student behavioral expectations and school policies.

**Breakfast and Lunch Menu:** The school will continue to post monthly menu offerings on the Food Services page of the school website.

**Free & Reduced Lunch Application:** The federal application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk is available on the Food Services page on the school website. If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office.

**Student Information Updates:** When you receive the packet of information to update on the first day of school, please remember how important it is to maintain accurate records with the school, because in the case of an emergency that is the information that is relied upon.

**New Grade Level Configuration:** Based on the importance of allowing for ample time for all content areas and enrollment levels, there will be two looping teams of teachers at BMS. There will be a team of teachers for Grade 5 and 6; and a team of teachers for Grade 7 and 8. This will allow teachers to teach one content area for two consecutive years and allow classroom expectations to be known which will allow for smoother yearly transitions.

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|  | Grade 5/6 | Grade 7/8 |
| Reading | Mrs. Messier | Mrs. Waters |
| Language Arts | Mr. Blonshine | Mr. Durham |
| Math | Mrs. Farland | Ms. Quinn |
| Social Studies | Mr. Brady | Mr. Yaworski |
| Science | Ms. Merendina (Hedler) | Mrs. Shafer |

**Homeroom Information:** Based on enrollment, students will be assigned a homeroom which will meet twice daily for morning announcements and dismissal. You will see the times specifically in the Daily Schedule section of this memo. There are only so many options for homeroom teachers so please understand this as you read their homeroom assignment below. Our school enrollment will be one of the lowest in decades, which means less options and choices available.

Student Name: Brandon Baron

Your Homeroom Assignment is: Messier