

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS JULY 2018

Message from the Main Office:

I hope all have been enjoying the summer months so far. The weather has been wonderful and I encourage all to take advantage of the down time before the hustle and bustle of the school year, and activities get going. I have spent much time this summer in the office preparing for the upcoming school year and am excited about the changes for the future.

In the following pages, I wanted to share some information regarding the upcoming school year and some of the changes and topics that may be on your mind. If there are any specific questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at rearley@canterburypublicschools.org and remember to continually access the school website at www.canterburypublicschools.org/dhbms.

Faculty Updates/ Grade Level Configuration:

This will be the second year of looping at BMS. This will allow for smoother curricular and operational transitions and enable teachers and students to get to know one another more deeply.

	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	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 receive this information later in the summer. Grade 5 homeroom teachers will be Mrs. Farland, Ms. Merendina, and Mrs. Messier. Grade 6 homeroom teachers will be Mr. Blonshine and Mr. Brady. Grade 7 homeroom teachers will be Mrs. Waters and Mr. Yaworski. Grade 8 homeroom teachers will be Mr. Durham, Ms. Quinn, and Mrs. Shafer.

Information about Specials Classes:

Students will have 2 specials classes daily and they will meet 2 times per week for the duration of the school year. Students in all grade levels will access Spanish, Family Consumer Science, Technology, Art, Physical Education, and Music. Chorus and Band will be offered as well and this year it will not impact any core instructional classes.

Student Daily Schedule:

Students will have 7 45-minute classes per day; 5 core classes and 2 specials and an additional class entitled Bulldog Block. This will be a 30-minute block of time provided for students that will allow for students to receive specialized instruction, time for work completion (structured study hall) as well as an advisory time weekly to focus on goal setting and school wide programming. The day formally begins at 8:20 with a 10-minute homeroom period and classes beginning at 8:30. All students have a 30-minute lunch/recess period which will be separated with Grade 5 and 6 eating together and Grade 7 and 8 eating together. Classes end at 3:03 as students transition back to a 5-minute homeroom period and dismissal beginning with parent pick up at 3:10 and bus dismissal at 3:15. It is important to wait until 3:10 for students to be dismissed for parent pick up and not interfere with class instruction.

Student Belongings and Lockers:

Students in Grade 5 and 6 will have coat racks or in-classroom lockers in which to keep their belongings during the day. Students in Grade 7 and 8 will have individual lockers outside of the classroom in which to keep their belongings during the day.

Bus Transportation:

Students taking the bus to and from school will have assigned seating determined by the school administration and it is imperative that these seating assignments be followed. Bus routes will be shared with parents at the end of August and will be posted on the school website accordingly. Please check for updates.

Use of the School Website:

The website www.canterburypublicschools.org was overhauled during the past year and serves as a major communication tool between school and home/community. On the website, 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.

Student Athletics:

Athletic offerings for students this fall are girls and boys soccer. Information about try-outs and practices will be shared the first weeks of school and the season runs until the first week of November. Forms and information are available on the Athletics page of the school website. If you are interested in participating in soccer, please be aware that an updated and current physical (within the past calendar year) is needed.

Student Assessments:

The school district has utilized the NWEA MAP assessment for students in Grade K-8 last year and will continue to use this assessment three times per year in the future. This assessment allows for students and teachers to set annual growth goals and receive percentile scores based on national norms. The test in Reading and Math breaks down student scores to subcategories based on the standards and will allow for more specific planning to help all student achieve proficiency in those content areas. Student reports will be available during the beginning of the school year after the fall testing session to allow for growth from the spring to be calculated.

Teacher to Parent Communication:

During the school year, teachers will utilize the “Friday Folder” in all grade levels as a way to communicate consistently with parents. This is a labor-intensive process, so there will be an expectation for parents to sign and return weekly. During this school year, PowerSchool Parent Portal will be available with access to PowerLunch (student lunch account transactions and balances) and also student grades updated every 3 weeks in addition to Progress Reports and Report Cards.

School Supplies:

Each child will receive a student planner. All students should have individual ear buds or headphones to use during the day. Specific classroom supplies are listed below:

For Grade 5 and 6 students: accordion style file binder, pencils, red pen, highlighters, 6 spiral notebooks (100pgs.) independent reading book, and separate gym clothes to change into.

For Grade 7 and 8 students: book covers, pens and pencils, folder per class, 1.5 or 2.0 inch three ring binder, graph paper, lined paper, scientific calculator, coloring materials, independent reading book, and separate gym clothes to change into.

First Day of School:

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 28, 2018. Please see the district calendar posted on the school website.

Open House:

BMS Open house is Monday, August 27, 2017 from 5:00- 6:00pm.

Parent Teacher Organization:

The PTO will continue to meet to discuss ways to support the learning environment at BMS and have open dialogue for current concerns. Meetings will be posted on the school calendar and on the BMS PTO Facebook page.

School Pictures:

Charleen’s Portrait Studio will be providing student pictures again this year. BMS school picture day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018. Order forms will be shared beforehand and also posted on the website.

**Thank you for your continued support of education.
Mr. Ryan Earley**