Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

◆ 45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 ◆ Phone: 860·546·9421 ◆ Fax: 860·546·6289 ◆

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AUGUST 2019

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 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 and support programming that supports high school success within current budgeting plans, 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:

Open House: The Baldwin Middle School Open House will be held on Tuesday August 27, 2018 from 5:00- 6:00pm. During this event you will have time to be introduced to your child's teachers and get a better understanding of what Baldwin has to offer. Additionally, there will be information related to the Strategic Mapping process the district is undertaking.

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. If there are any changes in custody and/or parenting plans, please submit legal forms and changes to the school so that all are consistent with legal obligations. All forms are also available on the school website.

Residency Verification: The school district will be requiring all students to verify their residency in Canterbury as a part of the Opening Day packet. Each student will need to have the following information submitted to the school for verification by the end of September. This process is required of all students this year. If you have any questions, please contact the main office or email me directly. There will be **3** items required. 1: Driver's license with current and correct Canterbury address and 2: rent or mortgage agreement and 3: a utility bill or cell phone bill. Note: PO Box or magazine subscription are not acceptable means of residency verification.

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 this upcoming school year are more advanced than in the past. Teachers will be updating their gradebooks every 3 weeks (approximately) so that parents are more frequently informed of progress. This information will be in addition to the term grades (progress report/ report card), attendance, and lunch account info already accessible. Regarding the lunch account access, parents can see real time the balance and expenditures. 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).

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 and/or Food Services.

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

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.

Assessment and Curricular Resource Upgrades: During the spring, students in Grade 5 through 8 participated in the spring administration of the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment and this test allows the school to determine growth over the course of the school year as related to testing norms and national percentile. This tool serves as the internal measurement in the areas of Reading and Math. The results will be distributed in the near future along with the Spring 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment score (which serves as the State of Connecticut assessment measurement). For the upcoming year, Baldwin Middle School will be reducing spring testing and only having the Smarter Balanced Assessment then while maintaining MAP during the fall and winter. Additionally, students will continue to use the following curricular resources for the third year in a row at Baldwin Middle School:

Grade/ Topic	Resource	Grade/ Topic	Resource
5 Reading	Journeys	7 Reading	Collections
5 Math	Go Math!	7 Math	Go Math!
6 Reading	Collections	8 Reading	Collections
6 Math	Go Math!	8 Math	Go Math!
The students have access to online tools for these resources and user names and passwords will be shared during the first weeks of school.			

Daily Schedule Update: 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 25-minute block of time provided for students that will allow for students to receive specialized instruction, time for work completion 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 40-minute lunch/recess period that will be inclusive of the entire school eating at once. Lunch/recess time is extended this year by 10 minutes. Classes end at 3:06 as students transition back to a 4-minute homeroom/transition period and dismissal beginning with parent pick up at 3:10 and bus dismissal at 3:12. It is important to wait until 3:10 for students for dismissal for parent pick up and not interfere with class instruction.

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

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

	Grade 5/6	Grade 7/8
Reading	Mrs. Messier	Mrs. Waters
Language Arts	Mr. Blonshine	Mr. Durham
Math	Mrs. Farland	Mr. Beckwith
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 read their homeroom assignment below. Our school enrollment will be one of the lowest in decades, which means less options and choices available. Minor changes may be made once the school year begins as class rostering needs arise.

 Student Name: **«First_Name» «Last_Name»**   Homeroom Assignment: **«Homeroom_Cohort»**