

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

* 45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 * Phone: 860-546-9421 * Fax: 860-546-6289

January 15, 2021

Good evening BMS families,

Happy Friday! I wanted to take a moment to share some important information with all of you.

First, please know that the Board of Education voted to maintain half-day early dismissals on Wednesdays for the rest of the school year. Please make sure you plan accordingly and thank you for your flexibility as we work to finish this year strong!

Second, next week marks the start of the second semester. On Tuesday, students will begin their second-semester specials classes. Please do not hesitate to call the office if you have any questions about the schedule change.

Next, I wanted to touch on our progress reports that went home today. Due to a glitch with Powerschool, many subjects were displaying both their trimester 2 current grades as well as an average grade for the year, which was confusing and misleading. As a result, you will notice that there are whited-out grades under the semester 1 column for each of the core academic subject areas. The only grade that counts for the core classes on the progress report is the T2 grades. The only grade that counts for specials classes is the S1 grade, which reflects the final grade for those classes. Again, please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.

In addition, we will be kicking off our mid-year iReady testing sessions beginning on Monday, January 25. Please speak with your student(s) about doing their best, as this data helps to inform our instruction and support for each of our students. If your student is remote, the test window will open next Tuesday, January 19. All remote students must also take the math and reading diagnostics and should finish them no later than Friday, January 29.

I also wanted to give all 8th-grade families a heads up that, if your student is interested in attending Parish Hill for High School, we will be able to provide transportation next year, from the BMS parking lot to Parish Hill. Parish Hill does have some strong offerings, including a renovated building, a strong sports team, and a wide AP offering.

Finally, please remember that there is no school on Monday, January 18, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Thank you all and have a great weekend,

Mr. Dukette

