

Brentwood M.S. Eagles



Dr. Julie Sperry, Principal

Principal's Perch

Dear Parents and Community Members,

With the holiday season upon us, many of our evenings and weekends will be spent getting ready for Christmas and Hanukah celebrations. While some may see visions of sugarplums, the middle school students continue to have equations, essays, science, and history dancing in their heads. Please remember to include study time in your holiday planning – at least until December 22!

With the temperature dropping, I encourage all parents to check on the status of your child's coats, hats and gloves. Please help them dress appropriately for the weather. Coats, hats, and gloves are to remain in the locker during the day, so I recommend students wear a sweatshirt or sweater during the day in case they get cold in class. Wearing shorts, short skirts and other warm summer fashion is discouraged.

Just a reminder, school ends at 2:53 and unless students are attending a school sponsored activity, they are to leave campus. If they attend an after school activity, they end at 3:55, and students should be picked up or walk home or board the bus by 4:00. We have had an influx of students just hanging out for hours after school; this is not safe and not allowed. If a MS student wants to attend a HS basketball game, they really need to go home first and then return to school for the event. I have had some students say they were staying after with a HS sibling; this is not ok. Generally the HS sibling is doing something, like practice, clubs, etc. so they cannot be responsible for their younger sibling. When students are here, I am sure you assume they are fine and being supervised. This is not always the case; especially when they are not at any middle school activities. HS coaches are not responsible for MS students hanging in the gym or in the halls. I am not trying to be difficult, I just don't want anything bad to happen to our children; I would much rather be proactive now rather than reactive later. Please help us keep your children safe and make plans for your child to get safely home at 3:00 or 4:00 if they stay for activities. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Just as your family seems extra busy at home during the holidays, December also brings to us many activities. I hope you can join us for these. Next week is very busy with three important events:

- Tuesday, December 13 - Coffee Talk (8:00 AM)
- Wednesday, December 14 - Winter Band Concert (7:00 PM)
- Thursday, December 15 - Holiday Choir Concert (7:00 PM)

And the following week our annual Carnival will be taking place:

- Thursday, December 22nd
 - Winter Carnival (10:45am-12:00 Noon)
 - Family Lunch and Parties (12:00-12:30)
 - Dismissal at 12:30!!

(Note the change in time. Elementary gets out at 12:00, secondary gets out at 12:30)

Winter break begins Thursday, December 22 at 12:30 and classes resume Thursday, January 5th.

As we race through these next few weeks of school and into the new year, I hope we all take time out to reflect on our families. Both our BMS family and our home families; they are all special and unique and together we make our children into the best they can be! Thank you for all you do for Brentwood and for sending us your children. Together, we make excellence!

I thank you for your continued support of our students and wish you a peaceful and happy holiday!

Dr. Julie Sperry

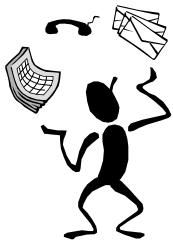


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DECEMBER 2011

- P.I.T. Crew 13
Coffee Talk
(8:00-9:30am - BMS Conf. Rm.)
- BHS Band Concert 14
(7:00pm – BHS/BMS Auditorium)
- BMS Papa John's Pizza Night
- BHS Holiday Concert 15
(7:00pm – BHS/BMS Auditorium)
- Winter Carnival 22
Winter Break Begins
(Early Dismissal -12:30pm)
- Winter Break Dec. 23 – Jan. 5
(No School)



JANUARY 2012

- Winter Break Ends 5
(First Day of School)
- BMS Papa John's Pizza Night 14
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance 16
(No School)
- P.I.T. Crew 24
Coffee Talk
(3:00pm – BMS Conf. Rm.)

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 	14 	15 	16	17
17	19	20	21	22 12:30 PM EARLY DISMISSAL Winter Carnival	23 WINTER BREAK	24
25 	26 WINTER BREAK	27 WINTER BREAK	28 WINTER BREAK	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK	31

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 WINTER BREAK	3 WINTER BREAK	4 WINTER BREAK	5 DICKKEY'S BARBECUE PIT BACK 2 SCHOOL	6	7
8	9	10	11 	12	13	14
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Dr. Julie Sperry graciously accepts a \$500 check from Todd Mathias, Manager of The Mobil On the Run Store located on Brentwood Blvd.

BMS Recipient of ExxonMobil Grant

Brentwood Middle School received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to support their school in science and math. The Mobil *On the Run* Store at 2120 S. Brentwood Blvd. worked with the school to secure the grant, which is available to schools across the country with funding from the ExxonMobil Corporation.

The ExxonMobil Alliance Program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

These grants are designed to make learning math and science fun and help schools purchase supplemental learning tools such as science lab supplies, iPads, graphing calculators or to fund math and science related field trips.

ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to the following middle school students who were actively involved in the musical **THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**. They all worked very hard and did a great job.

Kelly Zygmunt and Abby Lawrence
Spellers in the show

Rebecca Carter, Audrey Brown and Sophia Riveria
All worked the lights and sound

Joseph Hartung and Jackson Neely
Spotlights

They were all amazing!!!

~ Anita Lippman, Drama Teacher

P.I.T. Crew Coffee Talk



Our next P.I.T. Crew/Coffee Talk session (our last one for 2011) is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13th from 8:00am-9:30am**. We will meet in the BMS Conference Room. All parents and volunteers are invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you're unable to attend, please contact Jonathon Lee at 962-8238.

If we don't see you, we wish you "Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!" We'll see you in 2012.

~ Jonathon Lee, Asst. Principal

Choir “Notes”

The Middle School choirs have been working exceptionally hard for their upcoming concert on **Thursday, December 15th beginning at 7:00pm** in the High School Auditorium.

You will love hearing the 8th grade singing with the High School Choir, the 6/7th grade choir and the 6th grade choir perform holiday music including “Go Tell it On the Mountain”, “Noel Nouvelet”, “A Christmas Portrait (medley)”, and “Candle in the Night”.

Come get some holiday spirit at the choir concert!

~ Mrs. Stinson, Choir Teacher



On Tuesday, December 22nd our students will have the opportunity to participate in our 5th Annual Winter Carnival. The students not only get to play the games for prizes, but they actually get to create and run one of the 15 “booths” or games as each Family sponsors a game. Their mission is to create and operate a cool carnival game, to raise money for charity, while having fun. Each Family hopes their game is the most played, as they will win the coveted spirit stick. Currently, the Families are discussing what charity we will select this year; creating their games; and planning the details of the event.

All parents and younger siblings are invited to join us from 10:45am – 12:00 Noon to participate in our fun! Games are only 25 cents each!

We also welcome any parent volunteers who want to join us . . . come on to the Big Gym!

6th Grade News

Now that the 6th graders at BMS are more than half way through 2nd quarter, increased emphasis will be placed on helping students become more independent and responsible learners. As students’ progress through middle school, teachers will help them develop strategies to prepare for upcoming quizzes and tests. It is also important that students begin to develop strong study habits at home and advocate for themselves if they need help from a teacher. In elementary school, many students could often show up the day of a quiz or test without significant preparation outside of class and still perform well on it. In middle school, teachers expect students to spend time outside of class reviewing class notes and other materials throughout the unit in order to master the content.

Another key skill we’re working on with the 6th graders involves improving their self-monitoring skills to keep focused and on-task in class. The excitement of the holidays can sometimes cause a distraction, so checking in with your 6th grader about their effort and focus in class may be beneficial. If your child is struggling in a particular course, feel free to contact that teacher in order to see what additional help can be offered. We expect excellence out of all of our 6th grade students, and with parents and teachers working together we can provide them with guidance and support throughout their middle school journey.

~Mike Royal, 6th Grade Teacher



Character Ed. Rule

“Everything you do sends a message about who you are and what you value.”

~Michael Josephson



Character Ed. Rule

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

~ Anne Frank



Character Ed. Rule

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain."

~ Maya Angelou

7th Grade News

Communication Arts – We are working on a Propaganda and Persuasion project in Communication Arts. First, we studied the different methods of persuasion. Now, students have been divided into groups to work on creating an original product. They will create a commercial, magazine advertisement, and billboard for their product using a variety of persuasive techniques.

Science – In science we are wrapping up our astronomy exploration with an all day visit to the Challenger Center. Students will man a mission, operate a control room as well as build and launch rockets. We'd like to thank The Boeing Company for the scholarship that allows us to attend.

Math – As math classes wrap up their discussions about similar shapes, seventh graders will begin to think positively about negative numbers! As we move into our new unit, students will discuss negative integers, fractions, and decimals. In addition to extending the number line, students will graph negative numbers and define algorithms for working with negatives.

Social Studies – We are examining the U.S. Constitution. Students will learn how our government has limited powers through the separation of powers and checks and balances. Students will also learn about the functions and duties of each branch of government.

~Darold Harris, 7th Grade Teacher

8th Grade News

Eighth grade mathematics students have been busy investigating linear functions and exploring practical ways in which the linear functions can be applied. In our next unit, Growing, Growing, Growing, students will focus on exponential relationships, in which a quantity grows larger or smaller at an increasing rate rather than a constant rate.

The eight grade communication arts classes will be applying their knowledge of literary terms to longer works of fiction in December. The communication arts classes will be reading and discussing *Killing Mr. Griffin* by Lois Duncan, while the challenge communications arts class will be reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

In social studies we are working hard on our colonization unit where students are learning more about the 13 colonies. Besides our daily work, students will create a brochure for a colony and are working their way up to their "Revolutionary Layer Cake." Check out their learning log journals . . . lots of learning going on.

Science classes will begin their study of matter and energy in December. Students will be describing matter in terms of physical and chemical properties and that will lead to investigations of changes in matter. Investigations involving conservation of mass and energy and energy transformations will complete the unit.

~ Susan Dijkers, 8th Grade Teacher

French

French 8th graders are now able to greet one another and talk about their feelings and activities they like and they do not like. They are beginning one of the most popular units we do, FOOD! Students are learning vocabulary for various food items and popular items in fast and slow food movements in France. Students will study about regional cuisine, French

dishes, menus and restaurants. They will be able to order from a menu, ask about prices, and pay their bill in Euros. During the month of December students will discuss and learn about winter holidays, celebrations and customs around the French speaking world. They will also learn some winter holiday songs.

~Christine Stevenson, French Teacher



World Languages

German

The German students at BMS have learned to speak and write about their free time activities. They can tell what they like to do and what they don't enjoy doing. They can use expressions of time to tell when they do various free time activities. They also have learned how to tell time in German! They created a story about a boy named Albert, who has a lot to

do. Albert spends a busy day going to many places and having fun with his friend Betsy. The German students are very creative and are developing great language skills through their stories.

During the last few weeks of the semester we will be preparing for their final exam.

If you have any questions about the German

program at BMS, please feel free to contact me at hwall@brentwood.k12.mo.us.

~Heather Wall, German Teacher

Spanish

The eighth grade Spanish students can describe activities they like and want to do and recently acted like journalists as they wrote questions and interviewed their classmates to type an article in Spanish. We will continue to learn more verbs, and will soon be

learning how to conjugate them. Soon your students will be describing what they and others are doing in Spanish!

We will also look at holiday customs in Spanish speaking countries. Seventh graders will have a food unit to explore cuisine in

South American countries and Spain.

Sixth graders are learning about introductions and adding more vocabulary to their repertoire.

~Alyssa Kernen, Spanish Teacher



Junior high is too early to start tying decisions to college admissions—there's no need to start molding a 13-year-old's love of computers into an activity that will help him get into Yale. But it's not too early for junior high students to develop habits that will help them be successful once they get to high school. Here are five Collegewise suggestions for parents of junior high school students:

1. Help your kids to become independent.

You don't want to raise a high school kid who depends on you to wake him up in the morning. Kids need their parents, but when Mom or Dad makes all the decisions, you raise a student that is too dependent on his parents and ultimately not well-prepared for college. We're not suggesting you need your 13-year-old to open and maintain a checking account, but you can have them get themselves up in the morning, organize their own school assignments, and maybe even assume some responsibilities for helping around the house.

2. Encourage kids to approach their teachers with questions or concerns.

If your junior high school student has questions or is struggling in a class, don't contact the teacher for him to seek help. Encourage your student to approach his teacher himself. This is a good time for kids to start taking some responsibility for their own educations. They need to learn how to advocate for themselves, and how to seek help when they need it.

3. Help kids to follow their passions.

Colleges love students who are passionate about what they do, whether that's doing scientific research or riding dirt bikes. Teach your kids that interest is a good thing. Don't assign value to the interest based on how you think it will translate into an admission to college someday. Kids who have the capacity to enjoy something tend to seek out that enjoyment even when their interests change. That's a good trait. We don't care if your student likes making jewelry, walking dogs in the neighborhood or just playing basketball with his friends. As long as it isn't covered by the criminal code, it's probably an interest you want to encourage.

4. Help kids find a love of learning.

When you ask a successful college applicant what her favorite class, subject or teacher is, she's got an answer. Grades are important, but they are not the only measure of a student's academic potential. A sincere interest in learning goes a long way with teachers and with colleges. So if your student thrives in her math class and even joined the math club, tell her how wonderful it is that she loves math. Encourage the enjoyment. If your daughter is fascinated with birds, ask her how she might be able to learn more and decide together whether to buy some books, take a class, or maybe just do some bird-watching. If your son raves about his history teacher, let him know how lucky he is and ask him to tell you more. Don't tie academic enjoyment to grades alone. Curious learners are always appealing to colleges, and that intellectual love of learning is something you can foster in your kids.

5. Relax.

Much of the information you hear about seemingly perfect kids being rejected from college is exaggerated. There are more than 2,000 colleges in the country and all but about 100 of them have plenty of room. Nice kids who work hard (even if they aren't "A" students) still get into plenty of colleges. So let your kids be kids. They don't need to spend all their time maximizing strengths, fixing weaknesses and molding themselves into future college students. Let them play and hang out with their friends and maybe even goof off a little.

When your kid is 12, 13 or 14, you're not going to make a mistake that will keep your child out of college someday. So relax, and encourage your kids to do the same.

“KEEPING You INFORMED . . .”



GOOD NEWS REGARDING LUNCH DEPOSITS AND STUDENT FEES

To ensure that lunch deposits and students fees are properly applied to accounts, students will now be given receipts for all payments that they make in the school office. The receipts reflect the date of the transaction, the amount, whether it is cash or check and where the deposits/fees are to be applied. All receipts are signed by a member of the office staff. Students are also asked to sign their names and after doing so are given a copy of the receipt to retain for their records should questions regarding their accounts arise in the future. If you have any questions regarding this new policy, please contact the school office at 314.962.8238.



“Keeping BMS parents informed is our #1 priority. When this page appears in our BMS Newsletter, take a moment to look it over and read it thoroughly. It highlights matters of importance that we want you to be aware of and up-to-date on.”

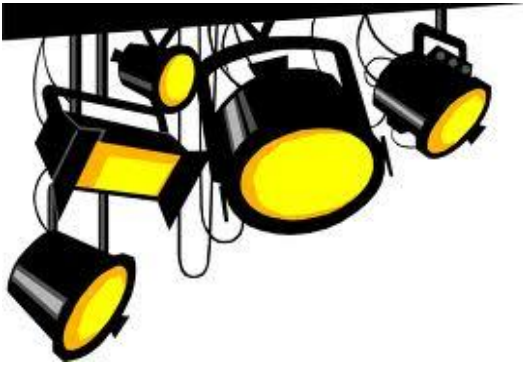
Julie Sperry, Principal

WHEN YOUR CALLER I.D. READS “BMS” . . .

As the parent of a child in the Brentwood School District, periodically you’ll receive phone calls from your child’s teacher, the school office or the nurse’s office. When our name and phone number appear on your caller I.D., check your voice messaging system first to see if a message has been left. If there is no message the caller will try to contact you again. If there is an emergency, every effort will be made to reach you using the contact information that appears in our student files. Please be sure that the information we have on file for you is up to date.

Unfortunately contacting the school office to determine who the caller may have been will not be very helpful. All outgoing phone calls are not routed through our school office. As a result, we have no way of determining who may have called or where the call originated in our building. Help us help you by following these steps when your caller I.D. reads “BMS.” We appreciate your help.





BMS PARENTS:

Shine the Spotlight On Your BMS Student!!

Celebrate your student by letting them know how proud you are of them and their hard work by purchasing an ad in the 2011 yearbook that tells them so!

Each ad is 3.5" x 2" (business card size) and will appear in the back of the BMS Yearbook along with all of the other ads parents are purchasing to highlight their students and their achievements. The cost of each ad is \$10.00.

Ads look similar to the one pictured to the left, but that's not your only option. Our Yearbook Staff is anxious to work with you to design a personalized full-color advertisement with your own words/message that express how you feel. After creating the ad they'll submit it to you for your review. Once they receive your stamp of approval (and payment) the ad will be placed in the yearbook.

Shine the spotlight on your student today! Simply complete the information below and email it to the yearbook staff at nqueathem@brentwood.k12.mo.us or fax it to 314-968-8724. A member of the staff will contact you to begin the process.



Purchaser's Name:	
Please check your preferred means of contact:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail: _____
Name of student:	
Grade:	
What would you like in the AD?	
Picture/Graphic	Words/Message:
For official use only	Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Check _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash _____



PATRIOT

There is a Bald Eagle at the World Bird Sanctuary named Patriot. Patriot's family was killed in a rainstorm. Patriot was the only survivor. She was just a chick. Patriot is the only female Bald Eagle at the World Bird Sanctuary.

As a class we are going to adopt Patriot. The World Bird Sanctuary has an Adopt-A-Bird program. For \$150, our class will help feed and care for patriot for one year.

A donation box will be set up in Mrs. Q's classroom.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Mrs. Nancy Queathem-Hauptert
or Tom Anderson at 314.962-8238.





Applegate's and Dickey's BBQ Continues its BMS Partnership in 2012!!

January 5, 2012 not only marks the first day of school, it also kick-starts our continued partnership with Applegate's and Dickey's BBQ in raising funds for BMS.

Anytime, day or night, on the "1st Thursday" of any month that you visit Applegate's and Dickey's, make a purchase and tell them you support BMS at the time you check out, 15% of your purchase will be donated to our Student Activity fund. To date we've been able to raise \$250.

We can't do it without you! Mark your calendars and plan to visit Applegate's and Dickey's BBQ for breakfast, lunch or dinner and tell them you support BMS at the time you checkout. They're open from 7:00am-9:00pm. We appreciate your support of our school and our efforts!

8th Grade Spring Pictures Are Coming!!

Date: February 15th, 2012!!

All 8th grade students will have their pictures taken for the yearbook on February 15, 2012. You will receive an order form from Wagner Portrait Group through your child's math teacher to purchase pictures (bringing in payment on Picture Day). You will also have the opportunity to view the pictures online and purchase later (www.wagnerportraitgroup.com).

Pictures will be taken on a white background. Please plan wardrobes accordingly. Bright colors really stand out well in pictures.

Note: Picture includes clothing below the waist.



Happy Holidays!



***Best wishes to all of our BMS
Staff and Families***

***For a
Happy Holiday***

***And a
Very Happy New Year!!***

***(Winter Break Begins Thursday,
December 22nd at 12:30pm)***

***We'll see everyone at the
start of the
new school year on
Thursday, January 5, 2012!!***