



GOLD CROWN
AWARD 2020

Bedford Middle School's
Student Newspaper



Newsletter #6 November 12, 2021

SPECIAL NOTE: EARLY DISMISSAL IS 1:00 pm WEDNESDAY, November 24th

PRINCIPAL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Today, BMS honored Veterans Day by hosting over 25 veterans who met with our 8th grade students in small groups. In this program, our guest veterans share their personal stories relating to their experience before, during and after their military service; our students prepare questions and then follow-up with heartfelt and detailed thank you letters that are cherished by our guests. This year, for the first time, we hosted an active service member in the US Space Force who also happens to be the son of Gina Zaleski, one of our 7th grade math teachers here at Bedford. Huge thanks and appreciation to BMS Grade 8 Team Leader and Social Studies teacher Courtney Ruggiero for once again leading this entire program for the benefit of our students and school community; thank you Courtney!

Opening musical performance by BMS strings students and Maestro Ms. Anderson



Zooming-in from the US Space Force station in the middle east



The honor is all mine! LEONARD EVERETT FISHER!



In the company of service heroes!



BMS HAS SCHOOL SPIRIT: BMS GIFT CARD WAR

Help support families in need this holiday season by donating a gift card AND help your team to win your grade level war! BMS PTA and Spirit and Leadership Club are sponsoring a gift card donation drive to help families in our community and neighboring communities in need as we all gear up for this holiday season.

- Gift cards will be donated to Westport Human Services, who will then distribute them to families.
- Each grade will have their own competition- Green Team vs. Purple Team vs. Red Team and there will be a winning team from each grade level.
- Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.
- Dates of collection: November 3rd- November 29th.
- How to donate a gift card: At home, use this link to buy a gift card to donate.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaaac2aa64-gift>

REMINDER: OUTDOOR RECESS IN WINTER

Thank you for making sure your child is prepared for mandatory daily outdoor recess/mask break in winter - knit hats, winter coats, etc. - thank you!

NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

What is Native American Awareness Month? Native American Heritage Month is a month-long celebration of the culture, traditions, beliefs, and customs of the Native American people. It's also a time to highlight the important contributions that Native American communities and individuals have made to the United States.

History of Native American Heritage Month: The first "American Indian Day" was declared in May 1916 by the governor of New York. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month."

Did you know? Thousands of years before Christopher Columbus' ships arrived in the Bahamas, a different group of people discovered America. The nomadic ancestors of modern Native Americans hiked over a "land

bridge” from Asia to what is now Alaska more than 12,000 years ago! By the time European adventurers arrived in the 15th century A.D., scholars estimate that more than 10 million people already lived in what would become the United States!

Native Americans weren't granted American citizenship until 1924 and even then it took 40 years for all 50 states in America to allow the vote for Native Americans. There are 574 sovereign tribal nations that have a formal relationship with the United States government. In 2010, there were 334 state-recognized Native American reservations. Across 11 states, there are 65 recognized tribes. These states are Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia.

Native Americans in Connecticut: Connecticut law recognizes five Indian tribes; these five tribes have six reservations in the state:

1. Golden Hill Paugussett
2. Mashantucket Pequot
3. Mohegan
4. Paucatuck Eastern Pequot
5. Schaghticoke

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPP: BMS COMPOSTING PROGRAM



Parents, we need your help: This is your chance to come into the middle school during lunch to help our students compost! Parent volunteers will be stationed to remind students that only food waste goes into the red compost bins, plastic recycling into the blue bins, and trash into the gray bins.

Please use the attached sign-up genius to sign up for a lunch shift. Sign-up starts after Thanksgiving. Please note you must be vaccinated to enter the building and will have to wear a mask. The Eco-Squad thanks you!

[Bedford Lunch Compost Duty Parent Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

KUDOS TO THE BMS KINDNESS CLUB - THANK YOU!



Encourage
kindness
in others.

Get some-
one to
complement.

Be helpful
in the
halls.

Ask how
someone's
day is going.

Say hi
to someone
new!

Talk to
someone
crying
along.

Get someone
what you
like about
them.

Give some-
one a
compliment.

Share to
show to
someone else.

Call a
friend to
say hi.

Say hi
to some-
one new!

Be a good
friend.

Be genuinely
interested
in someone.

SMILE
at
someone new!

Step 1: Take a
post it.

Step 2: Do the act
of kindness.

Step 3: Inspire
others!

Stand up
for someone
who needs
it!

Say
Thank you
if
mean it.

Show a
friend what
you are there
for them.

Help some-
one in
need.

Say thank
you to
a teacher.

Show your
care by
listening.

Hold open
the door
for someone.

Share a
new person to
talk with you.

Let another
person tell
about themselves.

Ask how
someone's
day is
going.

Say hi
to someone
new!

Give some-
one a
compliment

Share a
pencil if
someone asks.

Say hi
to some-
one new!

Be genuinely
interested
in someone.



NEW: AMC 8 Math Competition January 18, 2022

[Link: AMC 8 Sign Up Form](#)

What: AMC 8 Exam

Why: An opportunity to apply middle school math concepts to a wide range of challenging problems

When: Tuesday, January 18th, 3:45-4:45 PM

Where: Bedford Middle School Library

Who: 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

UPDATED: BMS MATH TUTORING PROGRAM WITH SIGN-UP LINKS(FREE)

We are excited to introduce our new middle school math tutoring program designed for students who are in need of support in the Math 6, Math 7, or Math 8 courses where they will receive help on the current grade-level curriculum. This no-cost (free of charge) program is open and available to all interested students in these specific math courses.

Math tutors will work with a maximum of 5 students per session on course content. Below are the available sessions. Students may sign up for in-person or virtual tutoring using the Google forms below. Parents and/or students must sign up **weekly** for each tutoring session in order to maximize the value of the program. The Google forms will open at approximately 3:15 pm every Friday afternoon.

Please note, parents/guardians will need to provide their own transportation to or from each in-person session. Tutoring will not take place on the afternoons of half days, professional development days, or vacation days based on the [district calendar](#). Sessions will not occur on days when there are school closures or delays.

In-person Math Tutoring Sessions

Grade 6 on Tuesdays:	3:30-4 pm	Rm 203	In-person Grade 6
Grade 7 on Tuesdays:	3:30-4 pm	Rm 125	In-person Grade 7
Grade 8 on Tuesdays:	3:30-4 pm	Rm 203	In-person Grade 8
Grade 8 on Wednesdays:	7:30-8 am	Rm 111	In-person Grade 8
Grade 6 on Thursdays:	3:30-4 pm	Rm 203	In-person Grade 6
Grade 7 on Thursdays:	3:30-4 pm	Rm 203	In-person Grade 7

Virtual Math Tutoring Sessions

Grade 7 on Tuesdays:	7:15-7:45 am	Virtual Grade 7
Grade 6 on Wednesdays:	4-4:30 pm	Virtual Grade 6
Grade 8 on Thursdays:	7:15-7:45 am	Virtual Grade 8

EVEN MORE FREE MATH EXTRA HELP! (all math course levels!)

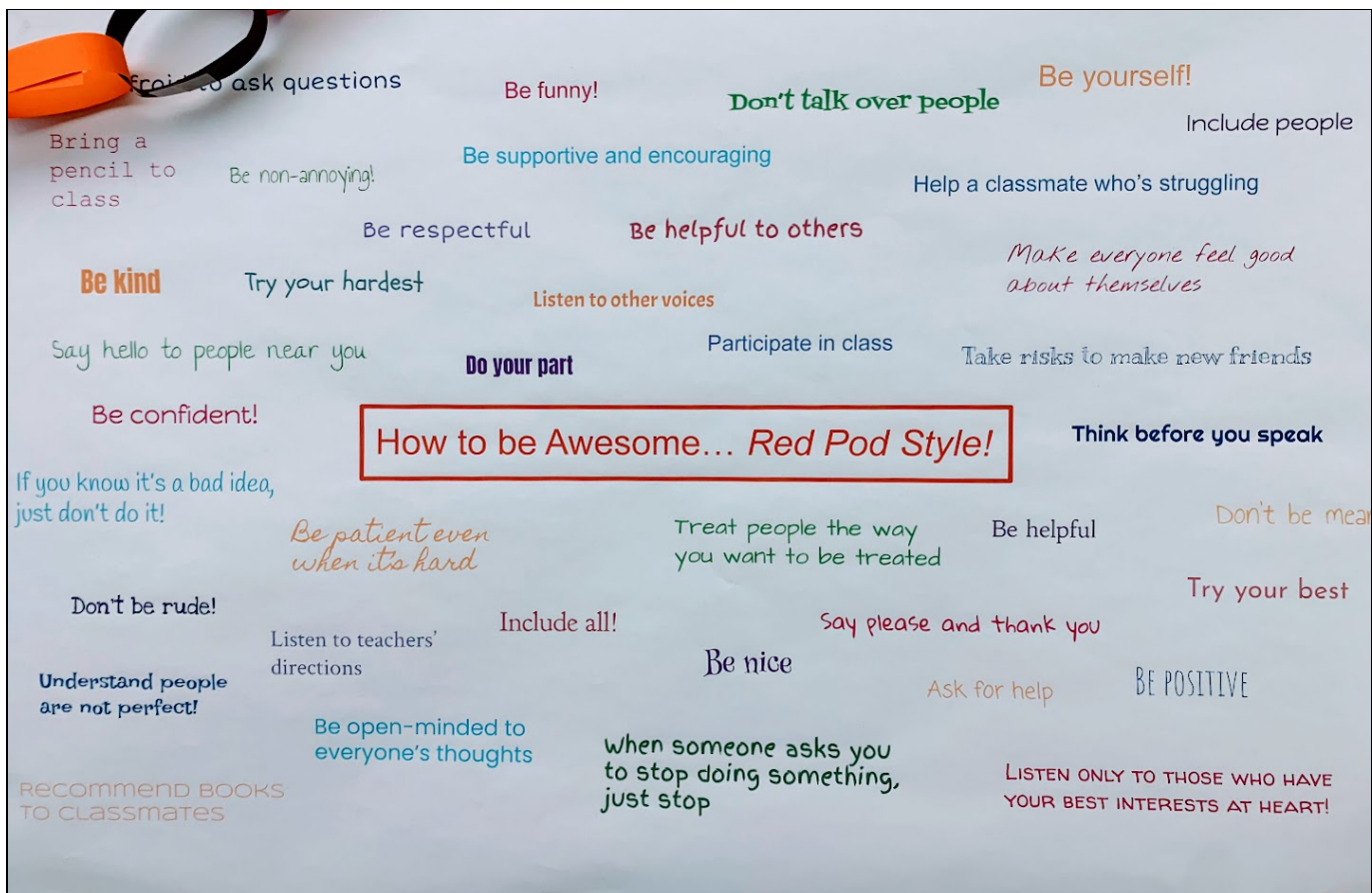
Your favorite high school math tutors are back and we are eager to help! The National Math Honor Society members are offering math extra help again this year. The sessions will be virtual via google meet. Sign up using [this link](#) and a tutor will contact you with the meeting information. Don't forget to bookmark this form so you can find it easily every time you need to sign up.

Did you know? Student Cell Phone Expectations

- Reminder: Students should keep their cell phones in their lockers during school hours.
- Students may use the main office phone if they need to call home.
- No Cell Between the Bells 8:30-3:15

Scenes from BMS

Team inspiration





Utopia projects



Thank you for the bulb planting!



Report Cards 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

This school year is divided into four marking periods of approximately nine weeks each. Report Cards are available online through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#).

- If a student has any accountability, i.e. outstanding library books, lost textbooks, etc., Parent Portal access to the report card may be denied until the issue is resolved.
- Any student who has received a grade of Incomplete should meet with their teacher, attend extra help sessions; teachers will help students devise a plan for completing missing assignments or assessments. An Incomplete becomes a Failure if the student does not make up the work or tests scheduled. Interim Progress Reports (IPRs) are not generated since all parents have access to the PowerSchool GradeBook feature through the Parent Portal. Parents will receive an email alerting parents it is mid-marking period and prompting them to check their child's grades online. Parents who have questions or concerns about their child's grades should contact the teacher first.
- Report Cards Viewable after 4:00 pm: November 12, January 28, April 12, June 14

CALL THE ATTENDANCE HOTLINE...PLEASE & THANK YOU!

Please leave a message on the BMS Attendance HotLine before 9 am at **203-341-1599**

ALTERNATE HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

We want to bring to your attention alternate high school opportunities available to your children. Some of these programs are full day, while others are partial day. Please review the descriptions and follow the links for additional detailed information regarding the schools of interest. Please be sure to share this news with your 7th/8th grade student so they are aware and can explore these programs before deadlines/due dates pass.

The Sound School

With sweeping views of New Haven Harbor, our little school on the water" prepares students for college, **careers**, and life in a maritime-focused environment. Coupled with rigorous academics and a dedicated faculty, we have become Connecticut's premier aquaculture/agricultural science and technology education center (ASTE).

- Click here to watch a [Virtual Open House](#)
- Click here for the [Freshman Recruitment](#)
- Click here for [Admissions](#)

The Center for Global Studies

Our 290 students learn Arabic, Chinese, or Japanese, study the cultures and history of Asia or the Middle East, read literature from around the world, and travel on two-week study tours to broaden their understanding of the world. Students will study world language, world literature, and world history, and they enroll in global studies-themed math, science, art, gym, health, and other electives.

The Regional Center for the Arts

Is a part-time, public interdistrict magnet high school for Fairfield County students interested in the performing arts. RCA promotes voluntary integration by encouraging collaboration and cooperation among socioeconomic and ethnically diverse school districts. Students who feel a passion for performance, with or without professional training, are welcome to apply to the program.

Student/Parent Open House November 11!

- Click here to [Learn About RCA](#)
- Click here for [RCA Information Session](#)

Academy of Information, Technology & Engineering (AITE)

Is an inter-district, college preparatory public high school with a STEM focus. With high academic standards and rigorous graduation requirements, students take 4 years of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and a World Language. Electives are chosen from 5 areas of concentration - Information Technology, Architecture & Engineering, Business, Fine Arts and Biomedical Sciences.

AITE will be offering a webinar Tuesday November 9, 2021 at 6pm. Please go to <https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/> and click on "AITE" to sign up!

JM Wright Technical High School

Is an innovative high school with a technology-rich **environment** that prepares students **for** jobs of the future. JM Wright offers ten career technical education programs in addition to our academic courses. The dual curriculum allows students to pursue academic college-bound courses, while also getting real-world experience.

Feel free to visit the school's websites to learn more about the opportunities available. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's grade-level counselor:

- BMS 8th grade counselor: Georgia Orlando gorlando@westportps.org
- BMS 7th grade counselor: Jessica Rabine jrabine@westportps.org
- CMS 8th grade counselor: Alecsa Wecker awecker@westportps.org
- CMS 7th grade counselor: Lindsey Shortell lshortell@westportps.org

BMS Teaching Team Leaders

Each of BMS's 9 teaching teams (3/grade level) have an official team leader. The team leader helps to coordinate the operations of the teaching team and is available to communicate with parents on a variety of issues. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our team leaders; they are happy to

assist you navigate the issue at hand (email is 1st letter of first name with last name @westportps.org; ex. aharvey@westportps.org)

1. Grade 6 Green Team April Harvey: 203-341-1557
2. Grade 6 Purple Team Liz Smith: 203-341-2482
3. Grade 6 Red Team Michael LaTorre: 203-341-2477
4. Grade 7 Green Team Emily Elterich: 203-341-1538
5. Grade 7 Purple Team Kristina Rodriguez: 203-341-1528
6. Grade 7 Red Team Andrew Zold: 203-341-1544
7. Grade 8 Green Team Caroline Davis: 203-341-1595
8. Grade 8 Purple Team Courtney Ruggiero: 203-341-1519
9. Grade 8 Red Team Colleen Rondon: 203-341-1587

BMS School Counselors and Accessing Support

Students, parents and guardians can access our school counselors for support and assistance; each school counselor stays with their grade-level for all 3 years of middle school. Here are the 3 BMS school counselors and their grade-level designation during the 2021-2022 school year:

- Grade 6 school counselor: Sara Harding 203-341-2467 sharding@westportps.org
- Grade 7 School Counselor Jessica Rabine 203-341-2462 jrabine@westportps.org
- Grade 8 school counselor: Georgia Orlando 203-341-2494 gorlando@westportps.org

School Lunch Cashless & Touchless Payment System

Please refer to this document from our food service provider Chartwells: [School Lunch Account Setup/Payment](#)

BMS Health Office Reminders

When to Keep Your Child Home:

- fever over 100;
- any Covid-19 symptoms
- an undiagnosed rash;
- vomited in the past 24 hours; • more than one episode of diarrhea; • copious yellow/green mucus discharge from nose;
- a severe earache, with or without fever;
- a severe sore throat with symptoms indicating possible strep throat; • conjunctivitis (pink eye) with discharge;
- an active infestation of head lice; • a communicable illness;
- an undiagnosed skin wound, sore or lesion that appears infected (is red, swollen or draining fluid).

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15th-19th	
DAY/DATE	SCHEDULE
Monday, 11/15/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Tuesday, 11/16/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Wednesday, 11/17/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Thursday, 11/18/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)

Friday, 11/19/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
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SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22nd-26th	
DAY/DATE	SCHEDULE
Monday, 11/22/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Tuesday, 11/23/21	Full School Day (8:30am-3:15pm)
Wednesday, 11/24/21	EARLY DISMISSAL (8:30am-1pm)
Thursday, 11/25/21	NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK
Friday, 11/26/21	

VISIT THE BMS STUDENT NEWSPAPER [URSUS.NEWS](https://www.ursus.news)

Comments on articles are encouraged, and if you have a letter to the editor or an op-ed, we'd be glad to consider publishing your thoughts. [LINK TO URSUS](#)

VISIT THE AMAZING BMS LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER SITE

So many amazing titles! Please visit the [BMS LMC website](#) for more details. We have the ebooks and audiobooks available in Sora.

AWESOME ONLINE RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

- [BMS Students Online Learning Resources Organized by Subject Area](#)
- [Parent Tutorial \(video\): Basics on Using Schoology and PowerSchool \(for parents\)](#)
- [BMS Library Media Center Presents: READING FROM HOME \(for students and parents\)](#)
- [Schoology: Calendar Tips \(for students\)](#)
- [Schoology: How to View All of Your Courses \(for students\)](#)
- [BMS Homepage lol](#)
- [Schoology](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)

PARENT TECH HELP

Please contact the parenthelpdesk@westportps.org or 203-341-1214 for technical issues with accessing district resources or district supplied Chromebooks.

Here are helpful directions for student Chromebooks: [Connecting at Home](#) and [Printing at Home](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Many of our Bedford families have been seeking ways to reach out and help members of our community who experience food insecurity. Here are three ways you can help support our community and Homes with Hope Westport:

1. Drop off non-perishable food and/or toiletry donations as usual at the center, but with no contact. Families can leave the food/toiletries at the door. Link to needed items: [Food/Toiletry List](#)
2. Send food/toiletries via Amazon and have it delivered to the center. [Food/Toiletry List](#)
3. Donate funds via the "donate" link on their website. <https://www.hwhct.org/>

Acts of compassion and kindness may help reduce stress, boost immune systems, and help reduce negative emotions such as anger, anxiety, and depression. Furthermore, reaching out and helping others may also increase one's sense of self esteem and emotional wellbeing. Thank you for supporting our community!