

Hello Barberton Middle School Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying summer. As the Principal at Barberton Middle School, I am honored and excited to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year. Barberton is a passionate and supportive community that is always willing to do whatever it takes for students. I am proud to be a part of this community and will work to ensure that your child is provided a safe and welcoming learning environment where they can develop academically and socially.

Communication between families and the school is vitally important. You can expect to receive regular communication regarding BMS events, activities, and news in a variety of ways including by phone, newsletter, the BMS website, and through social media. If you are unsure of specific events, I encourage you to visit the website or call the main office for details. The outstanding staff that works with your child also welcomes communication from home, so please connect with teachers when questions arise. I encourage you to call, email, or visit at any time if you have additional questions.

As we prepare for the start of the school year, I want to share several important pieces of information. Please review all four sections: Key Dates and Information; Academic and Attendance Expectations; Anti-Harassment Measures; Safety and Security.

Key Dates and Information:

- The school day at BMS will be from 7:50 am - 2:45 pm. The doors to the building will open at 7:30 am and breakfast will be served from 7:30 am - 7:50 am. Please ensure that your child is at school and on time every day. This is crucial for their success.
- Student drop off and pick up will be in the parking lot along Newell Street. Bus drop off and pick up will be at the main entrance. All students walking to the building need to use designated crosswalks to ensure safety.
- Student supply lists and summer assignments are posted on the BMS website. **Please sign in to your InfoSnap account to update your information and to complete the agree/disagree portion of the forms.**

Listed below are important dates as we approach the opening of the school year:

- Homeroom lists will be posted for display at BMS beginning on Monday, August 13th.
- Open House will be held on Thursday, August 16th from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. There will be a 6th Grade Band meeting in the Band Room at 6:30 pm.
- Fifth grade orientation will take place on Friday, August 17th from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.
- Students' first day of school is Monday August 20th.

Academic & Attendance Expectations

BMS academic goals emphasize reading, writing, and math fluency. These skills are essential for your child's success in school and building the foundation for high school.

Showing up for school has a significant impact on a student's academic success. Families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days, for any reason, over the course of an entire school year. Absences can add up quickly. **A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month for any reason.**

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers/counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up.

Anti-Harassment Measures

We strive to create a safe, welcoming environment that is conducive to learning. Please encourage your child to report any instances of inappropriate behavior to a staff member. Students and families can report incidents directly to a staff member, through our online reporting system, and also by using the STOPit app. **When it comes to inappropriate behavior at BMS, we need all students to remember that “We Don't Do That Here” and to “See Something, Say Something.”**

Safety and Security

We take safety and security very seriously and have multiple measures in place to ensure that BMS is a safe and secure facility. We have a School Resource Officer and a Safety Monitor to protect the building. All guests must verify their identity and purpose before being allowed into the building. Students are instructed to not ever open a door to the building for anyone. We also conduct regular safety and emergency drills to ensure that our students and staff are prepared for a variety of situations.

I am looking forward to an outstanding school year. Please contact if you need anything or have questions.

Thank You,

Mr. Andric
Principal
Barberton Middle School