Blacksburg Middle School

Welcomes you to our

BLACKSBURG
BRUINS

BMS Family

The Beginning is the Most Important Part of the Work.
Plato

Academic and Career Planning Curriculum Night for Rising 6th Graders

Blacksburg Middle School

About our school:

- Grades 6-8
- Fully accredited
- Current enrollment is 941 students
- Five feeder elementary schools
- Approximately 83 faculty and 35 support staff

http://bit.ly/BMS6ACP

Visit our website at http://bms.mcps.org/
Follow us on Twitter @BruinsBMS

Our Mission Statement

All students have the potential for individual greatness. Our vision at Blacksburg Middle School is to recognize and support this diversity in a positive educational environment rich with mutual respect.

Revealing Potential and Realizing Dreams

Caring
Safety
Respect
Engagement
Creativity
Dreams
Exploration
Relationships
Blacksburg Middle School

6th Grade Curriculum

- All students take Math, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science - 1 period for each all year
- All students take a year-long Health and P.E. course
- All students take Digital Technology Foundations and Career Investigations
- Students have a choice of electives
  - Option 1: Year-long Band, Choir or Art
  - Option 2: 4 quarterly exploratory electives

Standard Middle School Schedule

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
1	**Math**	**Math**	**Math**
2	**English 6**	**English 7**	**English 8**
3	**U.S. History I**	**U.S. History II**	**Civics**
4	**Science 6**	**Science 7**	**Earth Science**
5	**HPE 6**	**HPE 7**	**HPE 8**
I/E			
6	**Digital Technology Foundations** **Career Investigations**	2 Semester Electives	2 Semester Electives
7	**Year-long Fine Arts** **or** **<u>Exploratory</u> Electives**	Year-long Fine Arts or 2 Semester Electives	Year-long Fine Arts or 2 Semester Electives

Math Placement

- A key component of our math program is ensuring that all middle school students are placed in mathematics courses that deliver an appropriate level of challenge to prepare them for success in high school and beyond.

- Each MCPS middle school collects and analyzes multiple pieces of student data in order to make mathematics placement decisions, including grades, SOL test scores, unit assessments, mid year benchmark, algebra readiness assessments, and teacher recommendations.

Intervention Course Placement

- Reading and Writing Intervention Course
- Intervention courses are provided in addition to grade-level English courses
- Designed for students who have been identified as needing increased support in order to be successful in reading
- Students will be scheduled for these courses based on a variety of criteria, including grades, SOL test scores, unit assessments, mid year benchmark, and screening assessments.

Middle School Student Schedule with Intervention Class

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
1	Math	Math	Math
2	English 6	English 7	English 8
3	U.S. History I	U.S. History II	Civics
4	Integrated Science 6	Integrated Science 7	Earth Science
5	HPE 6	HPE 7	HPE 8
I/E			
6	Intervention Class	Intervention Class	Intervention Class
7	Digital Technology Foundations Career Investigations	Year-Long Fine Arts or 2 Semester Electives	Year-Long Fine Arts or 2 Semester Electives

Digital Technology Foundations

All students are issued a Chromebook in middle school. Students will learn to

- “touch type”
- correctly format documents including: Tables, Tabs, Reports, Letters, and Bulleted and Numbered lists
- use Google applications
- use input devices to prepare students for using tools that are becoming standard in the workplace and everyday life.

Career Investigations

- Students explore career options and begin investigating career opportunities.
- Students assess their roles in society, identify their roles as workers, analyze their personal assets and complete a basic exploration of career clusters.
- This course will assist students in planning their middle and high school curriculum choices and select career pathways or occupations for further study by creating an Academic and Career Plan.

Sixth Grade Health and Physical Education

Each student has Health and PE daily for a full year.

Activities include traditional team sports, individual sports, and recreational activities.

Students are assigned a locker in the boys or girls locker room.

Students dress out for PE.

HPE 6 includes units of physical activity and health instruction in the classroom.

Beginning Band

Band 6 is a year long elective.

Beginning Choir

Chorus is a year long elective.

Art 6

- Art is a year-long elective.
- Introduces a variety of media, artists, and techniques using basic principles and elements of color and design.

Exploratory Electives - The Wheel

Students not taking Elective Option 1 will have four quarterly exploratory courses:

CTE Exploratory Courses

- Robotics
- Agriculture Education
- Technology Education
- Family & Consumer Science

Fine Arts Courses

- Art
- Music
- Theater

For this option, students will rank their choices for exploratory electives courses. They are not guaranteed their first choices.

Intervention/Enrichment Period

- Students have two 20 minutes sessions of Enrichment each day (40 minutes total)
- Enrichment will include time for Advisory activities (Bruin Time), academic and intervention needs, homework and study time, and opportunities for enrichment activities.

Information about Course Registration

- During February, all fifth grade students will complete the online course registration during a visit from a BMS counselor.
- Middle School Program of Studies will be available online.
- Your child's online registration process should be complete by Friday, March 11
- After the online registration process is complete, students and parents can verify course selections through Parent Portal
- Initial Math placements and Intervention Placements will also be in Portal by the end of April.
- In mid-July, student schedules will be mailed home

Sixth Grade Teams

Your child will be part of a learning community called a “team.”

There are three sixth grade teams that consist of four core teachers.

Students spend four periods of their day on team for core classes. Each team provides instruction for mathematics, science, English/language arts, and social studies.

Sixth Grade Teams in Action

The design of the building allows us to create learning communities on each grade level. Each team is housed in a pod area with four classrooms, a science lab, and individual meeting rooms.

Sixth Grade Freedom

Some of the changes from elementary school that our sixth graders experience:

- Lockers
- Class changes on their own
- Cafeteria seating during lunch
- Changing for PE

BMS Counseling Department

- **Jordan Glick: Rising 6th graders**
- **Michele Parker: Rising 7th graders**
- **Katie Conaway: Rising 8th graders**
- **Vanessa Carter-Hollimion: Administrative Assistant**
- **Hailee Strobel: NRVCS Counselor**
- **Peter Golladay: NRVCS Counselor**

Some services we provide:

- **Scheduling of Parent/Teacher conferences**
- **Members of SAP team**
- **Individual and group counseling opportunities**
- **Bruin time character education lessons and activities**
- **Academic supports, such as study skills help & coordination of tutoring**
- **School-wide programs ie: Bullying Prevention Month**

Bully Prevention Posters

The Bruin Anti-Bullying Principles

1. We will not bully others.

2. We will try to help students who are bullied.

3. We will try to include students who are left out.

4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

PBIS Core Values

Positive
Compassionate
Courageous
Hardworking

Additional Services

- Academic and career planning
- Referrals to community agencies
- Scheduling & registration support
- Assist with SOL testing
- Parenting resources
- Crisis intervention services

What do 6th graders say is the best thing about Sixth Grade at BMS?

"The freedom and responsibility."

"All the new people that become friends."

"I love all of the teachers."

"The freedom and a chance to meet new friends."

"I think that the best part of 6th grade is that you are able to have more freedom."

"Definitely the electives. You get to do some stuff that you actually want to do."

What do 6th graders say is the most challenging thing about Sixth Grade?

"I think the most challenging part is remembering everything that you need to do."

"Advanced math 6"

"All the responsibilities, keeping up with your work, and improving yourself."

"There is a little bit more hard work and homework if you don't finish in class."

"Having more homework and trying to get to class on time."

"Getting up in the morning."

"The most challenging thing is that you have more challenging classes."

What do 6th graders say surprised them most about 6th grade?

"How interesting it has been."

"It's a lot less stressful."

"How hard it is to be tardy."

"The teachers are super supportive and kind and that the lockers aren't that hard to open when you really try."

"How relaxed everybody is."

"How fast I made new friends."

"How fun it is. I thought it was going to be boring but it is pretty fun."

The best advice 6th graders can give to 5th graders is:

"It's a lot different from elementary school, but most would agree that it's better."

"Branch out and be you."

"Don't stress about it."

"I would say that just doing your best and being you is the best way to start 6th grade. Be kind and respectful and you'll do great!"

"You don't have to be freaked out about 6th grade.You just need to try your best, and be kind."

"You will meet new people and meet new friends. Also you will be able to connect with people that you knew outside of school. Just go with the flow."

"It's going to be good."

"I think I would give the advice to not be nervous for 6th grade. You will have a better year if you have a positive attitude."

Your Questions

David Byrd, Interim Principal

Emily Redding, Assistant Principal

David Hurd, Assistant Principal

Jordan Glick, 6th Grade Counselor

Tammy Veit, Special Education Consulting Teacher

Your Questions

Core Curriculum Teachers

Jamie McCall, Carrie Sanderson, Sherri Newton
Math Teachers

Erin Bond, Lead Science Teacher

Tracy Goforth, Lead Social Studies Teacher

Sarah Moore, Marissa Wilder English Teachers

Speciality Teachers

- Sarah Eyre, AgriScience Teacher
- Janyne Mathena, HPE Teacher
- Lorraine Hedgepeth and Pam Dalton, Business Teachers
- Aja Eddins, Robotics
- Emily Hubbard, Emily Priddy, Lee Worley Art Teachers
- Harry Farmer - Band and Music Teacher
- Kate Foiles - Choir and Music Teacher
- Melissa Martin - Family & Consumer Science
- Emily Gruver - Theater Arts
- Tammy Veit - Special Education