

BMS BRAVES BULLETIN

March 2021

**CHALLENGE.
LEARN.
ACHIEVE.**



Principal's Message

Spring is almost here! The warmer weather the past few days has been wonderful. As is typical this time of year, students are starting to get a bit restless. Between pandemic burn-out, spring fever, and Spring Break right around the corner, many students are struggling to stay focused. Please encourage your child to hang in there for this last quarter! We want everyone to finish the school year strong.

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for families, staff, and the students during this past year. A year ago this week was when the shutdown happened, and our lives haven't been the same since. We have all learned and grown and struggled. The biggest thing, however, is we have done those things together. I could not be prouder to be a part of our Belmont family, and I hope you feel the same!
#BraveStrong

Mrs. Amanda K. Gilbert, Principal

Elective Selection for 2021-2022

Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are working on selecting their elective (RAS) classes this week. Students have a variety of classes from which to choose, and there are a couple of teacher recommended classes as well. As the schedule is built this spring and summer, students' preferences are given first priority, but please note that due to enrollment limits and schedule conflicts, students' top choices are not guaranteed.



SPRING BREAK

Spring Break is March 22-26. There is no quarantine requirement for travel, however, we do ask that students and their families continue to take precautions if they travel. As of today (March 10th), we have NO active COVID-19 cases and NO quarantines at BMS! We want to keep our numbers low as we finish up the school year, so your efforts to help with that are greatly appreciated!

Safe travels!

End of Quarter 3

Today (March 10th) marks the end of the 3rd quarter. Grades will be finalized on Monday, March 15th. Please check Power School for your child's Q3 grades. As we begin the final quarter, please encourage your child to continue to do his or her best. Missing assignments are the biggest issue for middle school students. You can always check Power School or contact your child's teachers to check on your student's progress.



Spring Sports

Spring sports (track and soccer) begin practices on March 15th.

All prospective athletes must have an approved IHSA physical form, medical consent card, concussion acknowledgement and signature form, a signed BMS Athletic and Extracurricular Code of Conduct form, and legal reporting waiver form on file in the Athletic Office to participate. Forms may be downloaded from the BMS web site or obtained from the MS Office.

Good luck to all participating athletes this season! Go Braves!



Meet Our New Guidance Counselor!

We are excited to introduce our new Guidance Counselor, Miss Olivia O'Connor. Miss O'Connor will be with us starting Monday, March 15th.

A message from Miss O'Connor:

Hello Bellmont Family! My name is Olivia O'Connor and I will be the middle school guidance counselor. I graduated from Leo Jr./Sr. High school in 2015, and then received my Bachelors from Purdue University West Lafayette in 2018. In a few short months I will graduate from the University of Saint Francis with my Master of Education in School Counseling. I currently live in Fort Wayne, and when I'm not at work, you can find my training for my first powerlifting meet, or at a local coffee shop. And because life is all about balance, I also enjoy traveling and the search for the world's best donut.

Best wishes for the rest of the school year,
Olivia O'Connor

ILEARN TESTING INFORMATION

ILEARN (which used to be called ISTEP+) will be starting around April 14th with practice tests. The finalized schedule will be announced after Spring Break. While we realize this year's testing will be significantly impacted by the events of the past year, we want to encourage students to do their best!

WAYS TO HELP

- Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep
- Encourage your child to eat breakfast (and lunch if testing in the afternoon)
- Let your child know they are more than a test score!
- Ensure your child arrives to school on time and try to schedule appointments outside the school day during the testing window
- Encourage your child to take his/her time and do the best he/she can!



BMS Attendance Information

Attendance for the 2020-2021 school year for BMS will look a little different than it has in the past to account for COVID-19 related absences.

- PLEASE call the office at 260-724-3137 to report your student absent. If your child is ill, you will be asked some questions to determine when your child will be allowed to return to school.
- If someone in your household is experiencing symptoms of COVID and are either waiting to be tested or awaiting test results, students will need to stay home until negative results are received or until the health department or physician determines it is safe for the student to return to school.
- Students who are quarantined or told to stay home will need to do their school work on Canvas. Students marked V19 are considered present as long as they are doing their assignments.
- If your child misses for a non-COVID related illness and we receive a phone call, your child will be marked EXC for an excused absence.
- If your child misses for a reason other than illness, we need a phone call in order to excuse the absence. Please see the BMS Student Handbook on the BMS website for a listing of excused absences.
- Absences without parent contact to the office will be considered unexcused and are subject to consequences.
- Absences for reasons other than those considered excused will be considered unexcused and are subject to consequences.
- Students who are absent for three (3) or more consecutive school days need a medical note unless other arrangements have been made with school administration.
- Excessive absences (without medical documentation or permission from school administration) are subject to referral to the appropriate agencies