



# Beatrice Middle School MESSENGER

John Jarosh, Principal  
Pam Henning, Assistant Principal  
Amy Randel, Counselor  
Angie Vogel, Counselor

December, 2018/January, 2019

Beatrice Middle School Newsletter

Vol. 27 No. 2

## *PRINCIPAL POINTS - JOHN JAROSH*

### **GROWING RESPONSIBILITY**

Picture your middle grader as a responsible young adult. How do you help him get there? Consider these ideas for planning the seeds of responsibility now so he'll grow into the dependable person you're trying to raise.

#### PROMOTE CONSISTENCY

Sticking to routines makes handling responsibilities a natural part of your tween's day. For instance, if he needs a tablet for school, he might charge it on the kitchen counter every night; or suggest that he bring his PE uniform home on Fridays so he can wash it.

#### PASS THE "BATON"

Imagine you're in a relay race and you're passing the "responsibility baton" to your child. Make the handoff by switching from giving instructions to asking questions. Say he's getting ready for a chorus concert. Instead of telling him to put on his dress shoes and find his sheet music, try saying, "What do you need to do to get ready?"

#### DISCUSS ACCOUNTABILITY

Experience is an excellent teacher—and it can make your middle grader more responsible. Share an example from your own life ("I forgot about my doctor's appointment, so now I have to pay a no-show fee"). Then explain what you learned ("I need to put appointments on my calendar right away").

From: "Middle Years"

# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Pam Henning

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As you know, we are offering after school activities again this year at BMS. It is my hope to expand the number and variety of activities being offered. I would love to have the community become involved with this wonderful experience. The activities run from 3:15 to 3:45 every day except Wednesdays. If you are interested or know someone who would like to become a part of the fun please give me a call. You would be committing to one day a week through the third quarter. A few of the activities that are going to be offered third quarter are basketball, choir, fitness room, book club, Apples to Apples, band, and Chess. A few ideas if you are interested might be embroidery, knitting, cards, board games (which we have), or coloring, which was a huge hit first quarter. Please consider sharing your time and talents with us. We would love to have you be a part of the Middle School community.



### MRS. SYKES' 6TH AND 7TH GRADE MATH PARENTS.....



Want to know what your child's math homework assignments are? Check out Mrs. Sykes' website. Here you will find the homework assignments for my 6th and 7th grade math students. This page is updated on a weekly basis and will let you know not only the daily assignments but also will keep you up to date when quizzes and tests will be. This is a great way to keep on top of things and will also allow you and your child to keep current on assignments when they are absent. Simply log on to [Beatripublicschools.org](http://Beatripublicschools.org), select **Middle School**, choose **Teacher Websites, Sykes**. The assignments are posted on the **Math 6 and Math 7** link. Add this link to your favorites or bookmarks so you have a direct link to the homework anytime!

### 6TH GRADE STUDENT COUNCIL

Anna Gleason      Ty Weichel      Alternate  
Morgan Maschmann      Blake Petet      Addison Koenig



### IN CHAIN LINK NEWS.....

The BMS Student Council collected money for the Gage County Christmas Wish List. For every 50 cents, one link was added to a chain located in the cafeteria. A total of 287.85 was raised by BMS!

3rd place : 6th grade—\$65.75  
2nd place: 8th grade—\$109.00  
1st place: 7th grade—\$113.10

Thanks to everyone who donated money. You will help put a smile on someone's face Christmas morning!

7th graders have earned a "lounge" party T.B.D.!



## MakerSpace

On Tuesday, November 13, the media center will again be hosting the BMS Maker space. What is a MakerSpace? "Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build, and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering, and tinkering." So our makerspace is just that. A place to get creative, try out new things, build, design, etc while eventually building toward real world solutions to problems existing out there today.

This year we are going to change the format a bit and allow more choice for students. Activities students may choose include Critical Thinking/Spatial Relations items like ThinkFun Maze games, ColorCube Sudoku, Rush Hour, iTrax, ++ which are like legos and/or Kanoodle. Science and Technology activities include Ozobots (mini robots programmed using 4 basic colors), Sphero-sphere shaped robots that use drag and drop programming to navigate the robot through different tasks, Makey, Makey Boards, BristleBots, Circuit Light Up Cards, LittleBits science kits, Snap Circuits and Bloxels, a beginning video game design activity. Craft/hands-on creations include 3D pens, paper bead jewelry, string art, beginning origami, corner bookmarks, adult coloring pages/bookmarks and scratch art.

Students are able to come to the MakerSpace on their assigned grade days during 8th period. In order to be eligible, students may not have an F in any class, no late work in any class, and no think times in the week prior to attending.



# COUNSELORS' QUIPS

Amy Randel, Counselor  
Angie Vogel, Counselor



## DON'T FALL INTO THE TRAP OF BEING YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER'S FRIEND

Your child is growing up before your eyes and may look more like a young adult than a young child. But remember: She is still your child and not your peer. She needs you to be the parent—and you need her to respect you and your rules.

To avoid falling into the friend trap:

**Require your child** to be respectful to you and other adults. Don't continue a conversation with her if she is being rude. Walk away and agree to talk to her when she is ready to speak respectfully.

**Insist that your child** continue to follow your rules. Middle schoolers don't need a long list of rules—just a few important ones that must be followed.

**Don't try to be the "cool parent"** in the neighborhood. You should be kind and caring to your child and her friends, but you are not "one of the girls." Children lose respect for parents who act like children.

**Do not make decisions** based on what would please your child and her friends. They might like it if you paid for them all to see an R-rated movie, but is it a wise parenting choice? Trust yourself as the adult and make decisions accordingly.

## HELP YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER START THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

College is years away, but that doesn't mean your child shouldn't start thinking about it and making plans for it now. Studies show that college graduates are more likely than non-graduates to:

- \* Live healthier, longer lives.
- \* Stay employed.
- \* Enjoy their jobs.
- \* Change jobs more easily.
- \* Earn significantly higher salaries.

To help your child begin focusing on higher education:

**Talk about his interests.** What does your child like to do? What are his passions? Whether it's graphic design or physical fitness, there's surely a college program geared toward it. He won't be enrolling anytime soon, but it's OK to "plant the seed" and get him thinking about how he can continue doing what he loves at the university level someday.

**Encourage him to set goals.** How does your child see himself in 10 years? As a college graduate? A successful executive? Ask him what he envisions and how he plans to get there. Specifically, talk about what he can do now (such as studying harder or taking tougher classes) to help him reach his goals.

**Widen his horizons.** There are too many careers to count, and odds are your child hasn't heard of many of them. So go online and research various professions. Get him excited about the different options available to him!

From: "Middle School Parents"

## SKILLS OF THE WEEK.....

- Dec. 3 .....Following Instruction
- Dec. 10 .....Working with Others
- Dec. 17.....Sharing Something
- Jan. 14.....Appropriate Voice Tone
- Jan. 21.....Accepting a Consequence
- Jan. 28.....Making An Apology

## KEEPING ON TOP OF YOUR CHILD'S GRADES.....

Staying on top of your children's grades is very important. All parents with internet access can have their own account to monitor their child(ren)'s progress.

Setting up your Parent Portal account is easy. Contact either Mrs. Barnard in the office at 223-1500, ext 1101 or email [abarnard@bpsnebr.org](mailto:abarnard@bpsnebr.org) or Mrs. Dittbrenner in the media center at 223-1500, ext 1116 or email [kdittbrenner@bpsnebr.org](mailto:kdittbrenner@bpsnebr.org).



# NOTES FROM THE NURSE



If your child has a fever (100.0 F or higher), for any reason, they should not return back to school until they are “fever free” for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducing medication. Do not send your child to school if they wake up with vomiting or diarrhea. When calling the school to report a sick child please be specific as to their symptoms or diagnosis. This will help us to track any outbreaks at Beatrice Middle School.

## Asthma/Allergy Action Plan

Any student diagnosed with Asthma or Anaphylaxis due to allergy (includes food allergy, bee sting allergy etc...) needs to have an updated Asthma/Allergy action plan on file in the nurse’s office every year. If you have not had your doctor fill one out yet for your student for this school year, please get this done ASAP. If we do not have one on file we will use the Rule 59 protocol for any life-threatening “breathing” emergency. For more information regarding Rule 59 please visit: <http://www.airenebraska.org/rule-59-protocol.html>.

**\*\*If your child requires an Epi-Pen for any allergy please make sure we have one for him/her prescribed by their physician in the nurse's office. Also, if your child requires a rescue inhaler for asthma, please make sure we have an inhaler for him/her in the nurse’s office.** Please remember to fill out a medication consent form when sending an inhaler with your child. If you would like your child to carry the inhaler with them this is also possible by marking the box in the medication consent form. This is especially important when your child is in PE class.

## Free Dental Clinic

FREE dental clinic open to children ages 5-18. Appointment and pre-screenings required. Contact Public Health Solutions District Health Department for applications, pre-screenings, appointments, and transportation arrangements.

When: Friday, February 1

1-844-830-0813

Where: UNMC College of Dentistry (Lincoln)

402-826-3880



## BMS WINTER SPORTS...2018-2019



### 7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball

7th Grade Coaches: Ms. Boucher/Mr. Campbell

8th Grade Coaches: Mrs. Sykes/Mr. Policky

<u>7th Grade Girls Basketball</u>		
Dec. 3	Crete	4:00 (H)
Dec. 6	Fairbury	4:00 (T)
Dec. 11	York	4:00 (T)

<u>8th Grade Girls Basketball</u>		
Dec. 3	Crete	4:00 (T)
Dec. 6	Fairbury	4:00 (T)
Dec. 11	York	4:00 (T)

### 7th & 8th Grade Wrestling

Coaches: Mr. Kaiser/Mr. Wells

Dec. 3	Tri County Invite	6:00(T)
Dec. 11	Crete	5:00(H)
Dec. 15	Seward Tourn.	9:00(T)



### 7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball

7th Grade Coaches: Mr. Brand/Mr. Stuart

8th Grade Coaches: Mr. Post/Mr. Hognlund

<u>7th Grade Boys Basketball</u>		
Jan. 17	York	4:00 (T)
Jan. 21	Wymore(B)	4:00 (T)
Jan. 22	Crete	4:00 (H)
Jan. 24	Fairbury	4:00 (H)
Jan. 28	Marysville	4:30 (H)

<u>8th Grade Boys Basketball</u>		
Jan. 17	York	4:00 (H)
Jan. 21	Wymore(B)	5:00 (T)
Jan. 22	Crete	4:00 (T)
Jan. 24	Fairbury	4:00 (H)
Jan. 28	Marysville	4:30 (T)



# STUDENTS OF CHARACTER



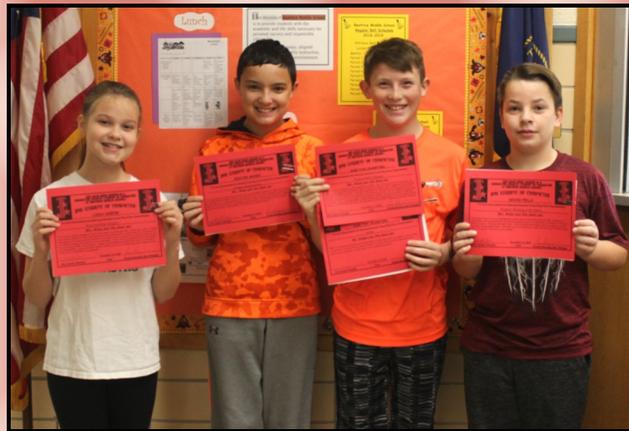
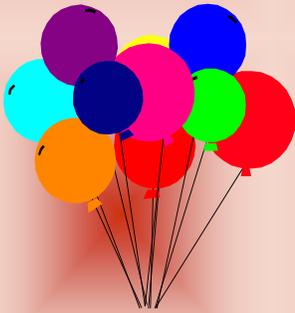
### Week of October 29

Left to right: Katelynn Wahlstrom, Autumn Bartlett, Macy Gronewold, Addison Hatcliff, Ava Breland, and Bryan Price.



### Week of November 5

Left to right: Parker Witulski, Bryanna Neal, Aubrie Simmons, and Melany Brockman.



### Week of November 12

Left to right: Lydia Hoefer, Boston Manes, Shelton Crawford, and Devin Pella.



Everyone is Welcome  
to Come to the  
Beatrice Middle School  
Library  
to View Exhibits

## 8TH GRADE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY EXHIBIT DISPLAYS

December 12-14  
8:30-2:30

THEME  
"Triumph and Tragedy  
in History"



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL FREE THROW CONTEST

The annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw contest will be held again this year at the Saint Joseph Catholic School gym on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019. This contest is open to boys and girls ages 9-14 based on their age as of January 1st. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the contest will start at 7:00 p.m. Everyone will receive a certificate of participation and a can of pop while the winners of each division will receive a medal and winner's certificate. The Beatrice Knights of Columbus Council 1723 invites all students to an evening of fun and competition. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please call Michael Policky at [\(402\)228-4642](tel:4022284642).

# VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION



“CELEBRATE” means to make known publicly. Beatrice Middle School students and staff held their annual Veteran’s Day Celebration honoring America’s military veterans with an assembly on the Friday before Veteran’s Day. Mr. Ben Essam’s and Mr. Mike Policky’s mentor classes hosted the assembly. The students of the classes were responsible for the organization of the assembly including set-up, contacting the guest speaker and the color guard, providing music, and for conducting the ceremony. The Veteran’s

Day assembly is an annual event that the eighth grade students of Beatrice Middle School have sponsored for over 19 years.

Members of the Color Guard of the American Legion Post #27 were guests at the assembly and brought the American flag into the assembly. The guest speaker for the program was Mr. Don Vetrovsky. Vetrovsky is a resident of Beatrice and takes pride in the fact that he is a Veteran. Vetrovsky served in the Army National Guard from 1970-1976. He served his time right here in Beatrice. In his speech, Vetrovsky made reference about his oath to the military and why we as citizens should show respect to our Veterans and honor them. He encouraged kids to honor Veterans and to focus on the sacrifices that they have made for us because "Freedom is not free." Vetrovsky also said to be sure to thank veterans for their service and sacrifices.

Those in attendance at the assembly were entertained by 8th graders who sang the National Anthem, the playing of “Taps”, first and second quarter Civics classes that sang the Preamble of the American Constitution, and The Kensington Chimers played three patriotic songs with their bells. The ceremony was topped off with the presentation of a Quilt of Valor. This honor was given to Mr. George Pinkerton who was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry during the Korean War. Mr. Pinkerton was presented the quilt made by Family Consumer Science teacher Jan Smaus, Jane Esau of the Gage County 4-H, and students from her 9th period activity. This was a great addition to the yearly program. The students involved in the assembly displayed many characteristics of the Character Counts program as well as the Boys Town Skills in which Beatrice Middle School participates. The students of Beatrice Middle School received several compliments from the veterans, guests, and administration present at the ceremony regarding the appropriate citizenship displayed during the assembly. The celebration is also being recognized by the Nebraska Secretary of State, John Gale, the Beatrice Daily Sun did a news story on the event, and KWBE/ KUTT and News Channel Nebraska were present and reported on the ceremony.

The staff and administration thank Mr. Essam, Mr. Policky, and the students of BMS for a job well done.





## 2019 WASHINGTON D.C. AND GETTYSBURG TRIP UPDATE



With only six months until our trip to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg we have 64 people signed up for the trip. Students are actively working to pay off their accounts, several have received FLAG-financial scholarships from World-strides, and most are looking to make some money through our fundraisers such as the trick-or-treating for education, Pastry puffin sale, jewelry, etc. The trip dates are May 28-June 1, 2019. All fundraiser sales are to be turned in by November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

I would encourage students to consider asking for money for Christmas and the holidays to put towards their upcoming trip. I would also encourage leaf raking, shoveling snow, babysitting, and asking people if they have jobs you could do for pay for the purpose of this educational trip. People support education and educational experiences—find them and they will help make this trip possible. I would also like to invite anyone else who may have considered signing up and who still would like to go. We have a few seats still available and there will be a late sign up opportunity in January. Watch for information when your child returns from Christmas break.

I would encourage all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders and parents who may be considering taking this trip in the future to start saving now to make the trip more affordable and realistic. The tentative dates for the 2020 Washington D.C. trip are May 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. That will be here before you know it and if you would like to make this a possibility for your child(ren), you need to begin saving now. The 2018 trip is costing each participant \$2,301.00. I will have informational meetings for your 2020 trip in February or March. Watch the school newsletter for further details.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving and Christmas season, count and appreciate the many blessings we have, and may you and your family spend quality time together over these holidays. As always, if you have any questions concerning the Washington D.C. and Gettysburg trip for 2019 or future years, please call Mr. Michael Policky, 8th grade American History/ Civics teacher at 228-4642.

### First Lieutenant Jonathan Policky Spends Day at the Middle School

First Lieutenant Jonathan Policky, son of Beatrice Middle School History teacher Michael Policky, spent his Veteran's Day speaking to 8th grade students at the middle school about why Veteran's day is important. He expressed that we need to recognize them for their sacrifices and share our thanks. He spoke to students about being in the ROTC during his college days at the University of Nebraska. He spoke to them about his training, classes, and education as well as his travels while being part of the Nebraska Army National Guard. He shared some of his responsibilities of being a leader like being in charge of over 5,000 soldiers while in the American Virgin Islands on a hurricane relief mission. He shared his equipment and many students were surprised at the amount of weight our soldiers carry on their back. Students also were able to experience MRE food packets that our soldiers eat and that was shocking to some the quality of food our soldiers receive. There were many good questions throughout the day and we thank First Lieutenant Policky for giving of his time to visit and educate us about the military life.



### SCHOOL BUS STOP SAFETY



One thing I'd like to bring to people's attention is school bus stop safety. This is what Nebraska State 60-6175 reads:

*Upon meeting or overtaking, from the front or rear, any school bus on which the yellow warning signal lights are flashing, the driver of a motor vehicle shall reduce the speed of such vehicle to not more than twenty-five miles per hour, shall bring such vehicle to a complete stop when the school bus is stopped, the stop signal arm is extended, and the flashing red signal lights are turned on, and shall remain stopped until the flashing red signal lights are turned off, the stop signal arm is retracted, and the school bus resumes motion. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor, shall be fined five hundred dollars.*

It has been noticed that some people are not following this law. The Beatrice Police Department has been seeking out these violators and the violators will be subject to a \$500 fine. The Beatrice Police Department is committed to the safety of the students in our community! If you have specific questions please contact me at one of the schools or the Beatrice Police Department, and have a safe and enjoyable school year.

Officer Timothy Price



To receive information on Beatrice Public Schools closing or a late start due to Inclement weather, please call:  
**223-1555**

**Middle School Holiday Concert**  
**December 13, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Hevelone Center**



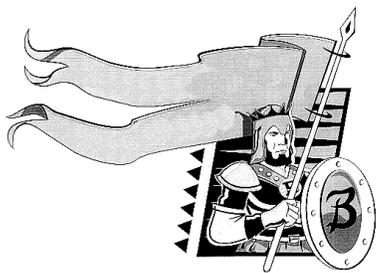
**LOST AND FOUND**

Please check the lost and found at the office for anything that may be yours. All unclaimed items will be distributed to area agencies Monday, December 17.



**BMS Messenger**  
**Editor**  
**Laurie Bloomquist**

**Beatrice Middle School**  
**215 N. 5th Street**  
**Beatrice, NE 68310**



The mission of Beatrice Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, staff, families, and community, is to guarantee all students achieve academic excellence and develop responsible citizenship by providing aligned, rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction that utilizes 21st Century tools in a system that is measurably among the best in the nation.