

BEATRICE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2021

PRINCIPAL POINTS BY ANDREW HAAKE



BMS Families,

Welcome back to 2021-2022! As your new building Principal, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the great things our students and staff have done in a few short days to open up this school year.

Our staff has worked for the last year and a half on laying the groundwork for implementation of a House System. We have sent nine teachers to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia to learn about the House System and bring its components back to BMS.

A House System places all students, teachers, and staff in a house (much like a team). At BMS our houses are: Reveur, Amistad, Isibindi, Altruismo, Tiyaga, Valente, Tapatahi, and Nishtaavaan. Each house represents a characteristic we want our students to embody. For example, Tiyaga is translated into the word "Perseverance" in the Filipino language.

Each house earns points for their effort and achievements academically, behaviorally, for attendance, and house competitions. The goal for each house is to earn the most points by the end of the year to win the House Championship! House points can be seen on TVs throughout the halls of BMS and the points update in real time!

On Friday, August 20th we kicked the House System off by all 440 students spinning the house wheel to see which house would be their home for their BMS career. Once students spun, they

headed to the gym to celebrate with their new housemates! At the time of this article, Isibindi is in the lead!

I will continue to provide updates on the House System as we move through the year via newsletters and social media, so I encourage you all to join in on the fun with us!

[HOUSE SORTING DAY VIDEO!](#)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S CORNER CRAIG STENDEL

Welcome to the 21-22 school year! I am so excited to start this journey with you as the Assistant Principal of Beatrice Middle School this upcoming school year. We are committed at Beatrice Middle School to making this experience for all of our students the best learning experience possible.



Originally I am from Pleasanton, Nebraska and graduated from the UNK. The past 15 years I have been part of the Buckeye Elementary School District on the west side of Phoenix, Arizona. I enjoyed teaching 6th - 8th grade math, overseeing the district athletic programs, and for the past six years being an Assistant Principal in the Buckeye District.

I strongly believe there are "Infinite Possibilities for all Students" and in working together with our students, families, community, and BMS staff we will be able to achieve the highest possibilities for our students! I am extremely excited about all the possibilities we have at Beatrice Middle School for our students and look forward to meeting you in the near future. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or thoughts you would like to share.

Have a great day!!

MEET YOUR BMS COUNSELORS!

MRS. (ANGIE) VOGEL

Students' Last Name A-M

Phone: (402)-223-1500 ext. 1104

Email: avogel@bpsnebr.org



Hi everyone! My name is Angie Vogel and I am a school counselor at Beatrice Middle School. I have been with Beatrice Public Schools since 2007. I am married and have two children. We live outside of Beatrice on a small acreage where we

have lots of chickens, ducks, a calf, and cats....my husband is trying to talk me into goats, so we'll see if those end up at our house, too! Besides chasing my kids and working on our "farm", I love to play volleyball, read, do anything outdoors, and try out new recipes.

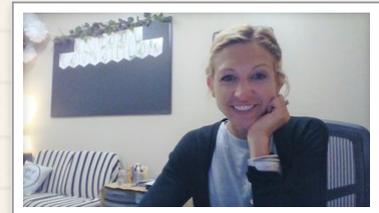
I love working at Beatrice Middle School for many reasons, but my number one reason is that the staff here are so caring. I am passionate about helping our young people be the very best they can be. Please know that I am here to help in any way that I can and I look forward to working with you/your student!

MRS. (JILL) RICE

Students' Last Name N- Z

Phone: (402) 223-1500 ext 1105

Email: jrice@bpsnebr.org



Hello! My name is Jill Rice and I am so excited to start this adventure as a School Counselor at Beatrice Middle School. For the past 10 years, I was an Elementary School Counselor here in Beatrice, but am now "growing up"...so to speak.

My husband, three kids, and I live just south of Lincoln, so I get a lot of drive time to jam out in my car! Besides going to my kids' activities, I also like to travel, hike, exercise, watch Marvel movies, and hang out with friends. Oh, yeah, and am most often found with either coffee or chocolate in my hands! I look forward to meeting people and am amazed by all the different life journeys! My goal as a school counselor is to help students see how far they've come, envision the possibilities ahead of them, and help create a successful road map to get them to where they want to be. This includes being available to work through any obstacles they might encounter along the way. I feel blessed to be able to work with you/your student during this exciting time of growth! Please come visit me or contact me anytime! Take care!

Please check out this [website](#) for more information on our counselors and the programs they facilitate at BMS.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE JENNIFER ZIMMERMAN

Medication Reminder

If you wish to send PRN (as needed) medication to school with your child for headaches, dental/ orthodontia pain, colds, etc... it must be brought in the original container and a medication consent form must be filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian, according to Nebraska Law. Medication must be



provided by parent/guardian, BPS does not provide as needed medication for students. If the medication is not in the original container and a consent form is not completed, the medication will NOT be given. You may pick up a form at the front office, the nurse's office, or print it off [here](#). Beatrice Middle School DOES NOT supply over the counter medications for students, these must be provided by the parent/guardian. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Help keep your child in his/her classroom throughout the school day!

1. Any open wounds or injuries should be covered/wrapped BEFORE coming to school.
2. Make sure your child has had breakfast BEFORE coming to school. It is not unusual for students to come to the nurse's office during mentor, 1st or 2nd periods with a stomachache. When asked what they had for breakfast the answer is often times "nothing." Please provide something for your child to "grab and go" as they head to school if they do not have time to sit down and eat at home.
3. Do not send your child to school if they wake up with vomiting or diarrhea.
4. 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.

Vaccine Alert!!

All students enrolling in 7th grade must provide evidence of having 1 booster of Tdap vaccine, given on or after 10 years of age. What does this mean? If you have a 7th grade student this year, they should have already gotten this vaccine. If they haven't you need to schedule a time for them to receive it and send documentation of this to school so we can enter it into their records.

Physicals

Just a reminder: if you have a current 7th grade student and forgot that they are required to have a physical before entering 7th grade, please get that done ASAP and turn into the nursing office.

Asthma Action Plans

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma or an allergy that leads to anaphylaxis such as food allergies, we need a new Asthma/Allergy Action Plan in their file every year. If you have not had your family physician fill one out for your child for this school year, this needs to be done as soon as possible. I will be sending out letters to parents of children who do not have updated plans for this school year. If your child needs an epi-pen for their allergy/asthma please bring that to the school as soon as possible. Also if your child requires an inhaler for their asthma please send it with them to school along with a medical consent form, especially when they are scheduled for PE.

Flu Shot Clinic

The flu shot clinic at Beatrice Middle School is scheduled for October 20.

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER..... TIMOTHY PRICE



GETTING BACK INTO THE SCHOOL ROUTINE

You may have noticed officers at the schools as you drop your students off. They are there for everyone's safety, but they are focused on the traffic/student safety.

Beatrice has a traffic law that states it is illegal to allow the loading or unloading of people in a lane of traffic, including alleyways, in a school zone. This was made due to safety concerns for students being dropped off for school.

What is required under this law is that you legally park next to a curb or in a parking lot and allow your passengers to exit your vehicle. At the Beatrice Middle School, there is ample parking available for short term drop off parking in the City of Beatrice/BPW lot adjacent to the alley off of 4th Street. The church parking lot at 4th and High Streets is also a common option used. Some parents choose to drop their students off on Ella Street next to the curb then they just have a short one block walk to the doors and driver's don't have to mess with the traffic on north 4th Street. Wherever you choose to drop your students off, please remember to park then let them out.

When our students are passengers in our vehicle we need to ensure they are wearing their seatbelts. Not only is it the law, but common sense that if we are in an accident our children have a much better chance to be uninjured if they are in a properly adjusted seat belt. Remember the driver of a vehicle will be the one ticketed if a student is not wearing a seatbelt.

The last law I want to talk to you about is Nebraska State Statute 60-6175. This statute states that all vehicles must stop when approaching a school bus with its stop arm extended. We continue to get reports of vehicles passing busses with the stop arm extended and I have instructed the bus drivers to notify me of offenders and I will follow up with that driver. The penalty of driving through a busses stop arm is a whopping \$500 plus court costs!

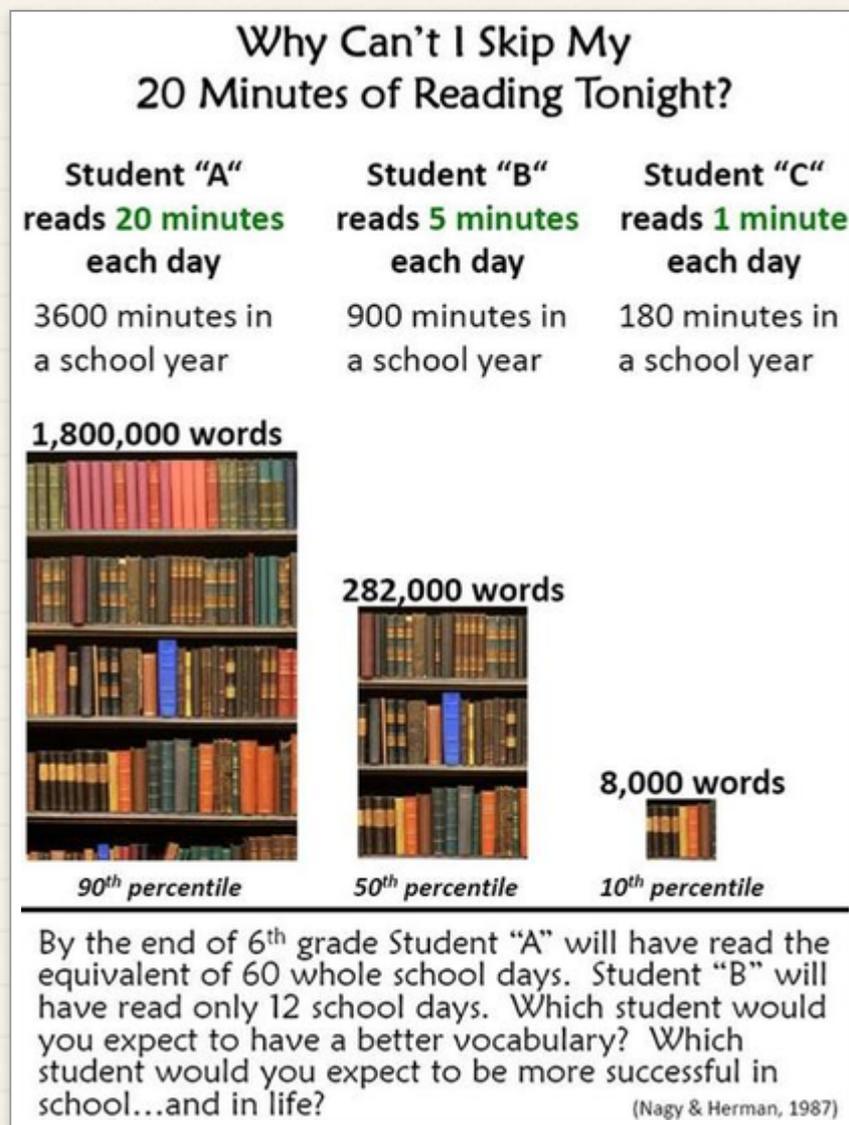
Our primary concern is for your student's safety; however, no one likes getting tickets so please don't violate these laws. If you have specific questions please contact me at the Beatrice Middle School or the Beatrice Police Department, and have a safe and enjoyable school year.

School Resource Officer Timothy Price

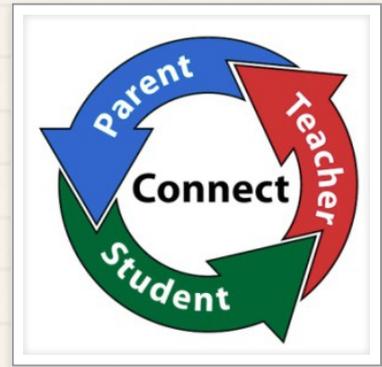
MEDIA CENTER NEWS..... KAREN DITTBRENNER, MEDIA SPECIALIST



Welcome back from the Media Center!! Reading is so important for your kids in so many ways. We are making a great effort this year in the media center to promote MORE reading among all middle school students through activities and contests. Ask your student what is happening with these contests. Better yet, ask them what book they are reading. They may protest a bit but it is important that you set expectations of reading every day, even if it is only 10 minutes. Together we can help our kids become more proficient and begin a habit/hobby they can enjoy the rest of their life.



Would you like to stay on top of your child's grades? Would you like to see if they did well on their last test? Would you like to make sure they are getting to class on time? Would you like to have heads up on when they need lunch money and be able to put lunch money on their account online? A Campus Portal account can help you with all of those things.



To get set up with an account, email either Annette Barnard at abarnard@bpsnebr.org or Karen Dittbrenner at kdittbrenner@bpsnebr.org. We will help you get started on the road to staying in the loop with all of the above mentioned things.



BMS PICTURE DAY!! SEPTEMBER 13

HUNTER'S EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Any student age 11 and up interested in Hunter's Education can join Mr. Kassmeier's google classroom for information and to sign up.

This online offering allows students to work at their own pace with video instruction and quizzes. At a "yet to be determined time", a 2 hour Hunt Safe class is needed to complete their coursework and earn a Nebraska Hunter's Permit. There is a cost of \$29.50 that is paid to the State of Nebraska Game and Parks as a vendor fee for the online class, the school makes no money. The online classes can be completed at home or in studyhall. Work in studyhall is permitted ONLY if allowed by teacher and upon completion of ALL classwork. Mr. Kassmeier may have to block students from the coursework in studyhall if students are not being responsible in their regular class work.



The code to join this google classroom is: 5geoqab.

Any questions please email Mr. Kassmeier at rkassmeier@bpsnebr.org or call 223-1500 ext 1147.

BEATRICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACTIVITY CARDS

Beatrice Public Schools activity cards are on sale at the middle school and high school offices. Prices are as follows: Student passes - \$25, adult passes - \$80, and Family passes - \$175.

Activity cards will admit you into any Beatrice Public Schools activity with the exception of conference and state events.



Help us, help kids, get ready to learn

We are hoping you will join us in helping all kids be ready to learn.

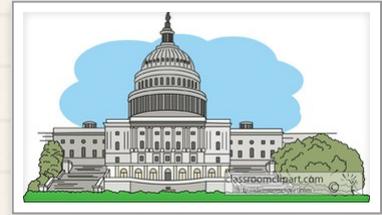
The Beatrice Educational Foundation's money from the Big Give will go to the Lady Mary's Fund. The Lady Mary's Fund will provide money to principals at each of the six buildings to be used for students with needs that make it difficult to learn. Students that come to school without the necessary supplies have a difficult time focusing on school work. Each student's needs are different and this fund will allow the principals the flexibility to get each student ready to learn.

For example, one staff member shared this story, "A couple of years ago I had a student with tennis shoes that were very worn out and really smelly. She wore them every day. I overheard her getting teased for it. I brought her a pair of my daughter's tennis shoes since they had the same size and she was so thrilled and proud to wear them. She teared up when I called her in privately and gave them to her."

This generosity by staff members happens regularly. We know many staff members spend their own money to help students and while this will not replace all of this we hope it will help a little. Please consider a donation on Sept. 10. Visit www.biggiveage.org to learn more. Call the BEF at 402-223-1539 or email dmartin@beatricefoundation.com with questions.

2021 WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP A HUGE SUCCESS – 2022 TRIP IN THE PLANNING STAGES

The 2021 Washington D.C./ Gettysburg/ Philadelphia trip was seen as a huge success as 62 students and parents spent 5 days and 4 nights enjoying the history, culture, government, and sites in and around Washington D.C. as well as the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, and the historic city of Philadelphia.



Four students had the honor of laying a wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, students experienced a wide variety of memorials and the Gettysburg Civil War Battlefield, they had the opportunity to see the Liberty Bell and eat authentic Philly Cheesesteak sandwiches, and many flew on a commercial airline for the first time. All came home tired and full of stories and experiences that will last for a lifetime. Michael Policky, retired Beatrice Middle School teacher, said that he felt everyone had great experiences and that many memories were made on this trip. He invites anyone who may be interested in making a trip in the future to visit with those who have first hand experiences. You won't regret making this investment.

As of press-time, there were 33 students, parents, and teachers signed up for the 2022 trip scheduled for Saturday, May 28th- Wednesday, June 1st. Mr. Policky will be holding informational meetings with all 8th grade students September 9th during their history classes and there will be an informational meeting concerning the upcoming trip on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 P.M. in the library of the middle school. All students and parents are welcome to come and find out more information about the upcoming trip. The deadline for registration for this trip is Thursday, September 30th. Fundraising opportunities will occur and Worldstrides offers Flag Scholarships to those that qualify for the financial assistance. These scholarships are on a first come first serve basis and they can be applied for via the Worldstrides customer service representatives. Also, those attending the meeting on the night of September 14th at 7:00 P.M. may get information on how to pick up a scholarship to offset their costs already that night.

Mr. Policky invites all to consider this once in a lifetime opportunity and to try to make it a reality for your child and yourself. He strongly encourages 7th and 6th grade students to set up a savings account now and put money aside each month so that it is not a financial burden, but a wonderful investment in your child's education. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Policky at 228-4642 or polickymike@gmail.com for more information.

FROM THE CAFETERIA

ALL students will again this year receive free breakfast and lunch.



Breakfast and lunch are an important part of a child's day. It's also important to know the way we handle the lunch accounts at the Middle School.

Deposits to lunch accounts can be made at the office or through Parent Portal. In order to cut down on processing time, we will only accept deposits of at least \$5.00. Please write the name of the child(ren) on the check. Students will need to have money in their account to purchase ala carte items. All insufficient checks will be deducted from the student's account along with a collection fee.

Students are limited to taking two low or non-nutritional items along with their lunch. Any parent with concerns or questions can call Ms. May at the Middle School at 223-1500, ext. 1111.



Please consider becoming a [TeamMates](#) mentor! We need you!

You will find an informational flier from TeamMates Mentoring of Beatrice [HERE](#). If you are interested in becoming a TeamMates mentor, simply fill out this [application](#), attend a training session with a chapter coordinator, and you will be matched with your youth!

BMS DRESS CODE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

* Hats, bandannas, stocking caps, head sweatbands, visors, and sunglasses will not be permitted to be worn inside the school building.

* Any clothing, which is cut, torn, ripped, see through, or exposes undergarments is prohibited.

* Any clothing, accessories, or jewelry, which has inappropriate statements, logos, slogans and pictures, or potentially dangerous will be prohibited in the building.



Shirts, Blouses, Sweaters, Sweatshirts

- a. All shirts must fit appropriately including size and length.
- b. Shirts or blouses exposing the midriff, shoulders and back will be prohibited.
- c. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, basketball shirts, etc., may be worn in combination with either a capped sleeve shirt or t-shirt that covers the shoulder. Sleeveless shirts, worn alone, are prohibited. Capped sleeve shirts must be worn on the shoulder.
- d. The neckline of shirts, dresses, etc. must be high enough to ensure modesty for students and does not expose undergarments.

Shorts

- a. All shorts must be of an appropriate length to ensure modesty.
- b. All shorts must fit around the waist and should not be rolled up at the waist.
- c. Boxers and swimming attire are prohibited.

Pants

- a. All pants must be of appropriate length.
- b. All pants must fit around the waist. A belt of appropriate length may be worn to ensure that pants fit appropriately. Belts must be worn tight and around the waist.
- c. Pajama bottoms and flannel/fleece pants may not be worn.
- d. Pants must be free of holes above the knee.

Dresses and Skirts

- a. The length of all dresses and skirts must be of an appropriate length to ensure modesty.
- b. Dresses with spaghetti straps or dresses that are sleeveless, must be worn in combination with a capped sleeve shirt.

Footwear

- a. Appropriate footwear will be worn properly during the school day.
- b. Bedroom slippers will be prohibited.

Coats

- a. Coats will not be worn in school during the school day.

Responsibility for dress rests primarily with the parents. They should see to it that their children are properly dressed for attendance at school. If in doubt, be conservative. If, in the judgment of the administrator, attire is disruptive to the educational process or offensive to the community or poses a safety concern, the student may be sent home or be required to change. Other discipline may be necessary for ongoing problems with this dress policy. The administration reserves the right to address any clothing or attire that may be a hindrance to the learning environment.

BELL SCHEDULES

SEPTEMBER, 2021 BMS CALENDAR



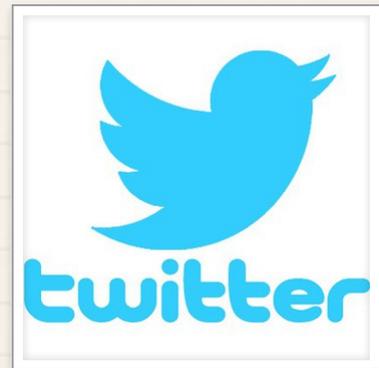
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