BMS - EIGHTH GRADE

NOVEMBER

NEWSLETTER

2026

CURRIUCLUM HIGHLIGHTS

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF COMPLETED AND UPCOMING TOPICS IN EACH SUBJECT.

SOCIAL STUDIES (WAY): In social studies, students have been learning about the early European exploration and colonization of North America. They've explored the journeys of key European explorers, the effects of colonization on Native American communities, and the beginnings of slavery in the colonies. Through these lessons, students are discovering how exploration, cultural exchange, and conflict helped shape the foundations of early American history.

In our recent warm-ups, students have also been making modern-day connections by examining how different countries are laying claim to the Arctic and comparing those disputes to the way nations handled territorial conflicts in the 1500s and 1600s. They've learned about international organizations and how these groups help countries work together to solve global challenges.

Up next, students will dive into how the English established colonies in North America and the lasting impact those settlements had on the development of the United States.

SCIENCE (SMITH): This month in science, we begin to wrap up weather and the force of nature and off to biomes of the world. Students will explore large, distance ecosystems that cover broad areas of the Earth and share similar coimate, plants, and animal communities. Each biome is defined mostly by its temperature and amount of rainfall (precipitation) — these two factors determine what kind of life can survive there.

By the end of the month, students will have a better understanding of how the biomes effect our lives and environment.

".Natural selection is nature's way of choosing the traits that help living things survive and thrive"

MATH 8 & ALGEBRA 1 (LUCAS):

- Math 8
  - Currently, students are learning how to write and solve multi-step equations with variables on each side.
  - Next, students will solve linear equations with one variable, including coefficents represented by letters.
- Algebra 1
  - Currently, students are graphing and writing equations to represent linear relationships.
  - Next, students will use functions to model relationships between two quantities.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (FRANKS): In English Language Arts, students are identifying sentence structures, clauses, and phrases. For reading, students are focusing on both direct and indirect characterization. Additionally, students are continuing to improve comprehension, reading, and writing skills. In the future, students will begin to draft the five-paragraph essay based on a music playlist that they would use for a hypothetical film of *The Running Dream*, a novel about a high school track athlete whose life seemingly falls apart after the amputation of her leg.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (TOTH):In language arts, we will be having our first test regarding *On the Far Side of the Mountain* which includes lots of vocabulary about tools that you would use while living off the grid.

MATH (TOTH): In math class, students are finishing up studying Scientific Notation and will be beginning to study rational numbers.

TABLE TALK

DITCH THE DINNER-TIME DRAMA, AND LET'S GET THOSE BRAINS BUZZING! "TABLE TALK" IS HERE TO RESCUE FAMILY DINNERS FROM THE DREADED, "WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?" WHICH WE KNOW <u>ALWAYS</u> RESULTS IN AN EYE ROLL AND TEENAGE-PITCHED, "NOTHING!"

- **MS. WAY (SOCIAL STUDIES)**
  Ask your student, what were the positive and negative effects of the Columbian Exchange?
- **MRS. FRANKS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)**
  Ask your student about the difference between direct and indirect characterization?
- **MRS. LUCAS (MATH & ALGEBRA 1)**
  - (Math 8) Ask your student what makes a like term?
  - (Algebra 1) What does slope measure?
- **MR. SMITH (SCIENCE)**
  Ask your student about the meteor shower this month and the location of Jupiter on Nov 10
- **MRS. TOTH (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATH)**
  What are you doing in school right now that we can use here at home?

Dream it! Plan it! DO IT!

ADVICE FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE TEAM!

- **MS. WAY**
  If your student could use a little extra academic support, we encourage you to sign them up for tutoring! Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Students will need to arrange their own transportation home. To register, please have your child ask their homeroom teacher for a tutoring form.
- **MRS. FRANKS**
  Keeping your locker clean will make things easier to find and reduce stress.
- **MRS. LUCAS**
  A new trimester is a great time for a fresh start. If you miss a day make sure to get/complete your make up work once you are back.
- **MR. SMITH**
  In science class, if you are lost, you need to reach out and ask for help. The best way is to use REMIND.
- **MRS. TOTH**
  Check your student's dashboard on IXL-see how many topics they have done and what they have left.

NOVEMBER

BMS - EIGHTH GRADE

NEWSLETTER

2026

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE NEWSLETTER AND PROGRESS REPORT!

STUDENTS CAN EARN BONUS POINTS IN SCIENCE BY RETURNING THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A GUARDIAN SIGNATURE BY NOVEMBER 21st!

WHAT'S NEW!

Help us build a better classroom—one pencil at a time!

We would be so grateful for any items you're able to donate to the 8th grade team.

- Pencils
- Binders
- Pencil top erasers
- Kleenex
- Hand sanitizer

THE BEARCAT AMBASSADOR



Landon Clark

ACCOUNTABILITY

ENRICHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT STUDENTS ARE LEARNING IN ENRICHMENT, A CLASS PERIOD DESIGNED FOR SUBJECT-SPECIFIC ENRICHMENT OR REMEDIATION.

ALGEBRA 1 ENRICHMNET: In Algebra 1, students will be learning all of the curriculum for both Math 8 and Algebra 1. While learning the Math 8 curriculum, students will be working together and on their own to complete higher-level application problems that involve real-world situations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ENRICHMENT: Students are practicing how to write engaging hooks and strong thesis statements to help improve their writing skills. These activities will encourage students to develop positive writing habits, express their creativity, and organize their thoughts clearly. By learning how to capture a reader's attention and introduce their main ideas, students will build confidence in their writing and develop the skills needed to create clear, thoughtful, and well-organized paragraphs and essays.

SOCIAL STUDIES ENRICHMENT: In enrichment, students are learning about the basics of U.S. citizenship. They've been exploring what it means to be a citizen, how people become U.S. citizens, and why individuals from around the world choose to migrate to America. Students have also taken a closer look at the naturalization process and discussed who is eligible to become a citizen or immigrant based on real-world examples.
Up next, students will shift their focus to community problem-solving. They'll learn that problems need solutions—and solutions require a plan! Students will brainstorm local issues and develop action steps they could take to make a positive difference in their community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE BEST TIME TO CONTACT AN EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER IS BETWEEN 8:15 AM-9:00 AM

- **MS. WAY (Social Studies)**
  724-239-4431 x2305
  EWAY@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US
- **MS. PEROZZI (English Language Arts)**
  724-239-4431 x2306
  MPEROZZI@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US
- **MRS. LUCAS (Math and Algebra 1)**
  724-239-4431 x2304
  TLUCAS@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US
- **MR. SMITH (Science)**
  724-239-4431 x2303
  GSMITH@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US
- **MRS. TOTH (English Language Arts / Math)**
  724-239-4431 x2307
  LTOTH@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US

LOOK AHEAD

- **NOVEMBER 11TH** VETERANS DAY - NO SCHOOL
- **NOVEMBER 12TH** PICTURE MAKE UP DAY
- **NOVEMBER 19TH** END OF FIRST TRIMESTER
- **NOVEMBER 20TH** PBIS MONTHLY INCENTIVE
- **NOVEMBER 25TH** 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL
- **NOVEMBER 26TH - 30TH** FALL VACATION--NO SCHOOL