BMS – EIGHTH GRADE

OCTOBER

NEWSLETTER

2026

CURRIUCLUM HIGHLIGHTS

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

SOCIAL STUDIES (WAY): In social studies, students are exploring how ancient peoples migrated to the Americas and how Native American cultures developed. They are also learning about the societies of West Africa and Europe in the 1500s, as well as the motivations that led Europeans to explore new lands. As we move forward, students will study the competition among European countries for control of the Americas between 1492 and 1700. This unit also covers the impact of European conquest on Native American groups, the culture of Spanish colonies, and the beginnings of slavery in the Americas.

SCIENCE (SMITH): This month in science, we will be exploring weather and the force of nature. Students will explore weather patterns, tools used by meteorologists, and how forecasts are made.

- Meteorology is the scientific study of the atmosphere and the processes that cause weather and climate conditions. It combines elements of physics, chemistry, and earth sciences to understand and predict atmospheric phenomena.
- Meteorology – is the science dealing with the atmosphere and its phenomena, especially as they relate to weather and climate. It involves observing, analyzing, and forecasting atmospheric conditions.

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

"The atmosphere is a chaotic system, and meteorology is the science of finding order within that chaos." — Edward Lorenz, meteorologist

MATH 8 & ALGEBRA 1 (LUCAS):

- Math 8
  - Currently, students are learning about the real number system by identifying, calculating, and estimating irrational numbers and comparing them to real numbers.
  - Next, students will be studying and using properties of rational and irrational numbers.
- Algebra 1
  - Currently, students will be writing and solving equations with variables on both sides.
  - Next, students will solve linear equations in one variable, including equations with coefficents represented by letters.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (FRANKS): In English Language Arts, students are continuing to add to their writing "toolbox", focusing on using transition words, lead-in phrases, MLA citations, and clear explanations. Additionally, students will be introduced to their first creative project and presentation this year--creating a symbol that represents them to share with the class. For reading, students are wrapping up their unit on short stories with Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death".

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / MATH (TOTH): We continue to touch on grammar, math skills, testing strategies and vocabulary in our daily warm ups. We have started to explore some spooky stories like Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". We will also be beginning to work with ratios and rates. Students will have opportunities to review grades, discuss missing assignments and how to improve their grades. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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 ALWAYS RESULTS IN AN EYE ROLL AND TEENAGE-PITCHED, "NOTHING!'

- **MS. WAY (SOCIAL STUDIES)**
  Ask your student, what makes their generation, Generation Z, unique from the other generations? How did the Founding Fathers use ideas from the Iroquois Confederacy when making the Constitution?
- **MRS. FRANKS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)**
  Ask your student about the symbolic meaning of their favorite color.
- **MRS. LUCAS (ALGEBRA 1 & MATH)**
  Ask your student, "what makes a number rational verses irrational?"
- **MR. SMITH (SCIENCE)**
  Ask your student, "What type of cloud produces Thunderstorms? What do we call water that falls from the atmosphere? What is the term for the boundary between two air masses with different temperatures?"
- **MRS. TOTH (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATH)**
  Ask your student what they are reading in school? See what they can tell you about it.

Dream it! Plan it! DO IT!

ADVICE FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE TEAM!

- **MS. WAY (SOCIAL STUDIES)**
  Students will receive a study guide about a week before each chapter test. Completing it is a great way to review and earn bonus points on the test.
- **MRS. FRANKS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)**
  Sleep is crucial for learning. Establish a bedtime routine and limit screen time before bed.
- **MRS. LUCAS (ALGEBRA 1 / MATH)**
  Reminder: ALL math IXL's are due November 13th by 11:59 PM. You have until the end of the trimester to get them in, but don't get behind!
- **MR. SMITH (SCIENCE)**
  In science class, keeping up with homework and labs so you don't fall behind will help you succeed.
- **MRS. TOTH (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/MATH)**
  Have your student show you their IXL Dashboard. At this point, they should have completed many "starred" IXL topics to 80% for all classes.

BMS - EIGHTH GRADE

OCTOBER

NEWSLETTER

2026

THE BEARCAT AMBASSADOR



JAYLEIGH BRUNNER

RESPECTFUL

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
- Kleenox
- Hand sanitizer

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

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

STUDENTS CAN EARN TWO BONUS POINTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY RETURNING THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A GUARDIAN SIGNATURE BY OCTOBER 16TH!

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 revisiting and reinforcing previously learned skills: different parts of speech and their functions.

SOCIAL STUDIES ENRICHMENT: Students are currently studying their generational identity as members of Generation Z, examining the characteristics that make their generation distinct from those that came before it. In addition, students are learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship at multiple levels—home, school, community, state, and federal. This unit encourages them to consider both their unique generational perspectives and the important roles they play as responsible citizens in a democratic society.

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE BEST TIME TO CONTACT AN EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER IS BETWEEN 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

- **MS. WAY (Social Studies)**
  724-239-4431 x2305
  EWAY@BENTWORTH.K12.PA.US
- **MRS. FRANKS (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

- OCTOBER 13- PICTURE DAY
- OCTOBER 15 - PBIS MONTHLY INCENTIVE
- OCTOBER 28 - STUDENTS ROTATE SPECIALS
- NOVEMBER 11TH - VETERANS DAY - NO SCHOOL
- NOVEMBER 12 - PICTURE MAKEUP DAY
- NOVEMBER 19 - END OF FIRST TRIMESTER
- NOVEMBER 25 - 3-HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL
- NOVEMBER 26-30 - FALL VACATION NO SCHOOL