

# Middle School News, Quarter 3, 2020



Bethlehem ACADEMY  
INSPIRING TRUTH SINCE 1863

Dear Families,

Your child has many teachers supporting them throughout the day, but as a parent you may not be sure how to share information with all of your child's teachers. Study hall teachers meet with students four days a week, serve as advisors to help guide students in study habits, and monitor progress in all of their classes. These study hall teachers are your main point of contact when you need to share something with all of your child's teachers.

When you share something (i.e. my child had a rough morning) with your child's study hall teacher, that teacher can pass along the information to the rest of your child's teachers. The study hall teachers are listed below. Check in with your child to see which teacher is his or her study hall teacher.

6th grade: Mrs. Cina and Mrs. Duecker

7th grade: Ms. Coller and Ms. Ricker

8th grade: Mrs. Kohl and Mrs. Smisek

We would ask that you continue to contact the office regarding attendance information.

Please feel free to call or email us at school if you have any further questions regarding middle school.

Thank you for partnering with us at BA,  
Middle School Teachers

## Service Hours

One of the requirements for religion class is for each student to complete at least four hours of service per semester. The end of the semester is on Friday, May 29. For the service hours to count for the second semester, service hours must be completed during the dates of second semester and be documented by your student's religion teacher.

## Middle School Lock-In

Mark your calendar for March 20th for the annual Lock-In. This middle school student council-sponsored event is a great night for the middle school students and many chaperones are needed for this event.

## Middle School Staff

Mr. Chuck Briscoe-president

Mrs. Angela Cina-MS 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade math, MS resource teacher, 6th grade homeroom & study hall

Ms. Caryn Coller-MS social studies, 7th grade homeroom & study hall

Mrs. Celeste Donlon-8<sup>th</sup> grade religion

Mrs. Mary Duecker-MS English, 6th grade homeroom and study hall

Mr. Scot Gardner – MS band

Mr. Jason Hillesheim-6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade art, 6<sup>th</sup> grade religion, and 8th grade homeroom

Mrs. Kris Kohl-MS resource teacher, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion, 8th grade study hall

Mr. Matt Knutson-7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical education and 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom

Mr. Richard Nystuen-8<sup>th</sup> grade industrial tech

Mrs. Katie Opsal-6<sup>th</sup> grade physical education

Miss Cassie Ricker-MS choir, music appreciation, 7<sup>th</sup> grade study hall, 6<sup>th</sup> grade religion

Sr. Melissa Schreifels-8th grade algebra and study hall

Mr. Jacob Schuman-guidance counselor

Mrs. Julie Smisek-MS science, 8th grade homeroom and study hall

Mr. David Wollin-principal

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 18 & 19 Shadow Days - Invite a prospective student to BA to shadow you for the day.

Feb. 23 Pancake Breakfast

Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday

Feb. 28 Band and Choir Winter Concert (beginning at 6:30 pm)

March 5 Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 6 End of Quarter 3

March 9-13 Spring Break

March 20 Middle School Lock-In

March 25-26 6th Grade Field Trip

April 4 BABS Night

Congrats to the Middle Science Olympiad Team for competing this past Saturday, medaling in six events, and taking home an overall team trophy. All of your hard work paid off! I'm so proud of all of you! -Mrs. Smisek

# Classroom Happenings

## 6th Grade

English: We've just finished reading *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. It is a novel set during the dust bowl in Oklahoma. The book is written in prose poetry and now the 6th graders are trying their hands at writing a prose poem with sensory details.

Math: Sixth graders continue their study on rates and ratios. Ask them to show you their progress on their foundation skills, found on Google Docs.

Science: Sixth graders have been studying speed and acceleration, identifying trends in graphs, and calculating speeds of various objects.

Social Studies: Sixth graders have explored Minnesota's involvement in the Civil War; in fact their lesson at the History Center examined the Minnesota First. Their next topic is the U.S. Dakota War of 1862 and preparing topics for the Northern Lights extended field trip.

Religion: Sixth graders are continuing to learn about the topics of The Church, Morality, Sacraments, and the Kingdom of God. We are excited to dive into these topics and learn how we can live to be like Christ.

## Teacher Wish List:

- Many students could use a refill on their pencil supply.

## 7th Grade

English: *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson has the 7th graders reading about the Revolutionary War from the point of view of a slave girl named Isabel. We are just beginning to write double entry journals in response to the text.

Math: Seventh graders continue their study on proportions and similar figures. Ask them to show you their progress on their foundation skills, found on Google Docs.

Science: Seventh graders have been studying the plant kingdom, differentiating between nonvascular and vascular plants and identifying plant anatomy. Students will also evaluate the importance of plants in our day to day lives.

Social Studies: Seventh graders have finished their study of the Civil War and are beginning the exploration of Reconstruction. We will also be building on the immigration lesson from the History Center field trip.

Religion: We are studying morality, virtues and the sacraments. We complete daily reflective journals and attend the Adoration Chapel each week. We are reading the novel *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*, a book about a boy whose world is turned upside down when he's forced to deal with his brother's illness.

## 8th Grade

English: We are reading *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson as our drama study. Students are learning the importance of dialogue and stage direction in building the audience's understanding of character and plot. We will complete this study by comparing the play with the movie adaptation.

Math: Students are acquiring foundational and fundamental algebra 1-2 skills. They started the semester studying the properties of exponents. Now they are working with polynomials: classification, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and factoring. Later in the year, we will be using these skills to solve quadratic functions and equations.

Science: Eighth graders have been studying fossil formation and the geologic time scale and are creating geologic travel guides. Our Wolf Ridge trip is finally here. Students are experiencing the great MN outdoors in Finland, MN, learning various science topics, actively participating in outdoor activities, and bonding as a class.

Social Studies: The eighth grade has just finished exploring the countries of Latin America. Next area of exploration will be the European Union and the Aral Sea.

Religion: Eighth grade has been studying The Church as a Christian family and has also discovered ways we honor God, which include going to Sunday Mass and keeping the Ten Commandments. We complete daily reflective journals and attend the Adoration Chapel each week. We are also reading the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. The novel follows the story of three different young people who become refugees: Josef, a Jewish boy who lives in Nazi Germany in the 1930's; Isabel, a Cuban girl in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015. We are learning about empathy, character, and endurance.