



WELCOME TO 6TH GRADE

COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

6th Grade Q&A

Who are my 6th-grade teachers?

You will have a different teacher for each subject area. Below, you can find a list of your 6th-grade core teachers. Each link will take you directly to that teacher's webpage.

Science: [Mr. Corkins](#)

Social Studies: [Mr. Adams](#)

Literacy: [Mrs. Auffert](#) or [Mrs. Williams](#)

Math: [Mrs. Larkin](#), [Mrs. Richardson](#), or [Mrs. Adams](#)

You can access the [Middle School Staff Directory](#) webpage to see all teachers at BMS!

What supplies do I need in 6th grade?

The 6th-grade supply list can be found on our district website or by [clicking here](#).

When can 6th-grade students get their Chromebooks?

Students will receive their Chromebooks during WIN time on the first day of school. Parents/guardians filled out a technology contract during the student registration process.

What will my daily schedule look like?

6th-Grade Schedule for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

8:00-8:48 1st Period (Core Class) (1st period is slightly longer for announcements)

8:52-9:34 2nd Period (Core Class)

9:38-10:20 3rd Period (Exploratory)

10:24-11:06 4th Period (Core Class)

11:07- 11:37 Lunch

11:41-12:23 5th Period (Core Class)

12:27- 1:09 6th Period (Band/ Choir/ IDM)

1:13-1:43 WIN ("What I Need" Math and Reading Intervention)

1:47- 2:29 7th Period (Core Class)

2:33- 3:15 8th Period (Core Class)

**Core Classes include math, literacy, science, and social studies.*

**Math and Literacy classes are 2 periods in length (approx 84 minutes). Social studies and science classes are 1 period in length (approx 42 minutes).*

6th-Grade Schedule for Early-Out Wednesdays

8:00 - 8:32 1st Period (Core Class)

8:36- 9:03 2nd Period (Core Class)

9:07- 9:34 3rd Period (Exploratory)

9:38-10:05 4th Period (Core Class)

10:09 - 10:36 5th Period (Core Class)

10:40 - 11:07 6th Period (Band/ Choir/ IDM)

11:11 - 11:33 Advisor

11:34 - 11:56 Lunch

12:00 - 12:27 7th Period (Core Class)

12:31 - 12: 58 8th Period (Core Class)

1:02 - 1:30 WIN ("What I Need" Math and Reading Intervention)

Will there be homework in 6th grade? Where will assignments be posted?

You can expect to receive an age-appropriate amount of homework in 6th grade. All homework assignments will be posted on the [6th-Grade Planner Page](#). We highly recommend that you save the link to the 6th-grade Planner page. Here, you can access each teacher's daily agendas, homework assignments, and unit plans for each core class!

What is "Advisory" time?

Advisor time is only on Wednesday. Teachers use a curriculum called Character Strong to teach character lessons to students. We cover many topics such as relationship skills, self and social awareness, responsibility, respect, emotions, and much more.

What does WIN stand for on my schedule?

WIN stands for "What I Need." This time is designated for reading and math interventions. Our district uses FAST data to determine our students' math and reading needs. Some students are receiving additional support and practice, while others may be receiving extension opportunities.

What does IDM stand for on my schedule?

IDM stands for "Independent Decision Making" and is a study hall time for students who are not participating in band and/or choir.

Will there be a recess in 6th grade?

We do not have recess time built into the 6th-grade schedule. Sometimes, the teachers build in "brain breaks" throughout the week and allow students to play games outside.

What is “standards referenced grading?”

Ballard Middle School uses a standards-referenced grading (SRG) system. All information about standards-referenced grading can be found on our [district website](#). Here, you can find all unit plans for every 6th-grade teacher!

Will my child still be receiving a letter grade if teachers are using standards-referenced grading?

Yes. You will still see an A, B, C, D, or F letter grade on Infinite Campus. Report cards will no longer be sent home each quarter. Grades are continually updated via Infinite Campus. You can download the Infinite Campus Parent Portal app.

Does each student get their own locker?

Yes! Each student will have a padlock on their locker. [This video](#) explains how to open a student padlock. We highly recommend practicing your locker combination on back-to-school night! Students may also bring their own locks for their P.E. lockers.

Where can I access the middle school announcements?

The middle school announcements will be read over the intercom each morning to the students. You can also access the middle school announcements via our district’s webpage by [clicking here](#).

What should I bring to class on the first day?

Bring a pencil and your schedule to each class on your first day. Your teachers may post something on the board or in the hallway if any extra materials are needed.

What extracurricular activities are offered in 6th grade?

Extracurricular athletics are not offered until 7th grade at BMS. However, 6th-grade students are allowed to sign up to be members of the student council.

What is the MAD team?

M.A.D. stands for Making a Difference. This is a group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have been selected by the teachers to help recognize all the great deeds and accomplishments the student body has done throughout the year. The purpose of this group is to improve the culture and climate of the middle school. We have amazing students who do awesome things both in the classroom and in our community. They should be recognized for their efforts. “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

What is PBIS?

PBIS stands for “Positive Behavior Intervention and Support.” Students can receive credits from their teachers if they demonstrate the “Bomber 3” (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Have Self-Control). Students can use their credits to buy fun things from the Bomber Shop!

Where should I go if I arrive at school before 7:50 a.m.?

Students who arrive at school before 7:50 may either wait in the gymnasium or eat breakfast in the cafeteria.

Who should I contact to report an absence?

The Infinite Campus parent app has an “absence request” feature. This request will notify the school directly. You can also contact the Middle School office at (515) 597-2815 or the BMS secretary, Mrs. Hokel, at ahokel@ballard.k12.id.us.

Are cell phones allowed at BMS?

Cell phones are not allowed during instructional time. Each classroom has a phone holder where phones will be placed during class time. Students are allowed to check their cell phones during passing periods and at lunchtime.

What else should I know?

Your teachers are here to HELP make this transition go as smoothly as possible. We are happy to help you with your lockers and schedules and assist with any other questions that you have. Try your best to relax and know that we are all in this together! Our assistant principal, Ms. Konek, will also be hosting “Sip-N-Chats” throughout the year where families can come to group meetings and ask questions. Be on the lookout for emails from Ms. Konek.

Can I walk through the building before school starts?

Yes! The Middle School will be open on the following days and times for students to walk through their schedules and tour the building:

Date	Time
August 11th	8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
August 12th	8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
August 15th	8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Additional Helpful Links

- [Links to Ballard School District Social Media Platforms](#)
- [2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Ballard Food Service](#): Lunch Menu, Lunch Payments, Etc.

