

August 20, 2021

Dear 8 Teal Parents & Guardians,

We have had a great two weeks with your students! We've some true leadership, kindness, and critical thinking in our classes.

We are also seeing very high rates of absence, up to 14% of our team has been out on any given day this week. We completely understand and appreciate the need for kids to be home when they are sick and possibly contagious! Please continue to take great care of your children! Please ALSO remind students to check google classrooms for each teacher, and that each of us posts assignments in our own ways. Students should only reach out with questions AFTER doing everything they can to find information on Google Classroom. That being said, we DO appreciate the kids who are working hard to keep up while they are at home and returning to school when they are feeling better WITH work started!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to school night is Wednesday, August 25th!! order to accommodate the parking lot "situation" hear you!) 7th grade parents are welcome from 5-6, we ask that 8th grade parents come from 6-7pm.

8th grade parents should plan on coming early and parking a long way away (possibly even on the West side of Vista). The parking lots will already full with 7th grade parents who will probably not

have left before you arrive! Students should NOT come to BTSN, as we do not have enough seats for parents AND students at this event. Parents SHOULD bring a copy of their child's schedule and know what team their child is on. 8 Teal is located in the southeast corner of the building, 2nd floor. The easy way to find it is to enter the building and go diagonally across the commons (away from the stage and large staircase). Of course, when you have the elective meeting, you'll be pointed in the right direction! Please remember that we do not have enough time for individual parent conferences at BTSN, but will be holding conferences in a few short weeks.

- 7th Electives - 5:00-5:15 in commons
- 7th Teams - 5:20-5:55
- 8th Electives - 6:00-6:15 in commons
- 8th Teams - 6:20-6:55

School Photo Info

School photos will be taken on Wednesday, August 25th, during Social Studies Classes. Students should come prepared for these photos. Please check the school website and communication for information on ordering the photo packages.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

School Pictures--For 8 Teal, photos are Wednesday 25th through Social Studies

Back To School Night--Thursday, August 25th

Student Led Conferences--Wednesday and Thursday, September 15 & 16

Schedules Ahead:

Week of August 23-27

Monday: Normal 7 Period Day

Tuesday: Normal 7 Period Day

Wednesday: Normal 7 Period Day

Thursday: Normal 7 Period Day (Lockdown Drill in Period 1)

Friday: Normal 7 Period Day

Week of August 30 - September 3

Monday: Normal 7 Period Day

Tuesday: Normal 7 Period Day

Wednesday: Normal 7 Period Day

Thursday: Normal 7 Period Day (Fire Drill in Period 3)

Friday: Normal 7 Period Day

NOTE: Labor day is September 6th!!

Language Arts:

Welcome to LA! I am excited to start a year of reading, writing, vocabulary, speaking, listening, and learning together. For homework, the basic language arts expectation is 30 minutes of reading, five days a week with the general guide of reading a book every two weeks. We'll visit the library often, and students are welcome to bring books from home. When we study a book as a class, students will have specific guidance on how to engage with and annotate their texts. Additionally, you will see various writing assignments at some stage of the drafting process. While you are welcome to be a reader on these pieces, one of the goals of 8th grade language arts is for students to take ownership of the editing and revision process.

Language Arts 8: Students will begin the year with a letter to me in response to one I will share. This piece establishes our baseline for writing goals, and also allows me to get to know students as individuals. This class will follow the Colorado State Standards for 8th Grade.

Advanced LA: Students will begin the year with a letter to me in response to one I will share. This piece establishes our baseline for writing goals, and also allows me to get to know students as individuals. We will also dive into a quick study of Avi's documentary novel, *Nothing But the Truth*. This class will follow the Colorado State Standards for 8th Grade and 9th grade. Some assignments and units will coincide with the 8LA classes.

Math:

We have had a GREAT first two weeks! I can't tell you how excited I am to work with your students this year. Any level-changes that appeared to be necessary will be communicated with families over the weekend. If you have any questions, please reach out by email.

This is also a gentle reminder that students were asked to bring a MATH only 2 pocket folder that STAYS in math, as well as a math only spiral notebook. Mr. Elliot found an assignment of his had math notes on the back because students were using 1 notebook for math and social studies all mixed together, and now the notes have been turned in to SS and are no longer in their math notebook! Please check to ensure your student has their supplies, I did put a "supply check" in IC this week for your information.

In upcoming weeks, students will be working on very different skills based on their math classes.

Math 8: This week we really worked on identifying the relationships between the angles created when parallel lines are crossed by a transversal. It's a vocabulary-heavy unit, so we practiced with a variety of games and activities as well as our first homework assignments. We took our first exit slip (content knowledge grades) and submitted our first warm ups. Next week we will be working with the same lines, but using variables to find missing values in the angle relationships. Soon after, we'll begin to use algebra to find missing values in the angles in triangles. (8.G.5, 8.EE.7)

Algebra: This week we did a pretty heavy-review on solving equations and graphing linear equations. Both of these are skills that should have been mastered in 7th grade before students landed in Algebra. For students who are struggling with these pre-requisite skills, ACCESS as well as before-school tutoring are available. We will quickly move into other ways to write linear equations, such as standard form, writing an equation from a point and a slope, and from two points. (8.EE.7, A-SSE-1, A-REI-1, A-REI-3)

Science:

This week, we will finish our study of density and measurement. The final assessment will be on Thursday. If students need any extra help preparing for the assessment, I will be in the pod area between 7:00 and 7:30 to answer questions. They can also send me an email with any questions.

Afterwards, we will start studying heat. It is the study of how thermal energy moves from one place to another. We will be working on it for about 2 weeks.

Integrated Wellness (P.E./Health):

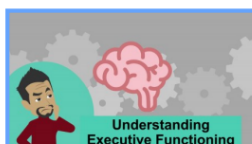
Our goal of keeping students physically active every day in IW is well underway. This week we worked on skills and game-play for soccer, as well as incorporating cardio and flexibility. Next week, we'll be in the gym (except for Tues. and Wed. due to Student Pictures) playing team-building games focused on strategy and teamwork.

Social Studies:

We have developed an understanding of our course for the year and the birth and growth of the United States, with our theme of "What unites and divides us as a nation?" The students have learned about the six unifying social studies concepts, our 8 units and been introduced to the first colonies in North America.

Executive Function Basics for Parents

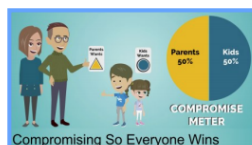
If you have a child with executive function challenges such as getting stuck or overwhelmed, or trouble with following directions, then these videos provide simple strategies that parents can use immediately. These short, engaging, videos and animations feature real-life situations, practical advice from experts, parents sharing their wisdom, and easy to understand explanations. (Click on each image to be taken to that video).



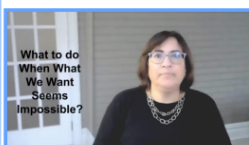
This animation introduces parents to what executive functions are and what problems with executive functioning look like. It introduces simple steps parents can take to help their children.



In this webinar, an expert explains how children and parents can both get more of what they want through motivating strategies.



Compromising helps everyone get what they want. This animation explains the different types of compromise and how they can be used so that both parents and their children can walk away with something positive.



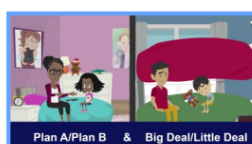
Sometimes what we want is not possible. This webinar features an expert explaining what to do in these situations to help your child.



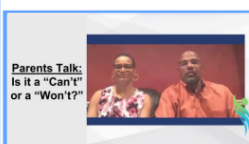
This animation shows parents how they can help their children manage disappointment when things don't go as planned by "expecting the unexpected."



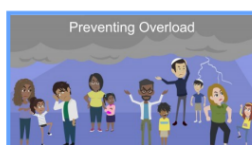
Children with executive function challenges can easily get overwhelmed. In this video, an expert gives simple tips for breaking tasks down into steps in order to get things done.



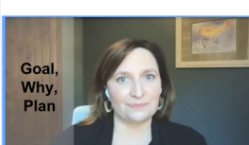
Coming up with multiple plans helps to keep your child thinking flexibly and calling events a 'big deal' or a 'little deal' helps them manage disappointment. We explain how to effectively use both strategies in this animation.



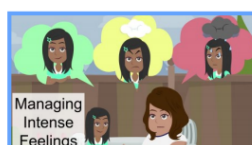
In this interview, parents Troy and Vanessa reflect on how children sometimes *can't* do something when it appears that they *won't* do it. They break down how to turn those *can'ts* into *cans*.



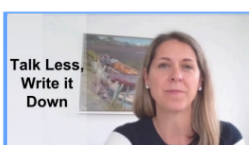
This animation offers parents tips on helping to prevent your child from getting overwhelmed, such as identifying possible triggers and preparing for them in advance.



Creating and working towards goals is a critical life skill. In this webinar, we discuss how to help your child make goals, understand why that goal is important, and how to create a plan to achieve that goal.



In this animation, we cover how to identify the intensity of feelings as well as the different strategies available to manage those feelings and get your child back to feeling "on target."



In this webinar an expert explains how taking the time to write things down can help your child process their feelings when talking to them either makes it worse or seems to go nowhere.

Other information:

FREE LUNCH

USDA has extended Meals at No Cost through June 30, 2022. This means that **breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided at no cost to all students**. Students will need to take a Main Entree with Fruit and or a Veg to qualify for the free meal. **A la carte items are not free.**

Breakfast is available before school. Students can swing down to the kitchen to grab breakfast and take it back to their period 1 class.

Technology Devices

While the district does not require students to provide their own devices, we DO encourage students to

bring their own computers to school for use in a variety of their classes. We will have a limited number of computers available for checkout during the school day. As always, students will be responsible for the care and maintenance of their devices.

Upcoming events:

Students will take school photos on 25th in their Social Studies classes and will get their new MRMS ID at that time. You should have information from the school on ordering school photos, which are now done online. Retakes will be announced in several weeks and we'll notify you through this newsletter.

If your child will be absent for any reason, please have them check their teachers' websites/Google Classrooms for missing work. Have a great week!

Team 8 Teal

Other Valuable Links

[Team Website](#)

[Team Archive of Newsletters](#)

[Team 8 Teal Supply List](#)

[Team Letter](#) and [Confirmation of Expectations](#)

[MRMS Daily Schedule](#)