

Weekly News

December 3, 2021

Calendar Items

Monday, December 6 - A2 Girls basketball game away @ PRMS

Tuesday, December 7 - MAP testing in all grades

Tuesday, December 7 - 8th grade Choir concert @ BVSW 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8 - MAP testing in all grades

Wednesday, December 8 - Girls basketball game @ HOME

Wednesday, December 8 - 7/8 Band concerts @ BVSW beginning at 6:30

Thursday, December 9 - School picture make-up date 8 - 10 a.m.

Thursday, December 9 - 7th grade Anatomy Arcade 4 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 9 - 6/7 Choirs perform at ABM 6 p.m.

Friday, December 10 - 7th grade Anatomy Arcade 4 - 6 p.m.

Announcements

Important Notice

This important message is for any families or staff that will travel out of the United States during the school year. [Please click here](#) to read the restrictions and recommendations for Out of the Country travel. *Canvas, Classlink, and email are not accessible out of the country unless you have a personal device with a VPN on it.

Math Support for All Students

If your student is **in need of some extra time and support outside of class time** from a math teacher, **our math team is available!** Please see the days/times below for math lab. Students can see any teacher for assistance. Students should see their grade level teachers during the math lab time to ask questions, get clarification, make up work/tests, or have a teacher help them through an assignment/project.

6th grade

Thursdays 3:00-4:00 – Room 304

7th grade

Mondays 3:00 -4:00 - Room 206

Thursdays 3:00-4:00 - Room 212

8th grade

Tuesdays 7:00-7:30 a.m. – Room 105

Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. – Room 112

Wednesdays 7:00-7:30 a.m. – Room 105

Thursdays 7:00-7:30 a.m. – Room 105

Thursdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. – Room 112

Fridays 3:00-4:00 p.m. – Room 113

MAP Testing

Parents, we will be conducting our winter MAPs next week on Tuesday December 7th for Reading and Wednesday December 8th for Math. Students will test during their grade level core times. The MAP assessment gives teachers and staff important information and helps us determine next steps for instruction. Please encourage your students to do their best.

School Pictures

Aubry Bend will have one additional school picture day this year. That date is Thursday, December 9, 8 – 10 a.m. While the purpose of this event is to photograph students who were absent from the previous picture days, anyone who would like to have a retake can do so on this date.

Spelling Bee

January 13 has been reserved for the ABM Spelling Bee finals. It will be held in the library beginning at 3:00 pm.

8th Grade Boys' Basketball

Any 8th grade boy who is interested in playing basketball for Aubry Bend this winter will need to complete the following [Athletic Packet](#) and turn it in to the Aubry Bend Office before the season begins. The first day of practice will be the day we return from Winter Break January 5th. If your student ran Cross Country, played Football or turned in a packet earlier this year,

they do not need to complete another one. If you have questions, please contact the Aubry Bend main office.

Sponsor an ABMS Family for the Holidays

The Aubry Bend Community Service Club is helping to support 5 ABMS families in need for the holidays. Their needs have been listed in this spreadsheet. If you are able, please [SIGN UP HERE](#) to purchase something from the list. Put your name in the "donor" column and please have the item(s) dropped off to Aubry Bend by December 10th. Questions: contact Kim Vail at KSVail@bluevalleyk12.org. Feel free to share this link! [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Student Council

Would you help? Student Council along with the [Della Lamb Community Center](#) is collecting supplies for the Afghan Refugees who left their country with nothing. Della Lamb welcomes all refugees striving to show that Kansas City is a kind and safe place to live. If you would like to help, please send the items on the attached list to school. Students may bring them to Mrs. Holmes in room 221 or drop them off at the office. All donations are greatly appreciated. Student Council thanks you.



Donation Needs for Afghan Families.pdf

Download

119.5 KB

Math Counts

Math Counts will meet on **Monday, December 6th** from 3:00-4:00 pm in room 313. The Math Counts School Competition will be held on Monday, December 13th from 3:00-4:15 pm in room 313. If you cannot make this time, please email Mrs. Redlin as soon as possible to make different arrangements (mredlin@bluevalleyk12.org).

Student Services

November Snapshot

Each month we will be using a section of the Sources of Strength wheel as the basis for our flex lessons. This month focused on positive friends.

All grades: All students watched a short video on the science of gratitude then wrote notes of appreciation to a first responder. Many students chose to write a welcome note to those at the new fire station. Our school resource officer, Officer Cabanas, helped get notes to local police, firefighters and EMTS. She said the notes were greatly appreciated. We encourage you to continue the conversation about gratitude and appreciation during the holiday season.

Classroom Lessons

7th Grade: Signs of Suicide

The adolescent years are marked by a roller-coaster ride of emotions—difficult for youths, their parents, and educators. It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil; however, depression (among the most common of mental illnesses) appears to be occurring at a much earlier age. Depression- which is treatable-is a leading risk factor for suicide. In addition, self-injury has become a growing problem among youth.

To proactively address these issues, all Blue Valley middle schools will be offering suicide prevention training as part of the “SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program.” The program has proven to be successful at increasing help seeking by students concerned about themselves or a friend and is the only school-based suicide prevention program listed by SAMHSA for its National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and study, the SOS high school program showed a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40% (BMC Public Health, July 2007).

Our goals in participating in this program are straightforward:

- To help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression
- To provide students training in how to identify serious depression and potential suicidality in themselves or a friend
- To impress upon youth that they can help themselves or a friend by taking the simple step of talking to a responsible adult about their concerns
- To help students know whom in the school they can turn to for help, if they need it

8th Grade: Give Me 20

We partnered with a local suicide prevention organization, Give Me 20 (www.giveme20.net) to help students focus on the positives and areas of strength they can pull on during times of struggle. Over two days, students learned about suicide prevention and created a life box.

"We call it a LifeBox because it is a box filled with your story; memories of great moments in your life, dreams for the future, and reminders of why your life matters...because no matter how dark life seems at this moment, the sun will rise tomorrow and you should be here to see it happen."

For resources about suicide prevention and how to talk to your child about this topic, consider the information at <https://ktsa.org/resources> .

We are happy to say that our Sources of Strength group has started again. Our peer leaders spent an afternoon learning more about the Sources of Strength program and brainstorming ideas for our school. Watch weekly news and ask your students for more information throughout the year about Sources of Strength.

PTO News

We only have 1 more girls home basketball game left this season! Please consider signing up to help with concessions this WEDNESDAY December 8th! You can bring your student with you to help :-). If we don't have volunteers, we don't have concessions. Thank you in advance!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44ABAC23AAFC1-girls>



Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to fill a Holiday Bag for our wonderful staff! If you haven't already, please pick up your bag in the office and be sure to bring it back by December 9th!

Along with the Holiday Bags, we are doing a cookie exchange so the staff can take home a plate with a variety of cookies for the holiday! View the sign up here! Thank you in advance!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44ABAC23AAFC1-staff11>

Its never to late to Invest in ABMS! Don't forget that your donation is tax deductible!

Who doesn't love an auction!!? Blue Valley Education Fund Battle of the Bands is having a silent auction! We have been asked to do a basket and our theme is..."Out and About in KC!" We will be sending out a sign-up soon so watch your social media and ABMS Newsletter! Some ideas are Chicken and Pickle, Prairie Fire, Arboretum, Top Golf, I Fly, Joe's BBQ, Movie passes, etc... If you have any ideas or donations, please let Season Lentz know at seasontitus@hotmail.com Baskets need to be ready by 1/28/2022 and the Battle of the Bands is 2/26/2022.

Don't forget to pick up your Holiday Bag!



Available now in the office. Due back 12/9

Holiday Bags



PTO Grant Purchase

Here's a photo of the amplifier the PTO purchased to supplement the BVEF grant for an electric violin for the ABMS orchestra! Your \$\$ hard a work!



Sponsorship package for Battle of the Bands form.pdf

[Download](#)
722.2 KB



ABMS PTO Membership Form 2021-2022.pdf

[Download](#)
124.7 KB



BVEF Auction Letter.pdf

[Download](#)
878.6 KB

6th Grade News

6th Grade Choir

Our winter performance is Thursday, December 9th in front of ABMS at **6:30pm** (this is a time change to accommodate the 7th grade science arcade). Please wear our choir uniform and add anything you need to keep warm (coats, hats, scarves, gloves, boots). If you have a conflict with our performance. please email Mrs. Freeman as soon as possible. Thank you!

ELA

ELA students read chapters 16-24 in *Amal Unbound* this week. Students analyzed character traits to better understand the actions of the characters in the story and how this impacts the rising action events of the plot line. We encouraged students to look closely at any missing assignments and grades this week in Canvas, since we only have 2 ½ weeks until Winter break and the end of 2nd quarter.

Math

Math classes wrapped up the Real-World Rates and Ratios Project this week and will be moving on to our final learning targets of unit three. Students will practice converting between unit measurements using their knowledge of rates and ratios next week.

Social Studies

This week we wrapped up the journey along the Silk Road. Ask your child what obstacles they encountered and what they learned along their journey. Next week we will be starting a new unit on ancient Greece.

Science

Quiz Monday on Relative Dating vocabulary. Review your History of Earth Notebook. We will study the Geologic Time Scale and how it is organized.

7th Grade News

7th & 8th Grade Winter Band Concert

On Wednesday, the 7th & 8th grade bands and Jazz will have our winter concerts, performing in the **BVSW Performing Arts Center!**

We have two concerts that evening in order to accommodate all our audience members and students in the BVSW PAC.

7th graders and 8th grade Jazz members should arrive to BVSW at 6:00 for warm up and tuning.

All 8th graders not in Jazz should arrive to BVSW at 7:00.

All students should take instruments home on Wednesday to bring to SW for the concert!

6:30 concert includes: 7th Grade Band, BVSW Symphonic Band, ABMS Jazz, and BVSW Percussion Ensemble

7:30 concert includes: BVSW Jazz, ABM 8th Grade, and BVSW Wind Ensemble

Jazz Band has requested an after school practice on **Monday December 6** from **3-4**. Jazz members should plan to attend!

7th Grade Choir

Our winter performance is Thursday, December 9th in front of ABMS at **6:30pm** (this is a time change to accommodate the 7th grade science arcade). Please wear our choir uniform and add anything you need to keep warm (coats, hats, scarves, gloves, boots). If you have a conflict with our performance, please email Mrs. Freeman as soon as possible. Thank you!

Our Crown Center performance is Monday, December 13th. Seventh grade performs at 5:00pm; please arrive by 4:45pm. Eighth grade performs at 5:45pm; please arrive by 5:30pm. Wear your choir uniform with any festive accessories you like. Thank you!

ELA

Students are reading either *The Running Dream* or *Touching Spirit Bear* as they finish out the quarter in ELA. Their instructional focuses include Plot, Point of View, and Theme.

Math

We just assessed over two step equations and inequalities. Next week we will be attaching two step equations and inequalities to real world situations.

Mr. Tiffany will be running tutoring every Thursday until 4 pm.

Science

Boxes. Boxes everywhere! Construction on the ABMS Anatomy Arcade is in full swing here on the second floor! Your kiddos are designing, prototyping, testing for feedback, prototyping again, retesting, etc. until they're ready to construct their final product. It's so fulfilling for us as teachers to see them engineering and learning that you really do need to revise multiple times to get the best results, because our first idea isn't always the best solution in the end. This is something totally applicable to other things in life, and not just science projects. :)

We're on the school calendar for Thursday and Friday, December 9th and 10th, from 4-6pm.

Students in 4th and 5th hour science classes will be hosting the arcade on Thursday, while students in 8th and 9th hour science classes will host the arcade on Friday.

- Thursday, December 9th: 4th and 5th Hour Science
- Friday, December 10th: 8th and 9th Hour Science

We can't wait for you to come and enjoy the arcade!

Social Studies

Wow, what a week! Last week, with the break, we spent our two days reflecting on thankfulness, and showing gratitude and appreciation for what we have. With everything we've been learning about the world, and whether we're in the majority or minority of the world's population, it was really eye-opening for our kids.

This week, as part of our world population unit, we took a dive into case studies of extreme poverty. We started the week watching an engaging documentary titled *Living on One Dollar*. This film is by four college students who travel to the mountains of Guatemala for a summer. Their goal is to try and experience what it's like living on just one dollar a day and share those experiences with the rest of "us." If you have Amazon Prime, it's available to watch for free. It's very moving and we highly recommend you watch it sometime! As a follow-up to the documentary, we read an article about Guatemala's story and looked at the numbers on poverty across the globe. Students made inferences about the data, and what the statistics

might mean. This is good practice on making claims and backing it up with evidence- a skill adults use every day we would wager!

Finally, we actually made a difference for someone in the world experiencing extreme poverty through microfinance. Last year, our Social Studies team was given a small sum of money by Mrs. Tate to finance microloans through Kiva.org. Those loans were paid back over the past year and the money was ready to be loaned out again this week, so that's what our kids did! Your amazing kids researched different people requesting a loan, chose their top candidate, and argued their hearts out to justify why their class should fund that particular loan. When the class finally came to a consensus, **we did it**. We put \$25 towards the microloan to help that person on the way towards changing their life. These loans will be repaid over the next year, ready to be relented by our students next year. #KindThoughts #KindWords #KindActions #ABMS

8th Grade News

7th & 8th Grade Winter Band Concert

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Jazz Band has requested an after school practice on **Monday December 6** from **3-4**. Jazz members should plan to attend!

8th Grade Choir

Our performance on the BVSW Winter Concert is Tuesday, December 7th at the BVSW Performing Arts Center. Please plan to arrive at 6:15pm in uniform. The performance begins at 7:00pm. Thank you!

Our Crown Center performance is Monday, December 13th. Seventh grade performs at 5:00pm; please arrive by 4:45pm. Eighth grade performs at 5:45pm; please arrive by 5:30pm. Wear your choir uniform with any festive accessories you like. Thank you!

Farris Science

Complete work on the Periodic Table. Start creating Bohr Diagrams and Lewis Structures

ELA

Finishing unit on Maya Angelou's "Why the Caged Bird Signs"

Math 8

Graphing equations from Slope-Intercept Form

Algebra 1

Students will be taking their Unit 3 – Linear Equations Assessment at the end of next week.

Science

Physical and Chemical Changes

Social Studies

Beginning "A House Divided" Unit

From the Desk of Mrs. Tate

In the past few weeks, I have written several columns about the struggles our kids are having with acclimating to routines and procedures of school after the many changes they incurred in routines over the past couple of years.

I'm happy to say that we're starting to see some improvement in this area. Some of the improvements are due to the consistency of the school year and school day. The kids come to school every day and follow the same bell schedule. We start school every day at 7:41 a.m. and end each day at 2:50 p.m.

Last year, we built in some extra time to first hour to account for the fact that students were not allowed in school before 7:30 to avoid large crowds, but this year, the expectation is that class starts at 7:41 a.m. Although this is getting much better, we still have a group of 35-40 families who bring their students at 7:40 or after.

We could really use your help in getting kids to school by 7:35-7:37 to give them time to go to their locker and get to class on time. We're working really hard to normalize our routines with all kids, and when two or three walk in each room a couple of minutes late, it is a disruption to the learning environment for everyone.

If you bring a student via car in the morning, please help us out by dropping them off no later than 7:37 a.m. This gives them a great chance to get to their first hour by 7:41 a.m. to start their day on time. We promise; we'll take it from there!

During the school day, we see our students making great progress. Our teachers are also helping them with this progress by consistently reviewing the expectations for routines, procedures, and behavior expectations. As we continue our work, we plan to get even more specific and explicit in our instruction about behaviors that are appropriate for school.

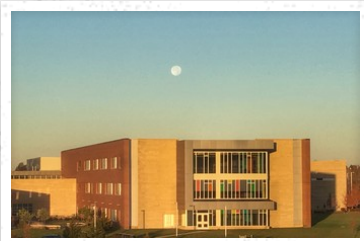
In the past, we have discussed the expectations for school in general terms like respectful behavior or responsible actions, and this year, we feel that we need to help students define what those words “look like” and “sound like” in a school setting.

For instance, using swear or curse words in school is considered inappropriate and disrespectful, yet middle school students sometimes choose to “try out” that behavior to see if it can buy them some cool points or social credibility. Of course, they rarely say those words in front of an adult, but they may not think that those words may be offensive to their peers. Using curse words in school will never be okay with me, and when I discuss the expectation with students, they almost always say that they’re not allowed to use those words at home.

It would be helpful to us to work as a team with our families on issues like this. Take a few minutes this weekend to talk to your student about the words they choose to use to express themselves. Challenge them to use kind, sincere, specific words to convey their thoughts and feelings. Respect breeds respect, and we want all kids to know what that looks like, feels like, and sounds like.

Thank you for your continued support of Aubry Bend Middle School! We appreciate you!

Sincerely,
Diana Tate, Principal



Aubry Bend Middle School

 Facebook  @smorenewsletter

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