



# Middle School News, December 2022

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are almost finished with our first semester. Your children are deep into the learning and routines of middle school.

As a reminder, your child's advisory teacher is your main point of contact. The advisory teachers are listed below:

6th grade: Mrs. Cina - [acina@bacards.org](mailto:acina@bacards.org) and Ms. Collier - [ccollier@bacards.org](mailto:ccollier@bacards.org)

7th grade: Mrs. Battles [lbattles@bacards.org](mailto:lbattles@bacards.org) and Ms. Cicha [emily\\_cicha@bacards.org](mailto:emily_cicha@bacards.org)

8th grade: Mrs. Smisek - [ismisek@bacards.org](mailto:ismisek@bacards.org) and Fr. Powers [jpowers@bacards.org](mailto:jpowers@bacards.org) / Mr. Lorence [brad\\_lorence@bacards.org](mailto:brad_lorence@bacards.org)

Please continue to contact the office regarding attendance information via phone or [attendance@bacards.org](mailto:attendance@bacards.org).

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

Wishing you and your family peace and joy this Advent and Christmas season,

Middle School Teachers

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Please remember to join us for our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the BA gymnasium featuring our bands and choirs. **High school band and choir students should report at 5:45 p.m.; middle school students should report by 6 p.m.**

**Middle School Band Attire:** Please dress up, Santa hats are allowed. Follow normal dress code rules.

**Middle School Choir Attire:** Please dress up in black and white and follow normal dress code rules.

**High School Band Attire:** Please wear all black. Follow normal dress code rules.

**High School Choir Attire:** Dress up, but students will wear choir robes.

## Middle School Faculty

Mrs. Nettie Battles-7th and 8th grade math, 8th grade English, 7th grade advisor

Mr. Michael Bengen-physical education

Ms. Emily Cicha-choir, 6<sup>th</sup> grade religion, 7th grade advisor

Mrs. Angela Cina-MS 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and English, 7th grade English, 6th grade advisor

Ms. Caryn Collier-MS social studies, 6th grade advisor

Mr. David Gilmore - Geometry

Mr. Jason Hillesheim-MS art and 6th grade technology

Mr. Maxwell Johnson - MS ag/industrial tech

Mrs. Kris Kohl-MS resource teacher

Mr. Brad Lorence-band, 7th grade religion, 8th grade advisor

Fr. John Powers-6th, 7th, and 8th grade religion, 8th grade advisor

Mrs. Julie Smisek-MS science, 8th grade advisor

Mrs. Melinda Reeder-president/principal

Mr. Stephen Uphus-guidance counselor

Mr. John Wollersheim-assistant principal

## Upcoming Events

- Dec. 11 - MS Choir and Band Concert 6:30
- Dec. 20 - Last Day of First Semester
- Dec. 21 - Jan. 3 - Christmas Break - No School



## 6th Grade

**English:** Students have read an excerpt from *The Diary of Anne Frank* and will be reading a retelling of a Greek myth. Using these texts, students are describing characters' responses to events and analyzing the connotations of specific word choice.

**Math:** Students have been solving problems with fractions and mixed numbers. Next the students will use their knowledge of fractions to solve ratio and rate problems.

**Science:** Students have been learning about transfer of thermal energy and have experimented with the circulation of the atmosphere and oceans. This has lead into studying weather patterns and climates.

**Social Studies:** Students have completed their study of the Fur Trade. Our next topic will be exploring the early treaties that led to Minnesota becoming a state. Don't forget you have a pass that will allow your child to visit any of the Minnesota Historical Society sites free with a paid adult.

**Religion:** Students are completing unit 3 of their classes and are learning about the kings and prophets of the Old Testament. They also are learning about how these people point to the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. Students are also learning about different saints and gaining skills in characteristics such as bravery, gratitude, and forgiveness through the Positivity Project.

## 7th Grade

**English:** Students are reading *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. They have been analyzing the use of figurative language, identifying how plot events influence characters, and interpreting symbols the author uses to deepen the meaning of the text.

**Math:** Students have been learning about ratios, unit rates, and proportions. They are learning to convert measurements using dimensional analysis. They will end the semester learning to use and construct scale drawings.

**Science:** Students have been learning about one of the characteristics of living things: organization. After an initial review of organizational structure from cell to organism, they will focus on different human body systems and their functions as well as plant and other animal systems.

**Social Studies:** Students are currently exploring the U.S. before the Civil War. Our current focus is on Reform movements of the 1800s.

**Religion:** Students are working on a presentation about Marian Apparitions, as there are two Marian feast days in December. We are also closing out the semester reviewing for our final.

## 8th Grade

**English:** Students are reading *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Students have also been working on narrative writing. They will be writing a personal narrative about an event in their life where they learned a lesson.

**Math:** Algebra I students have just finished up a chapter on linear and nonlinear functions. They will be applying what they learned to find the slope of a line, to use lines of fit to make predictions, and to investigate relationships between quantities using scatter plots.

**Science:** Students have been learning about weathering and experimented with both mechanical and chemical weathering. This has lead into evaluating different soil conservation methods.

**Social Studies:** The eighth graders continue to explore countries around the world with the latest destination being Latin America. They will conclude the semester with the Holiday Traditions project. I'm excited to hear their presentations.

**Religion:** Students are learning about the various modes of life in the Church and will be learning about our Dominican heritage in particular. We are also completing unit 4 in preparation for their last test before Christmas break.



## Tips for Schoology and Powerschool

Bethlehem Academy uses the integrated systems of Schoology and PowerSchool to manage class information, assignments, grades, and attendance. See the information below on how each system can be helpful to you:

### Schoology

Bethlehem Academy uses Schoology to post daily lessons and assignments and track daily grades. Use Schoology to see your child's day-to-day progress. It is a useful tool to see if your child is missing work.

In advisory, students check their progress weekly in Schoology. Ask your child to show you his/her grades. The image at the right shows where to see daily and missing work in Schoology.

### PowerSchool

PowerSchool is used to track attendance and report semester grades. Use PowerSchool to view the final reporting of semester grades.

English 7: Section 1  
Bethlehem Academy Middle School

**Click on grades to see assignments and grades.**

| Grading Period                 | Percentage | Grade       |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Semester 1: 8/26/21 - 12/22/21 | 100%       | A- (93.14%) |
| Quarter 1: 8/26/21 - 10/19/21  | 50%        | A (98.29%)  |
| Quarter 2: 10/25/21 - 12/22/21 | 50%        | B+ (87.98%) |
| Homework                       |            | B (83.51%)  |

| Assignment   | Due Date         | Score   | Status |
|--|------------------|---------|--------|
| English 7 - Ch 8 to 11 Response Sheet                    | 11/17/21 11:59pm | 0 / 5   | late   |
| English 7 - Ch 7 to 13 Vocab & Figurative Lang. Homework | 11/18/21 11:59pm | 0 / 5   | late   |
| English 7 - Ch 13 Double Entry Journal                   | 11/19/21 11:59pm | 4.5 / 5 |        |
| English 7 - Figurative Language Chart                    | 11/19/21 11:59pm | 0 / 9   | late   |

**Most assignments with zeroes have not been turned in. Many times they can be completed to earn back points.**