



Agenda

Welcome with Courtney Cohrs, Admissions Associate

Session Overview with Karen Blankenbeckler, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Division Summary with Jenn McDonough, Middle School Division Head

Academics with Jenn McDonough, Middle School Division Head

Student Life with Nathan Pettit, Middle School Dean of Students

Q&A





Division Summary

Grades 5 – 8

Academics

Student Life

Uniforms

Sports
Grades 6 – 8

2023 – 2024 School Calendar



Middle School

- Uniquely formative years as students are developing physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually
- Support for both academic and social transitional needs
- Occurring at school and in the home



Why do we do what we do?

Moving from Grammar to Dialectic

- Academic Curriculum
- Executive Function Skills
- Social/Emotional Behavior
- Greater Independence

Adaptive Program and Teachers

- Students' progress will vary
- One size does not fit all
- Students will grow leaps and bounds





Parent Role/Partnership

- Parents "get" to transition too
 - Hand-hold or Space
 - Conductor or Coach
- Take cues from child(ren)
- Parent partnership can work together to adapt to evolving needs





Student Role and Expectations:

- Independence and Accountability
- Self-Advocacy and Self-Initiation
- Behavioral Growth and Social Maturity





Grades 5 and 6 Sample Block Schedule

Students will have:

- 2 or 3 "core" teachers:
 - One for Reading/Writing
 - One for Science/Geography/History
 - Math may be different or same as one of above
- 4x Student Life blocks each week:
 - organization and planning
 - developing executive functioning skills
 - our character development program, Rooted
- 3x Recesses per day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:05: Homeroom	8:00-8:35 Homeroom		8:00-8:05: Homeroom	8:00-8:05: Homeroom
8:05-9:05: Specialist (Music/Band)	8:35-8:50: Break	Late Start	8:05-9:05: Specialist (Music/Band)	8:05-9:05: Specialist (Science Lab)
9:05-10:05 Specialist (P.E./Latin)	8:50-9:50: Specialist (Art/ Homeroom)	9:00-10:00: Specialist (Comp Prog S1, Pub Speak S2)	9:05-10:05: Specialist (P.E./Latin)	9:05-10:05: Specialist (Homeroom)
10:05-10:20: Recess	9:50-10:15: Chapel	10:00-10:10: Recess	10:05-10:20: Recess	10:05-10:20: Recess
10:20-11:20: Math	10:15-10:50: Student Life	10:10-11:05: Writing	10:20-11:20: Writing	10:20-11:20: Reading
11:20-11:50: Student Life	10:50-11:50: Science/ Geography	11:05-12:00: Science/ Geography	11:20-11:50: Student Life	11:20-11:50: Student Life
11:50-12:05: Recess	11:50-12:05: Recess	12:00-12:25: Lunch	11:50-12:05: Recess	11:50-12:05: Recess
12:05-12:30: Lunch	12:05-12:30: Lunch	12:25-12:45: Recess/ Homeroom	12:05-12:30: Lunch	12:05-12:30: Lunch
12:35-1:35: Reading	12:35-1:35: Math	12:45-1:40: Math	12:35-1:35: Science/ Geography	12:35-1:35: Writing
1:35-1:45: Recess	1:35-1:45: Recess	1:40-1:50: Recess	1:35-1:45: Recess	1:35-1:45: Recess
1:45-2:45: Writing	1:45-2:45: Reading	1:50-2:45: Reading	1:45-2:45: Math	1:45-2:45: Science/ Geography

Note: individual student schedules will be posted 1 week prior to the start of school.



Grades 5 and 6 Specialist Classes

Students will have specialist blocks throughout the week.

- Art
- Band/Choir*
- Latin
- Lab Science
- Library
- Physical Education
- Computer Programming (1 semester)
- Public Speaking (1 semester)

*Note: All grade 5 students participate in both band and general music, which are taught by specialists and meet once each week. Grade 6 students may choose either band or choir and attend twice each week.



Grades 7 and 8 Sample Block Schedule

Students will have:

- 6 "Core" teachers:
 - Gender separated core classes
 - Math meet 4 times per week
 - Latin (7) and English (8) meet 4 times per week
- 5x Student Life blocks each week:
 - Organization and planning
 - Developing executive functioning skills
 - Our character development program, Rooted
- 2x Breaks per day

GRADE 7 & 8 Boys

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Block 3B	Block 5B	LATE START	Block 6B	Block 1B
8:00-8:55	8:00-8:55		8:00-8:55	8:00-8:55
Block 4B	Block 6B		Block 5B	Block 2B
8:55-9:50	8:55-9:50		8:55-9:50	8:55-9:50
Break: 9:50-10:05	Chapel: 9:50-10:15	Block 4B	Break: 9:50-10:05	Break: 9:50-10:05
ELECTIVE A	Break:10:15-10:25	9:00-9:55	ELECTIVE A	ELECTIVE A
10:05-10:55	Advisory: 10:25-10:50	Block 3B	10:05-10:55	10:05-10:55
ELECTIVE B	ELECTIVE A	9:55-10:50	ELECTIVE B	ELECTIVE B
10:55-11:45	10:50-11:40	Break: 10:50-11:00	10:55-11:45	10:55-11:45
Office Hours	Office Hours	ELECTIVE B	Advisory	Office Hours
11:45-12:15	11:40-12:15	11:00-11:50	11:45-12:15	11:45-12:15
Activity Period	Activity Period	Office Hours	Activity Period	Activity Period
12:15-12:30	12:15-12:30	11:50-12:30	12:15-12:30	12:15-12:30
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-12:55	12:30-12:55	12:30-12:55	12:30-12:55	12:30-12:55
Block 5B	Block 1B	Block 2B	Block 3B	Block 6B
12:55-1:50	12:55-1:50	12:55-1:50	12:55-1:50	12:55-1:50
Block 6B	Block 2B	Block 1B	Block 4B	Block 5B
1:50-2:45	1:50-2:45	1:50-2:45	1:50-2:45	1:50-2:45



Grades 7 and 8 Elective Classes

Students are enrolled in one elective during the semester they have P.E. and in two electives during the other semester for a total of three electives each year.

- Art*
- Band*
- Choir*
- Drama*
- Rhetoric
- Introduction to Computer Programming
- Intermediate Computer Programming

- Advanced Computer Programming
- Creation Lab
- Creative Writing Lab
- Digital Storytelling
- Strength Training
- Robotics
- Study Hall (only with permission)

Students will know which electives they are enrolled in for fall by June of this year.



^{*} At least one elective each year must be an Arts elective

Field Trips

Each grade level will participate in field trip enrichment opportunities that extend lessons taught in the classroom.

Here are a few examples, plans will be finalized at the start of the year:

Grade 5:

- Camp Gilead Service Day
- Museum of Flight
- Edgeworks Climbing Gym
- Outdoor Ed

Grade 6:

- Camp Gilead Service Day
- Seattle Aquarium
- Mount St. Helens

Grade 7:

- SAMBICA Service Day
- Medieval Village
- Marine Biology

Grade 8:

- Franklin Falls Hike
- Fort Nisqually Museum
- PSE Windfarm



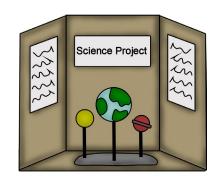
Immersion Weeks + JanTerm

During the first two weeks of January, students in grade 5 immerse themselves in science while students in grade 6 are engrossed in Shakespeare. These culminate with two wonderful events.

January 18 and 19 Grade 6 Performance



February 16
Grade 5 Science Fair



Students in grades 7 – 12 participate in JanTerm, first 2 weeks of January with free dress throughout.

Students choose from special seminar classes that give them exposure to a wide variety of subjects

E.g., knitting, engineering, C.S. Lewis, flag football, photography, finances

More details are sent home in the October timeframe for what and how to choose options.

An experience our students look forward to each year



Office Hours

- Students participate in Office Hours 3 4 times each week.
- Office Hours are led by our Middle School Homeroom teachers and Advisors and provide a dedicated time for students to get organized, plan their week, study, and meet with teachers.
- One time each week teachers lead a session focused on an essential *Executive Functioning* skill or *Digital Citizenship*.
 - Examples include planning and time management, organization, emotional regulation and self-control, and test-taking strategies.



Student Life

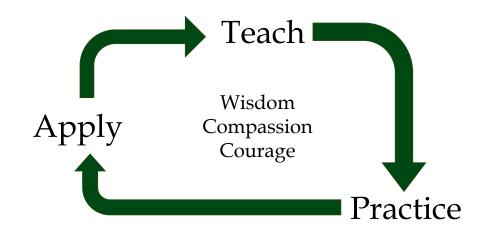
- Student Life Goals
 - Foster a respectful, supportive, and fun student environment.
 - Nurture the faith of each student.
 - Help students grow in wisdom, compassion, and courage.
 - Develop leadership skills and provide opportunities to serve our community.





Student Life Programs

- Student Life Programs
 - Icebreaker
 - Chapel
 - Advisory
 - Community building activities
 - Rooted
 - Clubs
 - Socials







Socials

Providing opportunities for community building and development of deeper relationships in safe and nurturing environments beyond the classroom.

Here are a few examples, plans will be finalized at the start of the year:

- August 25 Icebreaker (5 8)
- October 3 PRO Sports Club (7 & 8)
- October 6 Family Game Night (5 & 6)
- November 9 Clue Night (7 & 8)
- January 9 Upper School Basketball Game (5 8)
- March 12 Movie Night (5 & 6)
- March 19 Movie Night (7 & 8)
- April 9 Vertex Arena (5 8)
- May 29 Field Day (5 8)

All dates subject to change.

Please check the School Calendar (tbcs.org/calendar) and the weekly publication of *The Bear Facts*.



Uniforms

Weekly Schedule: (grades 5 – 8)

- Mondays and Tuesdays are formal dress uniform days
- Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays are casual uniform days
- Special dress days throughout the year noted on school calendar

P.E. Uniforms:

- Optional for grades 5 6
- **Required** for grades 7 8
- Ordering information available via website

Parent Tip: Put your child's name on uniform items







See the complete uniform guidelines in the Family Hamiltook. Allowed vendors linked on thics arg/mytic/paments/school-uniforms.

DENNIS NAVY OR GREEN

SWEATSHIET

OPTIONAL

SWEATER OR SWEATER VEST OR

SCHOOL-BRANDED, SCHOOL

TEAM, OR BEAR CREEK LOGO.

NAVY, WHITE, OR

GREEN POLO WITH OR

WITHOUT LOGO





See the complete uniform guidelines in the Family Hundbook. Allowed vendors linked on thes.org/myte/parents/school-uniforms.

NAVY OR KHAKI UNIFORM-

CHRISTOPHER PLAID SKIRT

STYLE PANTS OR SHORTS

OR NAVY, KHAKL OR

OR SKORT

Middle School Athletics

Cross Town Middle School League (CTMSL)

Fall: Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball

Winter: Basketball

Spring: Baseball, Golf, Track & Field

Commitment and Philosophy

Annual Sports Physical







2023 - 2024 YEARLY PLANNER

Dates are subject to change.

First Day of School US
First Day of School MS
First Day of School LS

Sep 4 No School – Labor Day Sep 5/6 First Day of School PS

Oct 19 – 20 No School MS/US – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct 20 No School LS – Teacher In-Service

Oct 23 No School – Teacher In-Service

Nov 3 No School PS/LS – Teacher In-Service

Nov 10 **No School** – Veterans Day

Nov 13 – 14 No School PS/LS – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 22 – 24 No School – Thanksgiving Break

Dec 14 Early Dismissal MS/US

Dec 15 Early Dismissal – Christmas Break
Dec 18 – Jan 1 No School – Christmas Break

Jan 2 School Resumes

 Jan 5
 No School MS/US – Teacher In-Service

 Jan 12
 No School – Teacher In-Service

 Jan 15
 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Feb 19 – 23 No School – Mid-Winter Break

Mar 1 No School PS/LS – Teacher In- Service

Mar 14 – 15 No School PS/LS/MS – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mar 29 No School – Good Friday

Apr 1 – 5 No School – Spring Break

May 27 No School – Memorial Day

 Jun 3/4
 Last Day of School PS

 Jun 10 – 11
 Early Dismissal MS/US

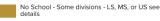
 Jun 11
 Last Day of School US

 Jun 12
 Early Dismissal LS/MS

 Jun 12
 Last Day of School LS/MS

 June 12
 Last Day of School MS





Early Dismissal or combination - See details for division and specifics

First Day of School - See details for specifics

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October 2023										
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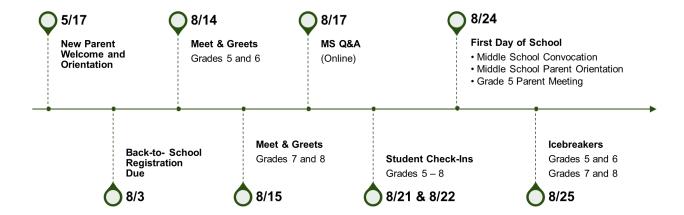
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February 2024												
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June 2024						
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Summer Key Dates:



Middle School Key Dates

- September 7 Inside Bear Creek
- September 19 Curriculum Night
- September 22 Middle School Connection
- September 25 Individual Picture Day
- October 19 & 20 Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 17 Division Connection
- January 2 thru 11 JanTerm/Immersion Weeks
- January 26 Middle School Connection
- March 8 Middle School Connection
- March 14 & 15 Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
- April 10 Dads 'n Donuts
- May 8 Mothers Tea

All dates subject to change.

Please check the School Calendar (tbcs.org/calendar) and the weekly publication of The Bear Facts.



MyBC/Parents

www.tbcs.org/mybc/parents contains a wealth of information.

Use your Bear Creek username (usually firstname.lastname) and password to access:

- New Parent Portal (updating contact information, paying tuition)
- Summer Sports Camp Registration (grades 1 and up)
- Back-to-School Registration will be emailed in mid-July. At that time, new parents will receive access the Magnus Health and the (real) Parent Portal.



Password Protected

Parent Portal (also Admissions and New Parent Portals)

Magnus Health (Read login instructions.)

Photos, Videos, and Streaming

Library Book Holds

Family Handbook

Axis



Communications

Attendance

The Bear Facts

Microsoft Office 365

Archived Email
Updates

Upper School
Announcements

Senior Class

Emergency Notifications



Logistics

Class Lists

Daily Schedules

Drop-off/Pick-up

Food Services

Forms

Health Services

New Student Information

Parking



MyBC/Parents

All the information and links covered in this presentation are listed on your New Student Information page. Please visit this page often:

tbcs.org/mybc/parents/newstudents/middle-school



Middle School

This page contains information for new students in grades 5-8 and their parents. Please bookmark this page so you can follow up on all the information provided below as it is updated throughout the spring and summer.

WELCOME



Immunization Requirement

The Bear Creek School is required by State law to ensure all students are compliant with current immunization requirements or have an appropriate exemption. On or before the first day of attendance, all new students and all returning preschool, kindergarten, and grade 7 students must upload medically verified immunization records to the health portal by the summer deadline. Children cannot attend school until these records are provided.

New parents will receive instructions for submitting immunization records in the health portal with Back-to-School Registration in July. We cannot accept any forms that have been mailed, emailed, or dropped off.

See your New Student Information page about how to obtain a medically verified copy of your child's immunization records.





Recommended: Reading List*

Required: Math Packet*

Recommended: Typing Courses*

Optional: Journal/Thank You Notes

Optional: Creative Family Time

* To be published by June 1



