



Grade Reports — Better Late Than Never



The school year is moving by very quickly. The 3rd mid-quarter grade reports were distributed to students recently. Anticipating the end of the third 9-week grading period on March 26th, with a tentative report card distribution date of April 1st.

Remember you can always check on and monitor your child's progress on the district website. Long on to www.b-ssd.org, click on the picture of the middle school and proceed to the link for edline on the right side of the screen.

For students who are struggling with their classes, time still exists for your child to be successful this year. Conferencing with your child's teacher or team of teachers may provide insight

into the ways your child could improve his/her class performance. Creating a plan to effect success is always a good idea.

Please take advantage of these options; your child's improved academic performance is always a priority.



Edline

CHANGES TO DISTRICT CALENDAR!

Previously scheduled Snow Days:

MARCH 15TH... SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION

APRIL 1ST... SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION

MAY 10TH... SCHOOL IS NOW IN SESSION



Spring Is On the Way!

COOKIE DOUGH

FUNDRAISER ORDER PICKUP: **MARCH 18TH**

Thursday, March 18th is the cookie dough fundraiser pickup date.

Parents are asked to make arrangements to pick up orders.

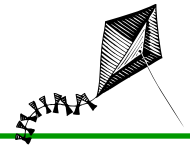
Orders must be picked up sometime between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. at the BMS Gymnasium

Each container weights 3 lbs. So orders could be heavy. Children will not be allowed to take more than 2 tubs of cookie dough on the bus! Parents must come in and sign for order!



Payment due date will be announced. Payment must be by check or money order made out to BMS PTO.

Learning Support Team —



While it may seem like Middle School students just started school “yesterday”, they are actually half way through their school years! *Transition* is the process of preparing students for life after they leave high school, including successful participation in postsecondary education or training, employment and independent living. These three “post-school goals” should provide the driving focus for IEP teams as they develop plans for secondary-aged students. In Pennsylvania, this process now begins at age 14



(or the IEP that will be in effect when the student turns 14).

With that in mind, parents of students ages 14-16 with an IEP will soon be receiving an exciting new resource from the state through our school district. A CD containing practical information for families and other IEP team members such as agency resources, a transition healthcare checklist and “transition roadmap” will be sent to our school district in the very near future. The

CD’s and accompanying cover letter will be distributed in some way to the parents of those transition aged students.

Thinking about post-school plans for your child can be exciting and a little scary! With this new resource and the IEP team working together from Middle School through High School, it will hopefully be a smooth process resulting in the student realizing their post-school goals.



Vocal/Theater Department

The Blairsville Middle - Senior High school vocal and theatre department is busy with an exciting production in the works. Numerous students, both middle and high school, are currently in rehearsal for the spring production of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, which will be presented at the Blairsville Performing Arts Center April 29th, 30th and May 1st at 7 p.m. *Fiddler on the Roof* is set in a small Jewish village in Russia, in 1905 and is concerned primarily with Tevye, a dairyman and his wife, Golde, and their five daughters trying to cope with a harsh existence under Tsarist rule. Students are

working hard to bring this wonderful production to life. Ticket information will be available soon. You can check Mr. Thorn's website... www.blairsvilleperformingartscenter.webs.com or his edline page for information and schedules.



Mathematics Department

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2643383279 5028841971...

Annual Pi Day is traditionally held on March 14th (3-14-). Since it falls on a Sunday this year, the 7th and 8th grade math departments will be celebrating Pi Day on **Monday, March 15th**. Pi Day will be celebrated by investigating the properties of circles. Students will be

responsible to memorize the first 10 digits Pi if they want to eat Pie! They are 3.1415926535..... We will also have a contest to see who can recite the most digits of Pi.

The following Web site is great for investigating Pi and contains a link for a Pi practice game to help students memorize the digits of Pi.

www.mathwithmrherte.com



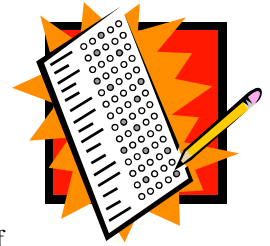
A sign up sheet has been sent home by your teachers for anyone who is willing to donate a Pie to make our celebration complete. If you did not receive a paper or have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 724-459-8880.

Schedule of Events

- March 10th — 6th Grade Physicals
- March 12th — ACT 80 Day, No School for Students
- March 14th — Daylight Savings Time, turn clocks ahead!
- March 15th — Snow Makeup- SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
- March 15th — Celebrate Pi Day!
- March 18th — Cookie Dough Delivery Day
- March 19th — PTO Sponsored Dance, 7-10 p.m.
- March 23rd — 7th Grade Dentals
- March 26th — End of Marking Period
- April 1st — Snow Makeup- SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
- April 1st — Tentative Report Card Distribution
- April 2-5 — Holiday, No School

Guidance Office — Mr. Zerfoss

PSSA Testing



It will soon be that time of year when the students in grades 6 – 8 are administered the PSSA. This is a standardized test given by the state of Pennsylvania. The window in which the test must be given is April 7-16, 2010. It will cover the subject areas of Math and Reading. There are three Math sections and three Reading sections. Each of the six sections consist of 1 or 2 open-ended questions and approximately 22 multiple choice questions. Here at the Blairsville Middle School, we are planning on administering the test on April 12-16, 2010. For 8th grade only, writing tests will be given April 19th-23rd and science testing on April 26th-30th.

To Ensure Success on the PSSA Test, follow these recommendations:

1. **8 Hours of Sleep the night before**
2. **Eat a nutritious breakfast**
3. **Have a healthy snack on testing break**
4. **Give it your best effort**

✓ Read the question before you look at the answer.

✓ Come up with the answer in your head before looking at the possible answers, this way the choices given on the test won't throw you off or trick you.

✓ Eliminate answers you know aren't right.

✓ Read all the choices before choosing your answer.

✓ If there is no guessing penalty, always take an educated guess and select an answer.

✓ Don't keep on changing your answer, usually your first choice is the right one, unless you miss-read the question.

✓ In "All of the above" and "None of the above" choices, if you are certain one of the statements is true don't choose "None of the above" or one of the statements are false don't choose "All of the above".

✓ In a question with an "All of the above" choice, if you see that at least two correct statements, then "All of the above" is probably the answer.

✓ A positive choice is more likely to be true than a negative one.

✓ If there is an "All of the above" option and you know that at least two of the choices are correct select the "All of the above" choice

✓ Usually the correct answer is the choice with the most information.

Here are some tips on answering multiple choice questions ...

Miss School, Miss Out!

Attendance to school is required unless absent for illness or another excused reason as identified in the school handbook. Please refer to the handbook for other details of the attendance policy and procedures.

Third quarter Interim Reports were sent home recently. The end of the 3rd 9-week grading period will be March 26, unless additional snow days are added. Report cards will be sent home April 1st.

Soon we will be considering the end of year activities and for the 8th graders, this can be an exciting time.

If you miss school, you miss out!



Do Your Best!

DON'T MISS IT...

**SCHOOL
DANCE**

To be held

FRIDAY, MARCH

19th

7-10 PM



Please Note:

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

7th Grade Dental Exams will be held:

TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd, starting at 8:00 a.m.



BLAIRSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Office Hours: 7 AM to 3 PM
 104 School Lane
 Blairsville, PA 15717

Phone: 724-459-5500
 Fax: 724-459-7320
 E-mail: person's name@b-ssd.org

Blairsville Middle School

Welcome to the Blairsville Middle School, a school where staff and students excel, parents and community care. Our goal as a Middle School is to offer an educational program that allows our students to grow academically, develop socially, and to prepare them for the eventual transition to high school.

Please check out our website at www.b-ssd.org, which was created to help enhance our communication among students, parents and community. Our recently added edline has been created as a tool for parents to use to check your child's grades, assignments, class information, verify attendance and more! You're encouraged to take advantage of these valuable tools.

Our desire is that we will, together as a school community, begin the journey to accomplish our goal. "Let the Learning Begin."

We're on the Web!

www.b-ssd.org



Our Staff

Principal:	Mr. Joseph Baker
Guidance Counselor:	Mr. Mark Zerfoss
Building Secretary:	Mrs. Deborah Lutton
Guidance Secretary:	Mrs. Lynn Soltesz
School Psychologist:	Mrs. Cheryl Henkel
Speech Therapist:	Mrs. Denise Zabinski
Grade 8 History:	Mr. Kevin Stoner
Grade 8 Language Arts:	Mr. Fred Popp
Grade 8 Math:	Ms. Julianne Lloyd
Grade 8 Science:	Mrs. Valerie DeMarines
Grade 7 Language Arts:	Mrs. Stacy Faulk
Grade 7 Math:	Mr. James Buckles
Grade 7 Social Studies:	Mrs. Allison Weir
Grade 7 Reading:	Mrs. Leah Onorato
Grade 7 Science:	Mrs. Kara Petro
Grade 6 Language Arts:	Mrs. Kimberly Henigin
Grade 6 Math:	Mr. Scott Stuchal
Grade 6 Reading:	Mrs. Brenda Rovison
Grade 6 Science:	Mr. Joseph Intrieri
World Language:	Mrs. Amanda McNulty

Band/Instrumental:	Mrs. Alice Moore
Vocal Music/Chorus:	Mr. Randall Thorn
P.E. & Wellness:	Mrs. Margaret Ostach
P.E. & Wellness:	Mr. Rick Artley
Technology:	Mrs. Michael Funyak
Family/Consumer Science:	Mrs. Janet Ross
Art:	Mrs. Cheri Kitch
Learning Support:	Mrs. Barbara Stile
Learning Support:	Mrs. Joanna Morgan
Learning Support:	Mrs. Janice Foister
Learning Support:	Mrs. Kimberly Joyce
Advanced Studies:	Mrs. Karen Kunkle
Librarian:	Mrs. Yolande McCloskey
School Nurse	Mrs. Elizabeth O'Barto
Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Susan Herby
Instructional Assistant:	Mrs. Jill Elkin
Arin Instructional Asst:	Mrs. Shelley Anderson
Arin Instructional Asst:	Mrs. Robin Miller
Technology Aide:	Mrs. Joy Watt
CFF Coach:	Mrs. Stacie Isenberg