



BMMS BEGINNINGS 2016-2017 PARENT EDITION!

Welcome to Black Mountain Middle School!

We are excited to begin the middle school journey with your child, and your family! Below is some helpful information to help guide you along this trip. Please know that we are here to help, as much as possible, to provide a positive and meaningful middle school experience. Go Raiders!

The campus, including the front office, is open at 7:00 a.m.

In our front office, you will find contacts for Finance (Mrs. Audra Stenger), Attendance (Mrs. Connie Hunt), Health (Mrs. Laurie McCarthy), Front Desk (Mrs. Karlena Southworth), Counseling (Mr. Jason Schafer, Mrs. Monica Taylor, Mrs. Melinda Roy [Counseling Assistant]), Assistant Principals (Mrs. Brianne Froumis, Ms. Jo Ann Cooper, Mrs. JoAnne Larson [Admin. Asst.]), Principal (Mr. Charan Kirpalani, Ms. Monique Cordeau [Admin. Asst.]

Students who arrive earlier than 7:00 a.m. on a regular basis, should consider joining the ASES Before School program – this program begins at 6:00 a.m. For more information, contact the ASES Coordinator, Mrs. Tracy Williams at twilliams@powayusd.com.



ATTENDANCE

We know that being at school on time, and on a daily basis, is a huge indicator of student success. Knowing that things can happen, it is understood that students will need to miss school at times due to illness or personal reasons. However, absences must be excused otherwise the student risks being truant, and will not be able to make up any missing work or assignment for those missed days.

When your child is absent, please call the 24/7 attendance hotline at 484-1300, ext. 1. If the absences will be occurring over multiple days, please call in the absence each day (unless you know the date range of the absences).

If an absence is not called in, you will receive a phone call in the evening that your child was absent for the day.

- Only parents/guardians can clear an absence(s).
- For any medical absences, i.e. illness, it is beneficial to have a medical doctor note excusing the absences.
- To be excused from PE, a medical note from a physician is needed specifying the duration that the student cannot participate, and if there are any restrictions or modifications for their participation. For example, if they cannot run, are they allowed to walk a lap? For more information regarding this, please contact Mrs. Laurie McCarthy (lmccarthy@powayusd.com) in the Health Office.

- Students with excused absences are responsible for making up any missing work in their classes, including PE. The student will need to speak with their teacher(s) to determine what needs to be completed.
- For planned absences of 5 days or more, contact the attendance office to set up an OCIS contract (homework contract). A minimum of 5 days notice is needed to create a contract.
- Late to school or class will result in a tardy. We keep track of tardies, and like absences, will need to be excused. Parents can excuse up to 3 tardies per trimester through the attendance hotline or a note to the attendance office. Excess tardies will result in detention.
- If you have any questions regarding attendance, please contact Mrs. Connie Hunt at chunt@powayusd.com.



HEALTH OFFICE

The Health Office is available to students throughout the day. During class times, students will need to get a note from their teacher.

- Students are not allowed to call their parents from their cell phone; phone calls should be made from the health office or front office.
- For minor cuts, students will be directed to the sink in health office to wash off cut, and get bandage.
- The health attendant will take care of first aid and emergencies according to district procedures. In case of illness, health attendant will notify parents or contacts listed on enrollment forms. No registered nursing services are provided at the school.
- Prescription and non-prescription medications cannot be given at school without a written statement from a physician and parent/guardian. This form is available in the health office.
- If you have any questions regarding the health office, please contact Mrs. Laurie McCarthy at lmccarthy@powayusd.com



TRAFFIC/PARKING

During morning drop off and afternoon pick up, traffic will be heavy. By following rules, and exercising patience, the traffic can be lighter and manageable. By arriving early to school and being picked up a little later, you will have an easier time getting to the campus. More tips can be found at:

<http://www2.powayusd.com/pusdbmms/pdf/SafetyFirstBMMS.pdf>

- Morning drop off: It is strongly recommended that student arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. on Mondays (late start), and not later than 7:10 a.m., Tuesday through Friday. Parents are welcome to drop students off on the neighboring streets, but please make sure you inform your student to utilize the crosswalk. Please do not drop your student off in the middle of the street – this is extremely unsafe.
- Afternoon pick up: School dismisses each day at 2:27 p.m. with the exception of the Academy who dismisses at 3:25 p.m. However, on Fridays, Academy will also dismiss at 2:27 p.m. It is

recommended that parents arrive early to avoid traffic or have your student meet you in another location in one of the neighboring streets.

- On Fridays, afternoon traffic will get heavier due to all students dismissing at 2:27 p.m. Additionally, Sunset Hills ES dismisses daily at 2:50 p.m.
- Expect traffic in the morning to be heavy and congested, especially during the first few weeks of school. If using Sunset Hills ES to drop your child off, please do not park near the curb – this is reserved for their parents dropping off their children to ESS.
- Our parking lot does have arrows painted to help with the flow of traffic. Please adhere to these arrows, and do not disregard them – this only interrupts the flow of traffic.
- Buses ALWAYS have priority! They have the right of way because it is important that they stay on schedule because they have multiple routes at multiple schools.
- We have established a “culture of kindness” at Black Mountain Middle School. As a part of this culture, patience and tolerance is of the utmost importance. Traffic does have a tendency to slow, even stop, but please know that we try very hard to make sure the traffic is flowing safely for the benefit of our students.
- Practice safe driving habits – model good behavior for our students! Your help is very appreciated!



MY PLAN and MY CONNECT

Every parent/guardian has access to our district’s My Plan portal. The portal is designed to provide parents and students remote access to resources such as class schedule, daily student attendance, grades, MAP score, My Connect, and other tools. To access go to <http://myplan.powayusd.com>.

- An informational letter with a new user account name and password was sent to all parents of secondary students (grades 6-12). If you did not receive this letter, or have misplaced it, please email: myplanhelpdesk@powayusd.com.
- As a parent, you can opt in to receive alerts regarding your child’s attendance and grades. For information on how to do this, go to: <http://www2.powayusd.com/pusdbmms/pdf/MyPlanOptInLetter.pdf>
- If you do not remember you parent account password, you can go to: <https://password.powayusd.com> and follow the instructions.

My Connect is a learning management tool that supports instruction in the classroom. In My Connect, parents and students will find information about classroom assignments, syllabus, current grades and other teacher-provided resources.

Once you access through My Plan, you can access My Connect. Your child will be using My Connect on a constant basis to check assignments, class calendar and more.

If you have questions about My Connect, you can email: myPlanHelpdesk@powayusd.com.



ACADEMIC TIPS FOR PARENTS

How do I contact my child's teacher?

If you have questions regarding your student's progress and performance, the first step is to contact the teacher. Teacher emails can be found on the school website under "Parents" tab, as well as through My Connect.

Most teachers offer extra help after school or during their lunch. Your student will need to find out the specific times/days from their teacher. In addition, the school offers Power Hour, grade-level study halls, after school Monday through Thursday, for students to attend. Here, they can finish their homework or get assistance if needed.

What does the school counselor do?

We have two counselors, Mrs. Monica Taylor (A-L), and Mr. Jason Schafer (M-Z) that support our students. The role of the school counselor is to support students in academic, social and emotional behaviors. The school counselors are a good point of contact for things such as:

- Problems making friends
- Decision making/problem solving
- Executive functions – organization, study habits, etc.
- Getting involved on campus
- College/career explorations and conversations

What does the assistant principal do?

We have two assistant principals, Mrs. Jo Ann Cooper (A-L), and Mrs. Brianne Froumis (M-Z), that support our students. Our assistant principals work closely with our counselors to also support students in academic, social and emotional behaviors. The Assistant Principals are a good contact for things such as:

- Decision making/problem solving
- Bridging communication with teachers
- Issues with attendance



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Stay involved! Know what your student is doing – check My Plan and My Connect, keep up with their grades and performance.

Teach them to self-advocate – let them ask the teacher what it is that they missed when they were absent or ask why a problem was marked wrong on their test.

Help them to become organized – create a launch pad at home with their school items. Do not rush to bring their textbook or project from home every time (note that we only page students to the office during lunch and after school) that they may have forgotten it.

Help them become independent, so that when they transition to the high school, they are able to succeed right away.

We always would love to have you volunteer on our campus – there are lots of way to become involved: FallFest, Science Olympiad, Library, Ball Cart, Running Raiders, and more!

Many of our volunteer opportunities are run through our PTSA. Both our PTSA and Foundation are important entities at our school, and work together to make our students' experience that much better. Information for both organizations can be found on our school website. Information is also shared through the Sunday message.

Our PTSA President is Mrs. Nicole Stanton: bmsptsapresident@gmail.com

Our Foundation President is Mr. Garry Burgess: garryburgess@live.com