

Banks Middle School Newsletter

October 2018

Published by the BMS Community Relations Class

Welcome Back to Banks Middle School! We would also like to welcome Ms. Hecht, Mr. Shepard, Mrs. Zakrevsky, Mr. LaGrone and Mrs. Kopka to our staff. These first six weeks several changes have been brought about since last year. One major change is the schedule. 6th and 7th graders have been removed from the block scheduling. In addition, the first and second lunch system of last year has been changed and only one lunch occurs everyday. To help alleviate some of the crowding in the lunchroom, 8th graders have the privilege to eat in the upstairs commons.

This year has brought along several new electives to replace some of the older ones. Classes such as Creative Writing and Film Studies have been replaced by Myths and Monsters taught by Mrs. Hatcher. Along with Myths and Monsters, there is a math and reading intervention for those who need the extra support. Two more new electives have been added that are dedicated to making the school and community a better place. These two electives are Leadership and Community Relations led by Mr. Speer and Mrs. King. We hope that these changes will further benefit the school.

We look forward to making 2018-2019 the best year yet at Banks Middle School. Go Braves!



2018-2019 BMS Staff

Principal's Corner

It's hard to believe that we're already through the first six weeks of the 2018 - 2019 school year! This year we rolled out a new schedule and, slowly but surely, we're getting used to it. I'm excited to see all the great learning that's been happening in all our classes. I'd especially like to highlight the student-driven learning in Mrs. Kings Community Relations class, including creating our yearbook, maintaining our social media accounts, and the production of this newsletter!

Also, our teachers are making a concerted effort this year to keep parents and families informed with emails about what's going on in their classes. Please keep an eye out for these communications, monitor your child's progress in ParentVUE, and reach out to me or your child's teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks for coming out to conferences and thank you for opportunity to work with your children every day!
- Mr. Van Winkle

Attendance and Honor Roll

Quick facts about attendance and academics for the first six weeks of the 2018 - 2019 school year:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Enrollment	90	72	92
Attendance	96.0%	93.8%	93.8%
# with perfect attendance	39	17	20
# chronically absent*	7	19	24
# on honor roll	53	33	45

*chronic absenteeism is defined as attendance below 90%





Teacher Feature

Over the course of this year the Community Relations class will chose two staff members every month who will be highlighted in our Teacher Feature. The staff members for this honor will be awarded a gift card as a way of thank to them for improving our school. The first two for October were **Mr. Speer** and **Mrs. Hardman!** We appreciate all they do for our students.

National Junior Honor Society

This year we have a lot of NJHS members that have been hard at work organizing some events. One of these was spirit week which was a huge success with the majority of the student body participating in this event.

October 15 kicks off the Canned Food Drive. All food is donated to Banks Food Bank. Last classes of A Days will be competing to win a pizza party!
Canned Food Drive runs until October 25.

Veterans Day is on Nov 12th. On Friday **November 9th**, NJHS would appreciate students to wear red, white, and blue in honor for those who have served our country.

Community Relations/Leadership

BMS Community Relations Class is now running the social media sites. Stay up to date with all wonderful things happening via Facebook and Instagram

www.instagram.com/banksmiddleschool

www.facebook.com/BanksMiddleSchool

Leadership class submitted a proposal to get a much needed water bottle fountain installed in the BMS gym. More updates to come!

Oregon Battle of the Books will be starting soon!

Gather your teams and start reading.

Contact Mrs. Clark for more details.



6th to 8th Grade Division Book Titles

- *Absolutely Truly* by Heather Vogel Frederick
- *Avenging the Owl* by Melissa Hart
- *The Body in the Woods* by April Henry
- *Cryptid Hunters* by Roland Smith
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black
- *The Gauntlet* by Karuna Riazi
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda
- *The Luck Uglies* by Paul Durham
- *My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights* by Brooks Benjamin
- *Restart* by Gordon Korman
- *Revenge of the Witch* by Joseph Delaney
- *Small as an Elephant* by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
- *The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan
- *The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer
- *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

CALENDAR

Oct 17-18: Conferences 5:00-8:00 pm

October 15-25: Canned Food Drive

October 26: Celebration Assembly

Oct 26: Halloween Dance 6-8pm

Nov 5th-16th: Fall Fundraiser
(Holiday themed catalog)

Nov 12: No School. Veterans Day

Nov 21-23: Schools Closed

Nov 26-30: Trip to Washington DC

Dec 7: No School. Grade Day

Immunizations

All students must be current on immunizations by the exclusion date of February 20, 2019. For information on the school immunization rates go to www.banks.k12.or.us and then go to the administration tab.