

Welcome to Bala Cynwyd Middle School



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MR. JASON POTTEN, PRINCIPAL

MRS. GAIL BROWN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MR. JEFFREY HUNTER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**DR. MARISSA MCGINLEY, COORDINATOR OF SCHOOL
CULTURE AND CLIMATE**

MRS. DIANA ZUROSKI, 6TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

HSA



Home and School Association

Kes Messenger, Co- President

Shannon Knight, Co-President

8th Grade Coordinator: Colleen Thomas-Philip

7th Grade Coordinators: Barnes Bierck, Kate Wright

6th Grade Coordinators: Anu Chaudhuri, Corinn Rocker

Secretary: Cicely Reece

Co - Treasurers: Sara Nalbantian, Meryl Sultanik

Volunteer Coordinator: Dawn Willette

Middle School



We believe that every young adolescent...

- Has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- Must have access to the very best programs and practices a school can offer.
- Must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- Faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- Thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved.
- Deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners and committed to their own ongoing professional development and growth.

16 Characteristics of an Effective Middle School



Essential Attributes

An education for young adolescents must be

- **Developmentally responsive**
Using the distinctive nature of young adolescents as the foundation upon which all decisions about school organization, policies, curriculum, instruction, and assessment are made.
- **Challenging**
Ensuring that every student learns and every member of the learning community is held to high expectations.
- **Empowering**
Providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to take responsibility for their lives, to address life's challenges, to function successfully at all levels of society, and to be creators of knowledge.
- **Equitable**
Advocating for and ensuring every student's right to learn and providing appropriately challenging and relevant learning opportunities for every student.

16 Characteristics of an Effective Middle School



Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.
(Value Young Adolescents)
- Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning.
(Active Learning)
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant.
(Challenging Curriculum)
- Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches.
(Multiple Learning Approaches)
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it.
(Varied Assessments)

16 Characteristics of an Effective Middle School



Leadership and Organization

- A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.
(Shared Vision)
- Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices.
(Committed Leaders)
- Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration.
(Courageous & Collaborative Leaders)
- Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices.
(Professional Development)
- Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships.
(Organizational Structures)

16 Characteristics of an Effective Middle School



Culture and Community

- The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all.
(School Environment)
- Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
(Adult Advocate)
- Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
(Guidance Services)
- Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
(Health & Wellness)
- The school actively involves families in the education of their children.
(Family Involvement)
- The school includes community and business partners.
(Community & Business)

Bala Cynwyd Middle School

5th – 6th Grade Transition



Mr. Jeffrey Hunter

Mrs. Diana Zuroski

Mrs. Gail Brown

Dr. Marissa McGinley

Mr. Jason Potten

- Visits to the Elementary Schools (*January*)
- Online Scheduling at Elementary Schools (*Feb*)
- Student Question / Answer Meeting (*March/April*)
- Visit to BC Middle School (*May*)
 - Merion 5/21, Penn Wynne 5/23, Cynwyd 5/24

SAFETY



- Security checks upon entering the school
- Continuous communication with District Safety Coordinator
- Recommendations of School Safety Task Force
- Drills
- Phone calls for students who are absent from school
- Cyber bullying program in computers
- RALLY (Olweus Bully Prevention) Program
- Campus Aide

STRUCTURE: Middle School Academic Programs



➤ Core

- Language Arts (Reading and Writing)
 - Mathematics
 - Social Studies
 - Science
 - LEARN
- ## ➤ Supports
- Challenge
 - Special Education Services
 - Small Group Reading

➤ Non-Core

- Art
- Computers
- Family & Consumer Science
- Health
- Music
- Technology Education
- World Language
- Physical Education

STRUCTURE: TEAMS



➤ 4 Person Teams

- Team 6-1
- Team 6-2
- Team 6-3

➤ Thematic Program (Inquiry)

- eVolve

➤ 2 Person Team

- Team 6-5

Teams deliver the core instructional areas

- Language Arts (Reading and Writing)
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- LEARN

STRUCTURE: TEAM 6-5



BEST PRACTICES



Theme Based

Self Paced / Progress
Monitoring

Curricular Connections

Habits of Mind / Growth
Mindset

21st Century Skills / Blended

Passion Based Learning

Flexibility of Time and Space

Requests regarding Team structure for
your child should be sent to:

bcms56transition@lmsd.org

STRUCTURE: Student Services



- School Counseling Program
- Health Services
- School Social Worker
- School Psychologist
- Wellness Counselor
- Achievement Team
- S.T.A.R.T.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES



- Provided based on need.
- Services and Support may include:
 - Autistic Support
 - Learning Support
 - Emotional Support
 - Specialized Learning Support
 - Speech and Language Support
 - Physical Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Adaptive Physical Therapy
 - Orientation and Mobility
 - Vision Support
 - Hearing Support

LEARN



- Each student at Bala Cynwyd is assigned a LEARN teacher for each school year.
- Students are grouped into LEARN with an estimated 18 students with one teacher.
- Students meet in LEARN everyday.
- RALLY (Olweus Bully Prevention Program) addressed through RALLY period.

ACTIVITIES

- Intramural Sports
- Art Club
- Anime Club
- Community Service
- Build On
- Fall Play
- Winter Musical
- Stage Crew
- Homework Club
- Music Ensembles
- Cooking Club
- Morning Basketball
- Running Club
- Bell Choir
- Minecraft
- Video Game Club
- GLIST



- Science Olympiad
- Technology Student Association
- Math Counts
- Student Government
- GSA
- Bala Cynwyd United Minority Society
- Model UN
- Yearbook
- Newspaper
- School Dances



Bala Cynwyd Library Information Center



Ms. Kelly Anne McDermott, Librarian
Mrs. Diana Gagliardi, Library Assistant

Hours and Availability

Library Information Center: Opens daily at 7:30 AM

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays: Open until 4:25 PM for
Homework Club

Students are welcome and encouraged to use the library:

- **Before school**
- **Anytime during the day with a signed pass from their teacher**
- **During lunch with a lunch pass from the librarian or library assistant**
- **After school**

LATE BUS

- 4:30 p.m. Late Bus
- 5:30 p.m. Late Bus
- Bus runs are located in the hallway on the main floor and in the Guide to BC



COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

Website

- Daily Announcements
- Email and Phone
- Blackboard
- PowerSchool Parent Portal
- Guide to Bala Cynwyd
- Program Guide
- HSA Knightly News
- Monthly Calendar
- Activities Bulletin

Mailings

- Schedules will be mailed out to students at the end of August

Parent Conferences

Team Meetings

HSA Meetings

Computer Availability

- Laptops available before school, during school, and during homework club
- Printers are available for student use
- Chromebooks

Parent Portal: PowerSchool

refox File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Window Help (81%) Thu 9:03 PM

Grades and Attendance

LMSD | Welcome to the Lower M... Grades and Attendance

powerschool.lmsd.org/guardian/home.html

Grade History

- Attendance History
- Email Notification
- Teacher Comments
- My Calendars
- My Schedule

Click Here to see a list of all your students past assignments for this term.

Exp	Last Week		This Week		Course	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Y1	Absences	Tardies				
	M	T	W	F									M	T	W	F
1(A-F)					8 Family & Consumer Cooking Haubrich-Kadyan, Mary Elizabeth	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
2(A-F)					8 Instructional Support LAB Aikens, Elizabeth	0	--	--	--	0	0	0				
3(A-F)					8 Science Cook, Jason S	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
4(A-F)					8 English Thomas, Andrew B	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
5(A-F)					8 Algebra 1 Heibeck, Georgine E	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
6(A-F)					8 Lunch Brown, Gail J	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
7(B-D,F)					8 Advisory Thomas, Andrew B	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
8(A,D)					8 Phys Ed Stinson, Matt J	--	--	--	--	--	0	0				
8(B,E)					8 General Music Elias, Robert D	0	--	--	--	0	0	0				

QUESTIONS



Please do not hesitate to contact us:

BALA CYNWYD MIDDLE SCHOOL

610-645-1480