

Belvidere South Middle School Newsletter

September — November 2009

Principal—Peter F. Sloan Asst. Principal—Steve Repka Asst. Principal—Lisa Bergbreiter

Welcome Back!

The BSMS Newsletter will be published four times during the school year. The newsletter will be mailed home with mid-term progress reports (4 1/2 week report cards) each quarter. The newsletter will cover all-important announcements concerning BSMS.

BSMS Office Procedures/Absences

To excuse a student's absence or tardiness, a parent or guardian of the student needs to either call the office at 544-3175 or send a note with the student the next day to excuse the absence. Multiple unexcused absences will result in referral to the district's truancy officer.

If a student needs to leave school (doctor/dental appointment, etc.) please call the office in advance or send a note with the student to be brought into the office before school begins. The office will then issue the student a pass to leave class at the appropriate time in order to meet a ride at the front door of the middle school. Phone messages from parents or guardians only will be passed on to students.

BSMS will not cash checks for students. Please write checks for the exact amount of the purchase item or activity (lunch accounts, field trips, extracurricular activity, etc.). Please write separate checks for each purchase/activity, as they usually go into separate accounts.

The BSMS office staff is here to accommodate the students and their parents in whatever way possible. In order to better direct your inquiries, please use the following office staff for: attendance—Bonnie Faith; scheduling, school records, report cards—Sharon Osterberg; lunch program, athletic fees, accounting—Cindy Clark.

Visitors

We believe parent/guardian visits are very important. Visiting the classroom demonstrates to your child that you value the work your child is doing. As a courtesy, please contact the teacher the day before your visit. Other than normal office visits, all visitors will be asked to provide a photo ID before being issued a visitor's pass/entry into the school. Upon exiting the building, visitors will return their visitor's pass at the main office in exchange for their photo ID.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Week of October 13, 2009

8th grade students will be taking the EXPLORE test.

March 1—March 12, 2010

All students will be taking the ISAT test. Please make sure your children are in attendance during this testing period.

ISAT results are included with the newsletter for students who were in the Belvidere School District last school year.

BSMS Calendar October/November

School Improvement Day—No School	Oct. 9
Columbus Day No School	Oct. 12
Report Cards sent home with students	Oct. 30
Parent Teacher Conference from 4:30—8:30 p.m.	Nov. 9
Parent Teacher Conference from 4:30—8:30 p.m.	Nov. 10
Veteran's Day No School	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 25 – 27

School Dance Dates 2009-2010

Student Council Dates

September 18th - 6 and 7th Grades
January 8th - 7 and 8th Grades
May 14th - 8th Grade

PBIS Dates

October 23rd - 6, 7, and 8th Grades
February 19th - Grades TBA
April 9th - Grades TBA

ODDS and ENDS

▶ Tardies—If your student is tardy to school, you will need to send a note with them, place a call to the office, or come into the office with your student in order for them to be excused. Our tardy bell rings at 8:38 a.m.

▶ Healthy Snacks for BSMS Students—BSMS offers a vending machine for all students. This machine is stocked with healthy snacks and drinks that the students can purchase. Federal Guidelines do require that the machine is off during our lunch hours of 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Students are welcome to purchase their items before or after these times.

▶ Don't forget you can check your students grades and attendance at any time through the Parent Access Link on the District 100 website (www.district100.com). If you do not have a password contact Bev Wallace at 544-0301.

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

Attendance at school each day possible is imperative to the success of your student. It should be noted that there are some instances when attendance is not advised, such as in the case of illness or family emergency. During this school year, we will be highlighting the importance of good attendance. Please join our efforts by reinforcing the following information at home:

- It should come to no surprise that **attendance is strongly linked to student achievement**; students with high attendance score better on tests. Students with high absenteeism rates have fewer chances to learn material that enables them to succeed. Those who attend school tend to graduate high school at higher rates. Ultimately, high school graduates earn more money and enjoy better health than those receiving GED's.
- Although BSMS currently has attendance rates better than the state average, **improving attendance even slightly benefits our entire learning community**. When absences from school are unnecessary, teachers lose valuable instructional and planning time arranging for make-up work. Unnecessary absences also disrupt the progress of many instructional methods of teachers, such as group work and laboratory experiences. Thus, attending school when at all possible contributes to a productive learning environment of BSMS.
- Each student's attendance affects the entire district since attendance is one component used by the State of Illinois to determine funding. Achieving the highest levels possible will help us to receive the most state funding possible. This funding is used for the educational opportunities of every student in District #100.

Please help us to develop in your student a commitment to promptness and exemplary school attendance. Parents are the best teachers; the daily routines taught and practiced now will directly affect, either positively or negatively, the future behaviors of your children. We ask for your cooperation in planning appointments and family vacations during non-school hours. If you have any questions regarding the current school policies or the benefits of regular attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 544-3175. We are looking forward to an exciting, productive, and well-attended school year at BSMS.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Sloan
Principal