

# Western Middle School

October, 2011

## NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Volume 1, Issue 1,  
October, 2011



Dear Parent /Guardians,

Our first few weeks of school have proven to be very successful and productive. We are looking forward to an exciting school year with many great opportunities for all. Please make sure to read the monthly newsletters that will be coming home as they will be filled with much information regarding the upcoming month. Also, feel free to contact me at any time by e-mail [baileya@bcschools.net](mailto:baileya@bcschools.net) or by phone 989-662-4489 with any questions or concerns you might have.

Thanks, Mrs. Bailey

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## STAFF CHANGES

We have a few staff changes at WMS this year. Welcome to: Mrs. Liss Assistant Principal, Mr. LaLonde 8th Grade Math/Algebra Teacher - Mr. Tacey 8th Grade Lang Arts and History Teacher, Mr. Walters 7M Lang. Arts and Social Studies Teacher, Mr. Pennell 6M Lang Arts Teacher and Mr. Wilson 7M Science and Social Studies Teacher.. Welcome to all.

## COMING EVENTS OCTOBER 2011

Mon.	Oct. 3	No School District Professional Development Day 8:00 Am – 3:30 Pm ( <i>Student Recess</i> )
Tues.	Oct. 4	(Students Return) 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Thurs.	Oct. 6	8th Grade Boys Tackle Football and 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Sat.	Oct. 8	Boys And Girls Cross Country
Mon.	Oct. 10	7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Tues.	Oct. 11	(Oct. 11-28) MEAP Grades 6th - 8th - Reading Day 1
Wed.	Oct. 12	MEAP – Reading Day 2 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Tackle Football
Thurs.	Oct. 13	MEAP – Writing Day 1 Boys And Girls Cross Country VS. BC Middle School Invite Delta 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tackle Football
Fri.	Oct. 14	1 <sup>st</sup> Marking Period Ends Spirit Day – U Of M VS. MSU. – Wear Maize/Blue Or Green/White
Mon.	Oct. 17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Begins 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Tue.	Oct. 18	MEAP Mathematic
Wed.	Oct. 19	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tackle Football and 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Thurs.	Oct. 20	Boys And Girls Cross Country
Mon.	Oct. 24	7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Tues.	Oct. 25	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball
Wed.	Oct. 26	Parent Teacher Conference 3-5 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tackle Football Gold Team
Thurs.	Oct. 27	Boys And Girls Cross Country and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Tackle Football Halloween Dance - 5:00 – 6:00 pm 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance and 6:15-7:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance
Fri.	Oct 28	Spirit Day ( <i>Orange And Black</i> )
Mon.	Oct. 31	No School (Student Recess)

### Important Dates to Remember

**October 3**  
NO SCHOOL

**October 4**  
STUENT RETURN

**October 5**  
COUNT DAY

**October 11**  
MEAP BEGINS

**October 25**  
Parent Teacher Conf.

**October 26**  
Parent Teacher Conf.

**October 27**  
Halloween Dance

## **NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Douglas Newcombe**

**October 2011**

**Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,**

I hope that your children have had a good start to this school year. One area that has been of concern to some parents and us as well has been bus delays due to road construction projects in the area. Our Transportation Department has made route and time adjustments in an effort to reduce or prevent these delays.

We also made adjustments at the start of the school year to reduce class sizes where possible and needed by adding teaching staff, adding classrooms, or other measures. Our goal is to continue to bring class sizes down as much as possible and we are seeing lower class sizes this year as compared to previous years. I believe that lowering class sizes particularly in lower elementary grade levels is very important to the development of younger students.

A few cool items to share, some of which you may know, others you may not:

All of our schools improved overall student achievement last year with Central achieving the State's Adequate Yearly Progress measure for the first time in 7 years and Handy for the first time in 5 years. There were nice gains in core areas such as reading and math and test scores improved overall. We should be proud of the work of our students, teachers, and school staff and we will continue to build on these successes into the future.

In September, the NAACP and our local Meijer Stores combined to donate \$1,000 to Washington, Lindsay, Kolb, and MacGregor to assist students and teachers with school supplies.

Several members of the Detroit Red Wings were on hand at Kolb last month to present students and staff with a Red Wing Jersey signed by all team members for display at the school. This is part of the Wings' "Community Relations Tour."

The United Way provided **1,236 Bay County** kids with new shoes, pants, shirts, socks and other clothing items for back to school with the help of hundreds of volunteers, businesses and individuals; this effort also generated over \$64,000 in local retail purchases helping the Bay economy.

Lastly I want to provide you some information on the upcoming November special education millage increase request by Bay Arenac Intermediate School District of 1.0 mills. The special education millage received by the ISD benefits special education students in ALL of the local school districts including Bay City Schools. Most special education services are above and beyond regular education services received by all students and most are mandated by federal and state laws. However, school districts do not receive nearly enough funding to cover these mandated services. In Bay City, \$8 million is spent annually for special education; \$4 million in funding is received. The shortfall is paid from dollars supposed to go to regular education students. With falling local property values, special education funding has also fallen. The ISD millage is an attempt to assist local schools to cover some of their special education costs not currently covered. There will be more information on this topic on our website and through the media.

If you have not had a chance to read our "Pledge to Parents" on the front page of our District website, I encourage you to do so. This is our commitment to work with you to provide your children with a rewarding and successful educational experience. Thank you for supporting your children and our teachers and staff in these efforts; it is appreciated, and is extremely important. If you have any questions or comments, I encourage you to contact me at 989-671-8165 or by email at [newcombed@bcschools.net](mailto:newcombed@bcschools.net). Thank you.

**Sincerely,**

**Douglas L. Newcombe**  
**Superintendent**

Please remember to check out these resources which may be of assistance to your children;

**Opportunity Connection Website:** offers a variety of learning opportunities for students, teachers, and businesses. You may visit their website at [www.opportunityconnection.net](http://www.opportunityconnection.net).

**Imagination Library:** This is a FREE book a month program for ANY child (age birth to 5) living in Bay or Arenac Counties. Visit [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com)

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE



Please join us for Parent Teacher Conferences:

Tuesday, October 25th 4:00-7:00 pm  
Wednesday, October 26th 3:00-5:00 pm

The 1st marking period ends Friday, October 14, 2011

## Athletics

Middle School athletic programs have started!

Please remember that physical forms and a \$30 pay to participate fee needs to be turned in before students may tryout. Physical forms can be found in the Athletic Office or on the webpage.

Please encourage your student to participate in any and all co-curricular opportunities.

## Edline

EDLINE... This web link is a direct line to your student's grades and assignments in order to help them be successful in the education process. 7th/8th grade returning students have the same user ID and password. If you need a new account or need the password/ID from last year please contact Ms. Ford, WMS Administrative Assistant at 668-0418. Ms. Ford will send your User I. D. and the step by step process to register for this program.

## Do you like horses?

Then maybe you'd be interested in participating this year on the Western Middle School Equestrian Team. We will get together for a few practices and meetings in order to get ready for our one and only competition meet, held at the Midland Fairgrounds in the spring of 2012. All levels of experience are needed (beginner, intermediate and advanced riding/handling skills). Grooms are welcome too! If you're interested in riding or helping as a groom, please call Amy Clark at (989) 662-4976 in the evenings/ weekend or (989) 636-2127 during the weekdays or e-mail [acdc147@chartermi.net](mailto:acdc147@chartermi.net). Sign-ups (registration forms for riders only) are due in March 2012.

\$25 Rider Registration fee (fee waived for participating in selling cookie dough with the High School equestrian team in Jan/Feb)

## Electronic Devices



As a reminder, use of any electronic device during the school day is against WMS rules. This includes cell phones, i-pods, MP3 players, video games, etc. . If they are in use during the day, they will be taken. Thank you for your understanding.

## School Closings and Delays



As the weather continues to change, please keep the following in mind: In a school delay, it is just that. School starts exactly 2 hours later than our regular starting time of 7:34 AM. That means all bus pick-up times are 2 hours later than normal, too. On days when it appears school may be delayed or closed, please listen to or watch your local TV and/or radio stations for announcements, or check our webpage at [www.bcschools.net](http://www.bcschools.net). The safety of our students is our major concern.

## Temple Theater

Parents of eighth grade students,

Your student will be participating in our annual Temple Theater Event. On Thursday, October 27th the 8th grade teachers and students will attend 5 short plays based on the works of Edgar Allen Poe, Washington Irving, and Mark Twain with other celebrated authors. This trip is the first of many great experiences for your 8th grader.

(Permission slips will be available during Curriculum Night at the table, Wednesday, September 14th if you would like to sign it then. There is a \$15.00 ticket fee and the school will pay for our busing. Checks may be made payable to WMS and the forms and checks may be given to our Curriculum Night hosts at the check in table or returned to your student's 2nd hour teacher the next day.)

All 8th teachers will pass/ will have passed out the permission slips to their students in 2nd hour on Thursday, September 25. The cost of the ticket is \$15.00 with the school providing the transportation. Please fill out all necessary information and return the slip and \$15.00 to school with your child before Friday, October 14th.

If you have any questions concerning the cost of the trip or accommodations such as having an interpreter or wheelchair accessibility, please contact Ms Thomas at WMS, 989-662-4489, ext. 6168.

## Late Buses & Other News

We will have late buses this year. The buses will connect with our feeder elementary buses and deliver students from the elementary runs. Students are not allowed to stay after unless they have a specific reason for doing so — meeting with a teacher, detention, Academic Track practice, etc.

Late buses leave at 3:00 p.m.

**Remember to excuse your child's absence by calling 662-0184.**

Western Middle School is a closed campus. Students are not to leave the school grounds once they have arrived at school.

Students going home with another student must have a written note from a parent and have it signed by an administrator.

We are in the process of creating activities/intramural sports for students. Your child will be able to ride the late bus home if they elect to participate in any activities.

To keep all students safe, **all visitors must check in at the main office.**

Thanks!



## Lunch Prices



Lunch and breakfast prices have gone up a little. This year's lunch prices are now: \$2.65 for MS; students qualifying for reduced price, the price is \$ .40.

## Textbooks



Your child is expected to take care of his/her assigned textbooks. Teachers and students have agreed on the condition of books when assigned. If a book is lost or damaged, your child will be assessed a fine.

**Please have your child cover his/her book to help protect the textbook from damage.**

One planner is a gift to all students. This is a great communication tool for parents, teachers and students. Please check the planners daily. If your child loses it, it can be replaced in the counseling office for \$5.00. See Mrs. Sweebe.

## Volunteer Opportunities at Western Middle School



Mrs. Jeanna Wozniak  
our Volunteer Coordinators!



Thanks to the many volunteers at WMS, we have many events planned. A Volunteer sign-up form has been sent home. Throughout the year we need volunteer help. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please call our Volunteer Coordinator: Jeanna Wozniak @ (989) 415-7253.

We're on the Web. Visit  
us at [www.bcschools.net](http://www.bcschools.net).  
Follow the "Our  
Schools" link.



Phone: 989-662-4489  
Fax: 989-662-0185  
Attendance: 989-662-0184

500 W. Midland Road  
Auburn, Michigan 48611



OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ PHONE/EMERGENCY FORMS

It is very important that parents notify the school office of any changes in address, home, and work phone numbers, etc. When we have emergencies, it is important that we have the correct information to reach a parent as soon as possible.

If you have had any changes on your emergency/profile sheet, please contact Mrs. Sweebe at 662-0416 to provide the updated information.

We have a list serve by grade level when we have information to send home. If you haven't given us your email address, you can email Ms. Ford at [fordc@bcschools.net](mailto:fordc@bcschools.net) to have your email address added.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Our goal is to have all of our students in class, learning every day. When it is necessary for a child to miss school for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to call the school to excuse their student



### HOMEWORK POLICY

If your child is absent for a day or two, he/she should contact their teachers upon returning to school to obtain assignments. For absences more than two days, parents may call the school and request assignments that may be worked on prior to the student returning. Please request your student's homework at least 24 hours in advance **only if they will be out for more than one day.**

