



# WELCOME TO OUR RISING 6TH GRADE BULLDOG BLITZ!



# BULLDOG BLITZ OBJECTIVES

Our goal with this presentation is to help parents of rising 6th grade students...

- ★ gain a better understanding of what middle school life will look like for your student,

AND

- ★ feel more comfortable with registering your child for 6th grade classes.





# WHY TEAMING OUR STUDENTS IS SO IMPORTANT:

- ★ Teaming addresses the unique physical, emotional, social, and academic needs of adolescents.
- ★ Teaming gives your child a gradual increase in independence, which means they have greater freedom BUT ALSO greater responsibility.
- ★ We help your child explore new interests - academics, friends, clubs, sports, and so much more.
- ★ We are the bridge:
  - Middle schoolers are growing and changing so fast...
  - In just 3 short years, it will be time to send them to high school!



# TEAMS!

## A SMALLER SCHOOL WITHIN THE LARGER SCHOOL

- ★ Each year we have a school-wide theme and team teachers choose their names based on that theme.
- ★ Each team consists of your child's 4 core content teachers (Language Arts, Math, History, Science).
- ★ Teams are instructional and developmental to
  - provide a sense of belonging
  - involve knowledge of the whole student
- ★ Team classrooms are located in clusters.
- ★ Teams provide an identity and social structure for students for team points & competitions, Flex activities, intramurals, team socials, field trips, etc.



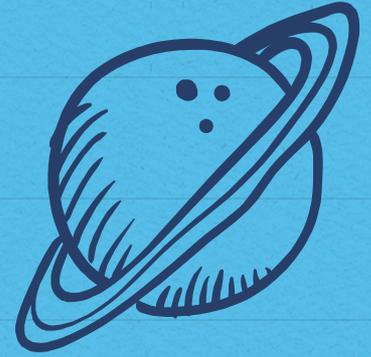
# A QUICK LOOK AT BCMS

- ★ Grades 6, 7, and 8
- ★ Approximately 300 students in each grade
- ★ 3 teams of teachers per grade level
- ★ A days / B days with 4 blocks each
- ★ Approximately 85 minutes for instruction each block
- ★ Senior Teacher (grade level administrator) and Counselor at each grade

# FACTS ABOUT THE A/B DAY



## CALENDAR



- ★ A/B days are set in advance.
- ★ The entire county uses the same calendar.
- ★ The A/B day calendar is “set in stone”. It will not change even in the event of a missed day due to inclement weather.

# FLEX: WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT

# FLEX:

## STANDS FOR FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE!

- ★ **Flex Defined:** A structured environment that supports academic success, wellness, goal-setting, character education, and building a welcoming environment for students.
- ★ Each day your student will have a Flex period, much like “homeroom”.
- ★ Flex is approximately 35 minutes after 3rd block each afternoon.
- ★ Flex teachers are team teachers or an elective/PE teacher assigned to that team.
- ★ **What Flex IS:** Supervised Study Hall, SSR (Silent Sustained Reading), Remediation, Make-Up Work, Test Corrections, SEL/Character Lessons, Clubs, Going to the Library
- ★ **What Flex IS NOT:** It is not free/social time nor a time to play on cell phones or Chromebooks.
- ★ Students should have something productive to work on whether it’s homework, studying for a quiz or test, making up work, getting help from a teacher, organizing their binders, practicing math facts, or silent reading.





# WHAT HOMEWORK LOOKS LIKE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ★ Yes, we give homework!
- ★ Homework is practice and is assigned by most core content teachers.
- ★ Access Schoology for all classwork and homework assignments.
- ★ But what does homework mean with block scheduling?

**Students should do homework the night it is assigned!**

Ex. Math and Language Arts meet every day, so their homework is often checked the next day; Science and History meet every other day so homework in those classes will be due their next block.





# SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE

## A Day

A1: Math (full block)

A2: Science

A3: Language Arts (full block)

A4: Elective (year or semester)

## B Day

B1: Health/PE

B2: SPLIT block (math/language arts)

B3: Elective (year or semester)

B4: History



**BELL  
CREEK**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# PARENT PORTAL & REGISTERING FOR CLASSES

- ★ Preliminary course requests for the 2023-2024 school year can be selected from December 1, 2022 - January 2, 2023, using the Parent Portal in PowerSchool.
- ★ The Parent Portal gives students and families the option to self-select courses for the 2023-2024 school year. After the Parent Portal closes, school counselors will meet with students to review/add requests.



- ★ You can check what your student has requested by logging into PowerSchool on a computer, not the app, and clicking the Class Registration button on the left hand side.
- ★ Course Verification Forms will come out twice in the spring; first, on March 17 and then again on May 15.

[Click here for directions for requesting classes through the Parent Portal](#)





# DEVICES AT BELL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL



## Chromebooks

## Cell Phones

- ★ Students will be re-issued a device at the start of the school year.
- ★ Safety first! The iBoss filter functions while at school and at home.
- ★ Students should bring it everyday!
- ★ Charge the device nightly.
- ★ Leave their charger at home.
- ★ Power off the device daily.
- ★ Don't place anything heavy on the lid as it will damage it.

- ★ Historically, cell phones are the #1 distraction to student learning.
- ★ With Chromebooks, students can access educational materials, so cell phones are not needed.
- ★ Cell phones should be silenced and put away during instructional time.
- ★ Cell phones are allowed before 8:45 a.m., during lunch, and after 3:45 p.m.





# WHAT ABOUT . . .

## School Supplies

- ★ Backpack
- ★ Agenda/Planner Calendar
- ★ 3-Ring Binder w/ dividers
- ★ Notebook Paper
- ★ Pencils, Pens, highlighters
- ★ Colored Pencils/Markers
- ★ Glue Sticks, Scissors
- ★ Dry erase markers
- ★ Handheld pencil sharpener, cap erasers
- ★ Wired Earbuds

*\*list subject to change*

## Tours

- ★ We know how important tours are in helping our future Bulldogs feel comfortable coming to BCMS.
- ★ All 5th grades will be scheduled in the spring (March/April) to visit BCMS!

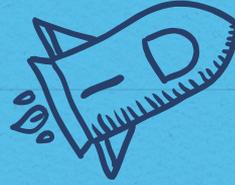
## Newsletter

- ★ We will send out a link in August 2023 to our digital newsletter with LOTS of helpful information, names and faces to know, etc. over eConnect from your student's elementary school principal and BCMS.
- ★ It will also go out over our social media so check out the Stay Connected slide to be in the BCMS know!





# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD NAVIGATE MIDDLE SCHOOL



- ★ Be involved and ask questions.
- ★ Get an Agenda Planner/Calendar for your child and encourage him/her to write down their homework daily.
- ★ Check with your child frequently about their Agenda, Schoology, and PowerSchool.
- ★ Establish Homework Patterns:
  - Designate a *specific* time and place to complete homework.
- ★ Meet your child's friends.
- ★ Encourage participation in extracurricular activities.
- ★ Schedule a team meeting to keep up with your child's progress.







Believe Create Maximize Succeed

# Stay CONNECTED

## with Bell Creek Middle School

### Website



[bcms.hcps.us](http://bcms.hcps.us)

### Online School Payments

[osp.asmsinc.com/HanoverVA](http://osp.asmsinc.com/HanoverVA)



@Bellcreekmiddleschool



@Bellcreekmiddle



@Bellcreekmiddleschool

### Weekly Emails

Sign up here:

[Hanover.bbc.portal.com](http://Hanover.bbc.portal.com)

Bookmark this:

[bit.ly/BCMSconnection](http://bit.ly/BCMSconnection)

### Schoology

(shoo-uh-jee)

Student Access: [hcp.schoology.com](http://hcp.schoology.com)

Parent Access: [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com)

Access class homework, assignment dates and class information. Parent portal access information available through PowerSchool Parent Account. Students login with HCPSS Google credentials. Schoology app is available.

### Destiny

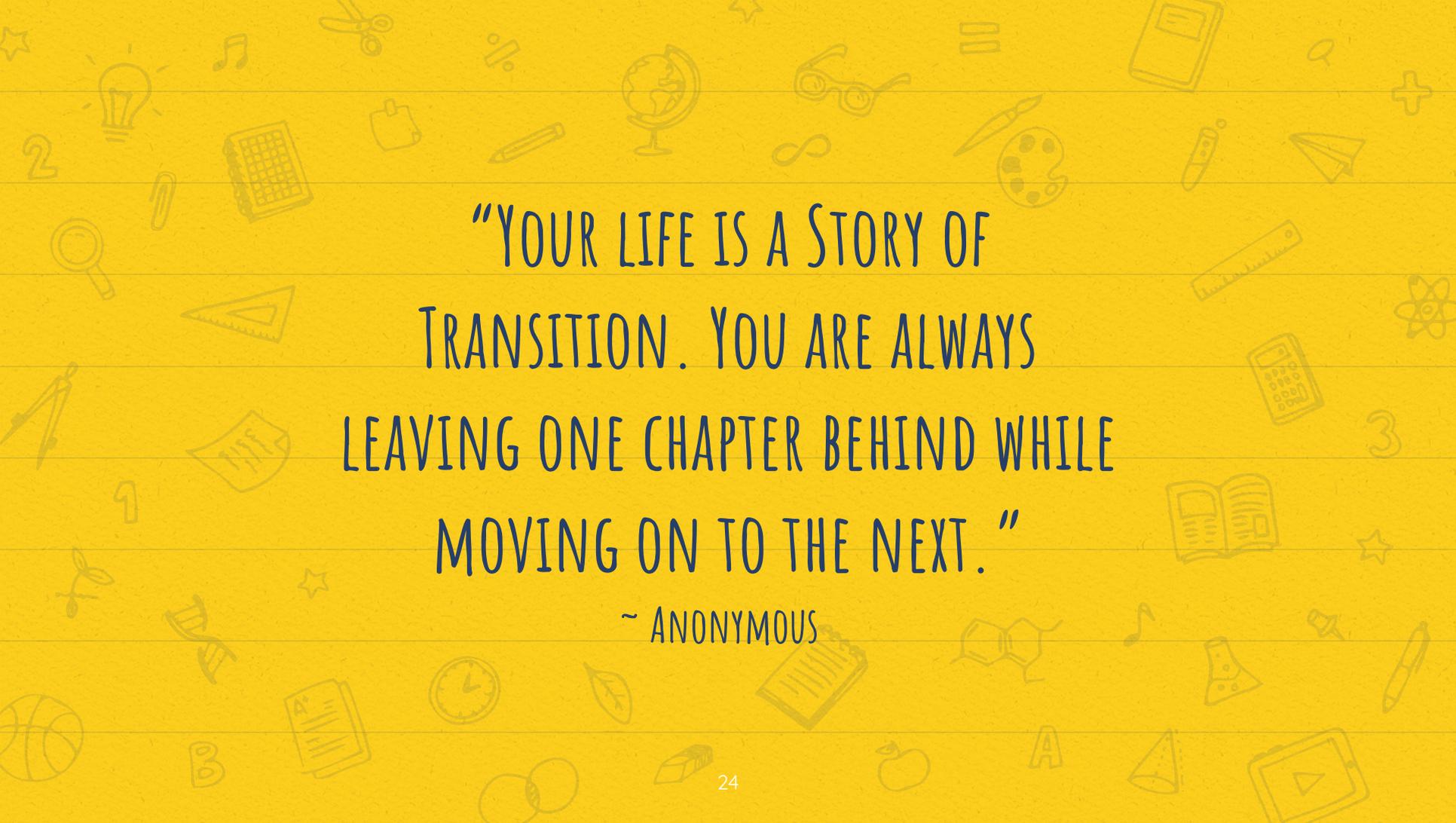
[hanoverschools.falsettdestiny.com](http://hanoverschools.falsettdestiny.com)

Access the online library catalog of books and databases. Students sign-in to place books on hold or check book due dates.

### PowerSchool

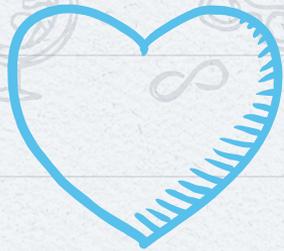
[hanover.powerschool.com](http://hanover.powerschool.com)

View attendance and grades. Parents and students have separate accounts. Click on class average to view individual grades. PowerSchool app is available. District code = WXWZ



"YOUR LIFE IS A STORY OF  
TRANSITION. YOU ARE ALWAYS  
LEAVING ONE CHAPTER BEHIND WHILE  
MOVING ON TO THE NEXT."

~ ANONYMOUS



THANKS!



WE'RE EXCITED TO MEET OUR NEWEST BULLDOGS!



**Do you still have burning questions you need to ask?**

**Let us know!**

Courtney Leonarkis Hevener: [cleonarkis@hcps.us](mailto:cleonarkis@hcps.us) (rising 6th grade counselor)

Tracy Graves: [tgraves@hcps.us](mailto:tgraves@hcps.us) (6th grade senior teacher)

Tim Sanders: [tsanders@hcps.us](mailto:tsanders@hcps.us) (principal)





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