

Welcome Parents and Guardians!

The following is intended to provide general information about the Bellows Falls Middle School which we hope is helpful to parents. Please feel free to call us directly if you have any questions or concerns at 463-4366.

Arrival. Students should arrive to school no earlier than 7:30 and not later than 8:00. Our school day begins officially at 8:00. For information on your child's bus schedule please call Mac Jones at the supervisory union (463-9958). Bus routes are also posted at the WNESU website.

Breakfast and Snacks. School breakfast is available every day and is served between 7:30 and 8:00. The cost is \$1.25. Snacks in the classrooms are at the discretion of the individual teachers. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding snacks.

Advisory. Upon arrival all students report to the school auditorium. At 8:00 am they go directly to their advisory class (homeroom). Advisory is a 20 minute block at beginning of the day where students connect with each other and their advisor in a smaller informal setting.

Lunch. There are three lunch periods. One for fifth and sixth graders; one for seventh graders and one for eighth graders. School lunch is available every day. A monthly menu is posted on our school web site (top right). The cost is \$2.00. Students can pay daily or in advance. Checks should be made payable to Rockingham School Lunch. Charging is not allowed. Free and Reduced Lunch is available and forms can be obtained from the main office.

End of Day. The school day ends at 2:45. Students return to their advisory at 2:40 pm for the last five minutes of the day. Walkers are dismissed at 2:45. Busses are announced.

Curriculum/Schedule. All students take "core classes" in math, science, language arts, and social studies. Please see each grade's individual class pages for additional information on what your child will be learning each year in core subjects. In addition all students have classes in physical education, and the "Unified Arts" (music, art, and consumer science and world cultures). The school offers electives in band, arts plus, and chorus. Students in 8th grade may elect to take French and Algebra.

Our school operates on a trimester. Student classes in the Unified Arts change each trimester.

Library. Teachers schedule class time in the school library for research, literacy skills, and to choose reading material.

Sports. Our school offers a variety of interscholastic sports programs including soccer, field hockey, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball and track. Please visit the sport web page for specific information and schedules for sports. Students can obtain necessary forms for participating in our sports programs from Tim Eno, our athletic director, or the forms can be downloaded from the sport web page. To participate in school sports, a student must have a completed health form.

Many of the fall and springs sports take place at the athletic fields at the Bellows Falls Union High School. Bus transportation from the middle school to the high school is provided for students. Student's must arrange their own transportation home from practices.

After School Activities. The Bellows Falls Middle School is the recipient of a 21st Century Grant. This grant funds a number of after school activities ranging from hiking, jewelry making, world music drumming, and art classes. Class offerings change throughout the year. Visit our school web site or contact Orianna Baez at 463-4366, ext. 318 for more information about this wonderful after school program.

Winter Sport Program. Our school participates in down hill skiing and snowboarding at Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vermont. This program runs on Sundays for eight weeks during late January, February and March. Information about this program is sent home from the school.

School Nurse. Our school nurse, Laura Lober, is at the school 5 days a week.

School Counselor. Our school Counselor, Larry Clark, is at the school five days a week.

Agendas. Each child receives an "Agenda" book at the beginning of the school year. The Agenda's contain a map of the school, the school rules, and dress code. The Agenda is a tool to help students track daily assignments and obligations.

PTO. Our school has an active PTO. All are welcome. Meetings are held in the school library on the first Tuesday of each month of the school year. The PTO works to promote the school and students and to support activities and programs of the school through financial and volunteer support. It is also a

wonderful opportunity for parents to learn about what is happening at the school, voice concerns, and provide support.