

Frequently Asked Questions for 6th Grade Families about Beaufort Middle School 2020- 2021

What makes Beaufort Middle School Unique?

- **Beaufort Middle School is one of South Carolina's Palmetto's Finest Middle Schools. Only one middle school receives this award each year, and BMS received it in 2012.**
- **BMS is an Arts in the Basic Curriculum School with a Distinguished Arts Program and receives grant funding to support the arts.**
- **BMS has a Classical Studies, choice program for 6th – 8th grade students that began in 2015-2016.**
- **Students and staff practice *The 7 Mindsets***
- **Students and staff participate in Community Service and Service Learning and log their hours earned as part of the President's Volunteer Service Award Program.**
- **BMS students participate in school-wide Socratic Seminar.**

What is the Arts Integration Program? Arts Integration Program engages all students in high quality visual and performing arts classes, including band, orchestra, chorus, guitar, theater, visual arts, media arts, and creative writing, along with their core academic classes. Students make connections to core curriculum through arts integration. Students are expected to learn collaboratively with their peers and independently through projects, web-based learning, and to develop consistent study skills and good citizenship skills.

What is the Classical Studies program?

Classical Studies offers a college preparatory course of study with mandatory courses in English, world language, math, science, social studies including world culture studies. There is an emphasis on academics with a focus on critical thinking, participation in Socratic seminars and web-based learning. A strong focus will be on the arts as well as the development of character, school pride, student leadership, personal accountability, structured discipline, along with civic responsibilities and community service. Classical Studies, grounded in the classics and based on the belief that good citizens are active, well-informed participants in their community, is a school within a school program focused on growing leaders, thinkers, and good citizens. This small learning community (limited to 20 students per class) nurtures well-rounded students who learn to think critically and creatively while making connections to the value and relevance of history in their community and society. Classical studies students grow as studious scholars who develop strong study skills, learning new ways of studying to make connections and draw conclusions. Students in Classical Studies they develop regular and efficient study habits.

What academic courses are offered for 6th grade students?

6th grade core academic courses include Math 6, Advanced Math 6, and Accelerated Math 6; ELA 6 and Advanced ELA 6; Social Studies 6 and Advanced Social Studies 6; Science 6 and Advanced Science 6. Course descriptions provide additional information about these courses. Student placement is based on BCSD course placement criteria including MAP scores, PASS scores, and current course grades.

What if I have questions about my child's course recommendation and placement?

Any parent with a question about course recommendation or criteria may contact your child's current teacher, school counselor and other school personnel as necessary.

What is included in the curriculum at BMS?

Each student takes classes in English / Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies. Additionally, students will have a variety of academic arts opportunities during the year. Through grant funding, 6th grade students benefit from guest artists, attend performances, and present their integrated learning through various art forms. Our program of study, integrates the arts, community involvement and the humanities into the core curriculum.

How does BMS prepare students for high achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math?

All students have technology devices (tablets) as a tool for learning. Students engage in problem-based learning through different lab and simulation experiences in science and math that require critical thinking and complex problem-solving. Our school courtyard provides our students with an outdoor classroom for extensive environmental and life science inquiry skill building. Our math teachers integrate science and science teachers integrate math often as part of the problem-solving process. We have two collaborative partnerships with community organizations that also enhance science, technology, and engineering skills for our students. Additional community science resources support our students as applicable in each unit of study. A media / graphic arts course is part of our Academic Arts curriculum where students use state of the art equipment for creative problem-solving. Teachers and students also use various on-line learning sites.

South Carolina State Standards - The South Carolina State Standards were established to assist all students in preparation for college and career readiness when they graduate from high school. The standards drive the curriculum in all classes offered at Beaufort Middle School. Resources for parents on the **South Carolina State Standards** are available at <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>. Parents can also locate the Profile for the SC Graduate at the State Department website; this profile supports our students as they grow through school prepared to be a well-educated, qualified workforce.

What Academic Arts courses will my child take?

We plan to offer foreign language, visual arts, orchestra, chorus, band, drama, and physical education/health to all 6th grade students. In addition, academic arts opportunities may include problem-solving, middle school organization, environmental studies, wellness, or community based classes.

If my child had been identified as gifted and talented, how will his/her needs be met?

Students receive GT services according to state guidelines in their areas of strength in advanced classes taught by highly qualified, gifted endorsed teachers. Artistically gifted and talented students have opportunities for enrichment experiences in their areas of the arts throughout the year. Additionally, our teachers use many differentiated instructional strategies and content to meet the learning needs and learning styles of all students. Students identified non-verbal Gifted and Talented will be scheduled for environmental studies classes and science and math enrichment.

If my child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), how will his/her goals and objectives of this plan be addressed?

We have two resource teachers, one self-contained teacher, and one speech/ language therapist at Beaufort Middle School that assist in serving our students with IEP's depending upon their identified needs. They provide pull out resource classes and push in inclusion assistance according to students' individual needs at the 6th grade level. They also work with our regular core curriculum and academic arts teachers to accommodate special learning needs our students may have.

What additional enrichment does BMS provide?

All students have a 30 minute Gryphon Time/Enrichment class that meets each daily. This class period includes various enrichment opportunities daily such as science explorations, reader's theatre, and Lego Mindstorm. Also during this academic intervention classes are scheduled throughout the school year based on the needs of our students. These may occur during Gryphon Times or the academic arts period. Math and ELA teachers use a variety of online enrichment programs to assist our students including Discovery Education, Khan Academy, USA Test Prep, Flocabulary, No Red Ink , Brain Pop, EdPuzzle, and Moby Max. These programs are available for students to access from home. Reading Plus is a reading enrichment and intervention program scheduled for selected students. Socratic Seminar is held school wide for all students regularly during advisory, and community artists and resources provide our

students with enrichment experiences throughout the year. During advisory students have an opportunity to explore the 7 Mindsets which helps with social-emotional learning.

What are class sizes and or/pupil-teacher ratios at Beaufort Middle School?

We will staff and schedule to maintain a 23-26 to 1 ratio in classes in the Arts Integrated Program and 20 to 1 in the Classical Studies Program.

When will I know my child's schedule for next year?

Students will meet their homeroom teachers during Welcome Back to School Night (To Be Determined). Students will receive their schedules the first day of school.

How do I find out about transportation for next year?

The *Beaufort Gazette* will print bus route information the weekend before the first day of school. We will also have transportation representatives present at our Welcome Back to School Night. Transportation is not provided to students who live outside the Beaufort Middle School zone.

What are the school hours?

Beaufort Middle School student school hours are 8:45-3:45. Students are allowed to arrive at school no earlier than 8:15. Before school care is offered and that start time is 7:15 A.M.

How does Beaufort Middle School communicate with parents?

Each student receives an agenda/assignment book at the beginning of the year. Teachers use this as a study tool and a way to communicate with parents. *Friday Facts* is a weekly parent newsletter distributed to families through email each week. This newsletter is also posted on our school website (<http://bms.beaufort.k12.sc.us>). Parents may access teachers' e-mail addresses from our website. It is critical that parents provide the school with a current email address and check frequently for announcements. We post important announcements on our marquee in front of the school. We use *School Messenger*, an automated telephone system that calls families about student attendance and other important information. Announcements go out by e-mail through this system also. Teachers use an online grade posting system that is accessible to parents through Power School Parent Portal with a secure password. Each teacher also has an online site for each class such as Google Classroom or Edmodo, and parents may access information there. Sixth grade teachers meet with parents on designated days of the week, and we hold special conference days during the year which are noted on the BCSD school calendar.

What opportunities are available for parent involvement at Beaufort Middle School?

We enjoy and expect parent involvement at Beaufort Middle School! Parents become involved at BMS by serving on committees, chaperoning field trips, assisting with special projects, helping display art and other student work in our building and in the community, assisting with homework, reading to students, serving as mentors, attending Showcases, concerts, and parent conferences. Our School Improvement Council meets one Monday each month at 5:30 p.m. and our Parent Action Council meets once each month also. Parents may complete an online application to become an approved volunteer at any time. This application is found on the district website (www.beaufort.k12.sc.us) and instructions for this application are available at BMS. Volunteer assistance in displaying student work is always appreciated!

What if my child plays or wants to play an instrument in Band or Orchestra?

Band and Orchestra are both regularly scheduled classes in the school day. Unlike other Arts classes for 6th graders, Band and Orchestra are Full-year courses. Beginning musicians may choose the following instruments: Band - Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, and Tuba; Orchestra - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass.

Please reach out to Ms. Trimpey for Instrument Rental options at Amanda.Trimpey@beaufort.k12.sc.us.

What after school opportunities and tutoring are offered?

After-school tutoring may be available at times in the area of mathematics, science, language arts and social studies. This is determined on a class by class basis according to need and teacher availability.

What athletic programs are available to 6th graders?

The South Carolina High School League does not allow sixth graders to compete in interscholastic competition.

Do 6th grade students interact with 7th and 8th grade students?

Contact during the regular school day between 6th grade students and those in other grade levels is limited, as sixth grade classes are concentrated on one hall, and each grade has its own lunch period. 6th grade students interact with 7th and 8th grade students on the buses and in extracurricular activities.

What if I think of more questions after orientation?

Call, email, or stop by to see us:

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| • Alvilda Graham | Principal | alvilda.graham@beaufort.k12.sc.us | (843)322-5700 |
| • Carrie Chappell | Assistant Principal | carrie.chappell@beaufort.k12.sc.us | (843) 322-5700 |
| • Yolanda Goethe | Assistant Principal | yolanda.goethe@beaufort.k12.sc.us | (843) 322-5700 |
| • Carol Walters | School Counselor | carol.walters@beaufort.k12.sc.us | (843)322-5700 |
| • Margaret Hiner | School Counselor | Margaret.hiner@beaufort.k12.sc.us | (843) 322- 5700 |

Visit the BMS Website for more information.

