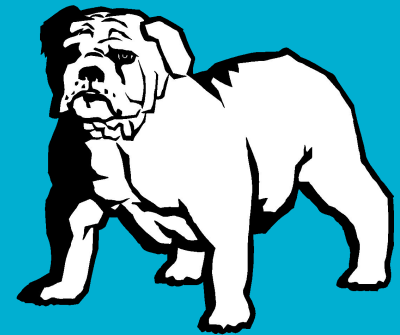


Welcome to Ballenger Creek Middle School



Home of the Bulldogs!



ACADEMICS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In ELA, students will develop the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills they will need to be successful in the 21st century. The ELA program at BCMS focuses on the following areas:

Benchmarks- 3 per year

Literary Analysis & Writing

Narrative Writing

Informational Analysis & Writing

Reading comprehension

Language Usage

Speaking/Listening Skills

LITERACY INTERVENTIONS

Reading intervention is provided in place of the exploratory course for students who need additional support in order to meet grade-level standards in ELA.

- **Reading/Writing Workshop** courses focus on text structure, writing about reading, fluency, vocabulary, and reading **comprehension skill development** through whole-group, small-group, independent reading, and computer-based instruction.
- **Foundational Reading** courses help students master foundational reading skills through explicit instruction in **phonemic awareness, decoding, comprehension, and writing** supported by a personalized learning plan.

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM

The English learner (EL) program supports BCMS students whose first language is not English and who have limited English proficiency. Students are provided exposure and practice with academic language to help them participate to the fullest extent possible in the general education classroom, as well as to overcome language barriers in pursuit of their full academic potential.

WIDA's ELD Standards



Social
Instructional
Language



Language of
Language
Arts



Language of
Mathematics



Language of
Science



Language of
Social Studies

← Academic Language →

MATHEMATICS

The sixth grade curriculum provides students with strong academic preparation for success in middle & high school. At BCMS, sixth graders will focus on:

- Algebraic Equations
- Data Distribution & Analysis
- Geometric Figures
- Introduction to Integers
- Mathematical Relationships
 - Algebraic, Coordinate Plane, Proportions, Ratios
- Rational Number Operations
- Technology Tools

MATH INTERVENTION

Math Workshop is provided in place of the exploratory course for students who need additional support in order to meet grade level standards in mathematics.

Math Workshop has a curriculum that allows instruction to be delivered through whole-group, small group, one-on-one, and technology-based modalities while focusing on the prerequisite skills that directly align to the grade-level standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES

National Geographic Text:

World History: Great Civilizations

In 6th grade, we study ancient civilizations.

Focus:

1. SS Disciplinary Literacy Standards
2. Reading in a Social Studies class
 - i. Identifying primary and secondary sources
 - ii. Analysis of sources
3. Argumentative Writing
 - i. Document Based Questions

SCIENCE

In sixth grade, it is back to Outdoor School! Students experience two, full-day field trips and learn about the ecology of Frederick County.

6th Grade Curricular Units:

- Ecosystems
- Our Extreme Planet
- Water
- A Balanced Body

Disciplinary Units:

- Life Sciences
- Earth and Space Sciences
- Physics

County Assessments: four benchmarks - one per curricular unit
State Assessment: MISA in Grade 8

ENRICHMENT

- working with classes and/or small groups of students to support enrichment, extension, and acceleration of curriculum;
- providing guidance and professional learning in planning instruction for advanced learners;
- facilitating the identification process for advanced academics programming;
- offering interest-based opportunities for all students;
- supporting students' advanced research and independent investigations;
- reviewing data relevant to student achievement of advanced learners;
- guiding students and families as they consider advanced learning opportunities within and beyond FCPS;
- and implementing school-specific extra-curricular opportunities, such as PLTW.

1:1

BCMS is expected to be a 1:1 school, meaning that every student will be provided a chromebook to use for the year. Details about this program and distribution will be communicated through FindOutFirst.

B.Y.O.D.

FCPS is not responsible for theft or damage to a student's electronic device. Students are encouraged to record a device's serial number to have available in case of theft, which is a helpful tool when reporting the information to law enforcement. BCMS encourages students to lock their devices in their lockers when they are not being used.

FCPS Regulation 400-18

