

# BMS Newsletter

August 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our staff, students, and families back for the 2020-21 school year. This school year will be unlike any other that any of us have experienced. As of the writing of this newsletter, BMS is planning to see roughly half of our students begin the year through full remote learning. Although the current pandemic poses considerable challenges to our school and our society, I believe that the Ravenna community, and the educators that have been given the privilege of serving the children of this community, will rise to the challenge and provide the social, emotional, and instructional support the children of our district want and need. On July 27th, the Ravenna Schools Board of Education approved the 2020-21 Safe Learning Plan. This plan can be accessed through the Ravenna Schools website. The Safe Learning Plan details the two models of curriculum and instruction available to students this school year. Families may choose between an in person model and a remote learning model. I would like to share some highlights of both below:

## In-Person Option:

- We will follow the district Safe Learning Plan. This can be found on the district website.
- The 3 W's for a healthy BMS: **W**ear your mask, **W**ash your hands, and **W**atch your distance (at least 3 feet)
- No locker stops during the day. Students will be able to carry book bags throughout the school day.
- Clearly marked lanes in hallways and stairwells to promote distancing of 3-6 feet at all times when students move during hall exchanges. Increased time in between classes as well.
- Distancing of students in classrooms to maintain 3-6 feet of distancing
- Assigned seating in the cafeteria to maintain 3-6 feet distancing
- Dedicated restroom and mask breaks throughout the school day (promote hand washing)
- Disinfecting of common surfaces throughout the school day
- Touchless water fountains to fill personal water bottles
- Touchless hand sanitizer stations at key locations

## Remote Learning Option:

- All remote learners will receive a chromebook and charger.
- Remote learners will have BMS teachers offering their curriculum and instruction.
- Remote learners will be expected to follow their daily schedule by logging in each class period.
- Remote learners will use Google Meets and Google Classroom to access curriculum and instruction from our BMS teachers.

The choice of which option is best for our families is a decision that should be made by our families, with the guidance and support of the staff at BMS. As we get closer to the start of school on September 8th, please be aware that we will allow families to access student schedules by the week of August 31st. We will also send out a virtual orientation Google Slides presentation by the week of August 31st so students and families can access all information we might normally share during in person orientations and/or open house. We will not hold in person orientations or an open house this school year, but we will welcome in-person learners back to Brown on Tuesday, September 8th. For those families that have chosen the remote option to start the school year, we will be in touch to establish chromebook pick-up times prior to the start of the school year.

As always, if you ever have a question or a concern, please reach out to me via a phone call or email. I can be reached at 330-296-3849, or at [jonathan.lane@ravennaschools.us](mailto:jonathan.lane@ravennaschools.us). I'll leave you with the 3 W's for a healthy BMS: **W**ear Your Mask, **W**ash Your Hands, and **W**atch Your Distance!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lane  
Principal, Brown Middle School

## **BMS Visitor Policy**

Given the uncertain and ever changing times we find ourselves in, we have had to update our building visitor policy. For the safety of all families:

- No visitors will be permitted into the building without an appointment. We can be reached at 330-296-3849 to schedule an appointment.
- Students being signed out will be brought to the door by a staff member - please communicate via the intercom at the door or call the office upon arrival.
- Tardy students will come to the office to sign themselves in - parents should not come in with their child.
- No items may be dropped off during the school day. Please make sure that your child has everything they need for the day (lunch boxes, homework, athletic equipment, clothing, etc) when they leave the house for school.
- No food deliveries will be permitted (including birthday treats). Classroom parties will not be taking place.



**Brown Middle School  
228 S. Scranton Street  
Ravenna, OH 44266  
Office: 330-296-3849  
Fax: 330-297-4146**

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**Principal: Jonathan Lane  
Assistant Principal: Sean Daugherty  
Secretary: Jodi Kornbau  
Attendance Secretary: Mandy Caicco  
Guidance A-M: Margaret VanFossen  
Guidance N-Z: Kara Pumper  
Guidance 5th: Kaylee Lohr-Curtis**

## Important Dates

### **September**

Sept 8 - First Day of School

### **October**

Oct 1 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3:00pm-6:30pm - call the office at  
330-296-3489 to schedule - there will  
be an in-person and online option

Oct 23 - End of Marking Period 1

### **November**

Nov 5 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3:00pm-6:30pm - call the office at  
330-296-3489 to schedule - there will  
be an in-person and online option

### **January**

Jan 14 - End of Marking Period 2

### **February**

Feb 25 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3:00pm-6:30pm - call the office at  
330-296-3489 to schedule - there will  
be an in-person and online option

### **March**

Mar 13 - BMS Rummage Sale -  
8:00am - noon

Mar 19 - End of Marking Period 3

### **April**

Apr 8 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
3:00pm-6:30pm - call the office at  
330-296-3489 to schedule - there will  
be an in-person and online option

### **May**

May 27 - Last Day of School

## **Need information?**

Check out the school website - **Ravennaschools.us**.  
You can find Brown Middle School under the Buildings  
tab. Here you will find many helpful items:

- Staff Directory - staff email addresses
- Lunch Menus - breakfast and lunch options for Brown Middle School
- Daily Announcements - important dates, announcements, supply list, etc.
- Sports Physical Forms (forms and documents tab) - required for all student athletes
- Medication forms (forms and documents tab) - required for any student needing to take medicine during the school day
- Student Handbook (forms and documents tab) - rules and expectations for students

You can also access your student's schedule and monitor their grades and attendance on Home Access Center (HAC) from the Parents tab. This is an excellent way to stay informed about your student's progress!

### **Final Forms**

As you know, Final Forms are never truly "final". Every year these forms need to be filled out for each student attending Ravenna City Schools. Please be sure to update email addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, medical information, etc. as necessary throughout the year. This ensures that we have current information for you and your student. Change of addresses need to take place through Central Registration with proper documentation (an updated lease/mortgage statement and a current gas or electric bill). The link can be found on the District webpage under the Parents tab.

## Food Service

The Ravenna School District is very excited to announce that all Ravenna School District students are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast AND lunch at school at *no charge* to families AND AT NO COST TO THE RAVENNA SCHOOL DISTRICT! The Ravenna School District received a federal grant and will be participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision. For additional information, you may go to the following links: [Community Eligibility Provision](#) to link to the ODE website and [USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#).

The Ravenna School District is pleased to introduce their new My School Menus™ mobile app available in the iTunes App Store and Google Play. The My School Menus™ app allows parents and students to access nutrition information for the school meal programs direct from their smart phones and tablets. My School Menus™ is designed to provide nutrition information on all of the foods served in the school meal programs. This app will enable parents, students and teachers to make healthy food choices whenever it's convenient, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Parents of the Ravenna School District can access this service by going to either the iTunes App Store or Google Play and downloading the app to their smart device. Don't have a smartphone? You can get the same information by visiting the district website. There, you can also print the nutrition information and district menus for posting on your refrigerator at home.



### **Brown Middle School collects the following to help our school earn extra funds and supplies:**

- **Acme Community Cash Back Program** - We will earn 5% cash back on Acme Fresh Market store brands. We will be collecting Acme register receipts that are dated August 6, 2020 - December 26, 2020. Invite your friends and family to save receipts for you and turn them into the main office!
- **Giant Eagle Apples For The Students** - Just log in to [schools.gianteagle.com](http://schools.gianteagle.com) to sign up with your Giant Eagle Advantage card and provide our school ID number: 1712. Each time you shop at Giant Eagle using your advantage card, you earn points for our school to redeem great educational tools.
- **Box Tops for Education Labels** - Box Tops has gone digital but we are still collecting clipped ones with valid expiration dates
- **Inkjet Cartridges, Smart Phones, Cell Phones, iPads & Tablets, Smart Watches** - With the EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser, our school earns money for your old/broken phones, tablets and inkjet cartridges. Please bring items to the main office.

**Ravenna City School District**  
**Annual Notifications**  
**2020-2021**

**Student Insurance Available**

The Ravenna School District Board of Education recognizes that parents may have a need for insurance coverage for their children. Parents have an opportunity to purchase group accident and sickness insurance, at the expense of the parents. Participation is voluntary. School districts are required to share this information. If you are interested, please contact the school office within the first 75 days of the new school year or the first 75 days after enrollment for an application. If you lose your present insurance coverage during the year, you will be eligible to purchase insurance at that time if needed. Coverage is provided by Love Insurance Agency. For more information, please call the Attendance Office at Ravenna High School at 330-296-3844 or Love Insurance Agency directly at 440-975-0309.

**Emergency Notification**

In the event of a school emergency or closing due to hazardous weather conditions or any other emergency situation, the automated phone messaging system will be used to contact parents/guardians. The message will come to the phone number provided on the registration card (in Final Forms) at the beginning of the year. If your phone number changes, please notify the school secretary.

**Video Surveillance/Electronic Monitoring**

The buildings, grounds, and vehicles of the Ravenna School District may be under video surveillance at any time. The purpose of video surveillance is to protect Board property and assets from theft and vandalism, through deterrence and video documentation. The system is not designed nor intended to protect individuals from being victims of violent or property crimes, nor to detect other potentially illegal and undesirable activities that may occur, although information may be used as evidence in such cases. The Board recognizes that the use of a video surveillance/electronic monitoring system does not replace the need for the ongoing vigilance of the school staff assigned by the building principal to monitor and supervise the school. Rather, the video surveillance/electronic monitoring system serves as an appropriate and useful tool with which to augment or support the in-person supervision provided by staff. Questions about surveillance can be addressed by the building principal or Mr. Stephen York, Director of Business Operations, at 330-296-7159.

**Student Records-Directory Information**

The Ravenna Board of Education designates the following as *directory information*: a student's name; address; date of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; and awards received. *Directory information* shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and adult students may refuse to allow the District to disclose any or all of such *directory information* upon written notification to the District within ten (10) days after receipt of the District's public notice. The request needs to be sent to Ben Ribelin, Director of Teaching and Learning, Ravenna School District, 507 E. Main St., Ravenna, OH 44266 or e-mailed to [ben.ribelin@ravennaschools.us](mailto:ben.ribelin@ravennaschools.us).

In accordance with State law, the District shall release the names and addresses of students in grades ten through twelve (10-12) to recruiting officers for any branch of the United States Armed Forces who requests such information. Such data shall not be released if the adult student or student's parents submit a written request not to release such information to the assistant superintendent.

Whenever parental consent is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or educational records or for the release of *directory information*, either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the Superintendent shall contact the institution and then appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent.

The district may disclose *directory information* on former students without student or parental consent.

**Special Education**

Special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of a handicapped child. Special Education Programs are provided for all children who have a handicapping disability. A disability in this instance means conditions such as: hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech or language impairments, learning disabilities, multiple disabilities, other health impairments, physical impairments, autism, and traumatic brain injury. Every handicapped child in Ohio is entitled to services provided by the school district

in which they reside. These services include: evaluation services for all children birth through twenty one years, diagnostic services for all children birth through age twenty one years of age, and educational programs for children three through twenty one years of age. If you know of a child who is handicapped or at risk and NOT receiving services, please call the Ravenna School District Special Services Office at 330-297-6708.

### **Identification of Children Who Are Gifted**

The Ravenna School District follows eligibility criteria as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Department of Education to identify youngsters who are gifted. The District identifies students in grades kindergarten through twelve that may be gifted in one or more of these areas: superior cognitive ability, specific academic achievement, creative thinking ability, and/or the visual or performing arts.

All students' standardized test scores and other school performance measures are reviewed to determine the need for gifted screening and identification. In addition, parents, students, and/or teachers may recommend students for screening for possible identification.

If you have questions about the identification of youngsters as gifted in the Ravenna Schools, please contact Robin Worges, Gifted Program Coordinator at West Main Elementary School (330-296-6522 or e-mail: [robin.worges@ravennaschools.us](mailto:robin.worges@ravennaschools.us) ).

### **Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges**

Students on a bus or other authorized Board of Education transportation vehicles are under the authority of and directly responsible to the bus/vehicle driver. The driver has the authority to enforce the established regulations for bus/vehicle conduct. Disorderly conduct or refusal to submit to the authority of the driver will be sufficient reason for refusing transportation service to any student.

A student may be suspended from school bus/vehicle riding privileges for all or part of a school year for any violation of established regulations for bus conduct and/or for conduct occurring on the bus/vehicle in violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code.

Before a suspension from bus/vehicle riding privileges is imposed, the Superintendent or other designated District personnel will provide a student with notice of an intended suspension and an opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or other designated District personnel. Disciplinary suspension periods will be commensurate with the infraction(s) committed as determined by the Superintendent or designated District personnel.

### **ESEA Waiver**

On May 29, 2012, the United States Department of Education (USDE) granted the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) a waiver of several provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Important provisions of this waiver are available via this [link](#).

### **Title I**

Title I, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA), provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Federal funds are currently allocated to all of our four elementary schools based on census poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state. The purpose of Title 1 funding is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. Ravenna School District uses these funds to provide supplemental tutoring, reduce class sizes, provide family nights, and purchase reading and math materials.

### **Title I Teacher Qualifications**

Under the federal education law, ESSA, parents of students in buildings that receive federal Title I money may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Information that may be requested includes whether or not the teacher has the state-required certification/licensing credential for his/her assignment and information relating to his/her college degrees and major areas of study. Carlin, West Main, Willyard, West Park and Brown Middle Schools receive Title I funds. To request information on the qualifications of the teacher(s) that work with your child, please contact the principal of your child's school or Mr. Ben Ribelin, Director of Teaching and Learning, K-5 at the Ravenna Board of Education Office (330-296-9679).

### **Drug-Free Schools**

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

### **McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program**

This program is designed to make sure all homeless children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education as children and youth who are not homeless. This includes preschool education. A brochure has been published by the Ohio Department of Education to explain the rights of families. You may access the brochure through the following link.

[Parent Guide to Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

The Ravenna School District contact for information relating to homeless issues is Mr. Ben Ribelin, Director of Teaching and Learning, K-5 at the Ravenna Board of Education Office (330-296-9679).

### **Notice of Nondiscrimination and Grievance Procedures**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, religion, ancestry, age, military status, national origin, genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes"), or any other legally protected category, in its programs, activities, or employment.

Any person that believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, the Director of Teaching and Learning, K-5, Ravenna School District, 507 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. 330-296-9679, Ext. 3103. The individual may also, at any time, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, Ohio 44114.

### **Locker Search**

All persons are hereby put on notice that lockers are the property of the Board of Education. Lockers and the contents thereof are subject to random search at any time without regard to whether there is reasonable suspicion that any locker or its contents contain evidence of a violation of a criminal statute or school rule.