WELCOME TO SARAH BANKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

INCOMING 6TH GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION
MARCH 9, 2020
"WE ARE BANKS!"

Mrs. Michelle Kalhorn, Principal

Mr. Kevin Francis, Assistant Principal

Ms. Suzanne Ickes, School Counselor – Class of 2027

Mrs. Wendy Turner, School Counselor – Class of 2027
PURPOSE OF TONIGHT

• The intent of this meeting is to ensure your confidence and trust in our school and staff.

• Target Goal: Learn one informational item about middle school life that will lower your anxiety and assist you and your child during the transition to middle school.

• This presentation is available online – [www.wlcsd.org/banks](http://www.wlcsd.org/banks)

• Call/email anytime for questions

• Between now and August, there will be a number of opportunities for communication.
BANKS ADMINISTRATION COMMITMENTS

• Create a safe and supportive environment for all.
• Open and regular communication with families, available and approachable.
• A team approach and collaboration that supports each child.
• Set high expectations for academic growth and behavior.
• Growth mindset and a focus on continuous improvement.
WHAT’S IN MY FOLDER?

• Welcome Letter
• Notes page
• School Map and Combination Lock How-To Guide
• Quick References and Helpful Web Links and Transition Contact Information
• Athletics Brochure

Be sure to check out ALL resources on the website

**If you need hardcopies of any information, please contact Mrs. Virginia Donn**
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A 6TH GRADER

- Parent Drop-Off Loop or Bus (routes available in late August)
- Lockers (access @ 8:00 a.m.)
- Breakfast (access @ 7:50 a.m.)
- Start time = 8:10 a.m.
- Four Core classes (approximately 60 minutes)
- Lunch (30 minutes)
- Passing Times (five minutes)
- Two Encores classes (approximately 60 minutes)
- Dismissal time = 3:00 p.m.

Note: Order of classes & lunch times are not set until next fall.
SCHOOL LAYOUT AND PARKING

90%+ in A/B Halls downstairs
C Hall – Encore classes

Main Entrance

Parent drop off

Buses

You are here

North

Staff Parking

Staff Parking
COURSE OFFERINGS

ENCORE
- Art
- *Band
- *Orchestra
- Communication Arts
- Vocal Music
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- World Languages
- Math Essentials (must meet certain criteria)
- Reading Essentials (must meet certain criteria)
- *Full Year Class

CORE
- English/Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

BYOD PROGRAM
- Requires family to purchase a device with a keyboard for child to use at home and school
- Visit website for more information

Our philosophy is to provide youth with extended opportunities over their three year middle school career.

Course selection sheets are due no later than Friday, March 20.
LUNCHES – BY GRADE LEVEL

30 minutes

Lunches include 15 minutes of activity time each day.
COUNSELING SERVICES

Ms. Suzanne Ickes – Counselor

Mrs. Wendy Turner – Counselor

• Support
  • Counseling Website
  • Liaison between home and teacher

• Students can sign-up to see a counselor
  • Career Guidance
  • Collaborative Counseling Team
MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Fall Sports (August-October)

7th/8th Grade Boys' Soccer
7th/8th Grade Girls' Volleyball
7th/8th Grade Football – combined team with Geisler MS
6th/7th/8th Grade Cross Country

Winter I Sports (Nov. - January)

7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball
7th/8th Grade Swimming

Winter II Sports (February-March)

7th/8th Grade Girls’ Basketball
6th/7th/8th Grade Wrestling

Spring Sports (March-June)

7th/8th Grade Girls’ Soccer
6th/7th/8th Grade Track and Field

MUST HAVE A SPORTS PHYSICAL ON FILE DATED ON/AFTER APRIL 15, 2020
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

• Talent Show
• School Musical
• Spelling Bee
• Bulldog Bolt Fitness Challenge
• Teen Club (Tuition)
• Variety of Clubs – Homework Club, Future City, Social Justice, Student Council
• NJHS (invite during 7th Grade, membership during 8th Grade)

There are options for 6th, 7th, 8th grade before, during, and after the school day.
COMMUNICATION

- Website – www.wlcasd.org/banks
- Twitter - @BanksMiddle
- Mrs. Kalhorn on Twitter - @kalhornm
- Mr. Francis on Twitter - @FrancisKevin_
- Skyward Family Access – Parent ID is a must!
- Parent Email News (PEN) – weekly, starting in August
  – Essential your email is correct and you don’t block/spam emails from WLCSD/Judy Evola

School Commitment: All major information will be on website, twitter, and sent via email.
SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

• Required for Fall registration process
  – Must have a parent login for fall registration process
  – All families must complete fall registration prior to Banks Blastoff in August
  – Direct link available on Banks homepage – www.wlcsd.org/banks

• Skyward Family Access has many tools:
  – Teacher communication
  – Grades
  – Calendar
  – Food Services
  – Link for online payments (eFunds)
  – Attendance Reports
  – Discipline Reports
  – Emergency Contacts
SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

- Graded Assignments have grade next to it.
- Missing assignments are boxed in red.
- Great for future planning
- Updated in “real time”
CELL PHONES

• NO cell phones during the school day. Phones should be stored in the locker.
  – This helps us provide a safe and focused learning environment for our students.
• Teachers have discretion to use cell phones for instructional purposes.
• For accountability, all students needing to call home should use the Attendance Office phones.
QUESTIONS OVER THE YEARS

• Lockers, what fits? How do I open it?
  – Not much - books, small backpack, coat, and supplies only (no rolling cart!)
  – Helpful Hints: Locker combination - purchase a comb lock and practice!

• How do I communicate with teachers?
  – Please seek to understand | Email is best and we request the teachers respond within a 24 hour time period

• How much HW is expected?
  – Varies by time of card marking
  – Typical day 30 – 60 minutes/day
  – During weeks when there are many BA’s, this will likely increase
LOOKING AHEAD

• **Friday, March 20** – Course selection sheets entered and turned into 5th Grade teacher (green sheet & Skyward printout).

**For the Kids**
• Friday, May 8 – Wixom visits Banks
• Friday, May 22 – Loon Lake visits Banks
• Friday, May 15 – WLE visits Banks
• Note: Kids will eat lunch @ 1:00 p.m.

**Back to School**
• Early August – communication sent home about Banks Blast Off and other informational items
• Banks Blast Off
  – Receive schedule, locker, and books
  – School pictures
  – Drop off medications
  – Tour building
WHOLE GROUP QUESTIONS
CONVICTIONS AND PROMISES

• We, the staff of Sarah Banks Middle School believe that:
  • We have been entrusted with providing a warm, friendly environment where students feel supported and secure.
  • Our learning community will foster positive relationships based on mutual respect where open communication establishes trust and unity.
  • Learning is a life-long process.
  • We welcome the opportunity for students, staff, and the community to experience empowerment through responsible decision making.
  • Self-evaluation is essential to becoming a responsible and disciplined learner.

• Our Promise:
  • We promise to put students first, by promoting respect, honor and dignity throughout our school.
  • We promise to value and encourage the opinions and ideas of staff, students, parents and families within our learning community.
  • We promise to teach purposeful lessons with real-world applications that students can connect to their life experiences.
  • We promise to encourage students to grow academically and socially

WE ARE BANKS!