

# Weekly News

January 14, 2022

## Calendar Items

Monday, January 17 - No School - Martin Luther King holiday

Thursday, January 20 - SW Area Choir Festival for 8th grade 9 - 11 a.m.

Friday, January 21 - PTO Meeting via ZOOM 9 a.m.

Friday, January 21 - BVSW Elective Showcase and Enrollment for 8th grade

## Announcements

### Covid Protocols for Athletics

Until further notice, athletes in a KSHSAA sport (basketball, cheer and track and field) must follow the guidelines listed below.

- If a student tests positive for Covid, they will be eligible to return to school on day 6 if they are symptom free for 24 hours free from any medication. Students will need to wear a mask throughout the day as well as during practice and games, no exceptions through day 10. Students will eat in a separate setting until day 10.
- Students who test positive for Covid, will need a doctor's note clearing them for return to play procedures for their school sport (this season: boys basketball and cheer), which will be completed by our athletic trainer when they get the doctor's clearance and return to school and practice. This is the guidance from KSHSAA and is being followed by all member schools at all levels in the state.
- Masking during physical activity is not necessary outside of the 10 day window, but a doctors clearance for return to play is once a student tests positive.

## Save the Date! Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will offer both Zoom and in-person conferences again this semester; however, we are streamlining the process and communication to make it less confusing.

- Wednesday, February 16 – in-person 10 minute scheduled conferences
- Thursday, February 17 – Zoom 10 minute schedule conferences

We will send specific information on how to schedule conferences via email on February 7.

## Wolverine Activity Night

Wolverine Activity Night is a beloved event of our kids, and in order to be successful we depend on many staff and parent volunteers. Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel the January 28th Wolverine Activity Night. Our Covid numbers continue to increase daily, and the last thing we want to do is to put anyone – students, parents, or community members – in a risky situation. We hope to be able to hold an event in the spring when we are more able to distance and utilize the outdoors for activities and games. We appreciate the amazing time and effort the committee has already put into planning this event, and we are hopeful that a future event is possible to bring all of our ABMS students together. Thank you for your support of Aubry Bend Middle School.

## ABMS Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all our ABMS spellers who completed in our Spelling Bee yesterday. Everyone did great with some difficult words to spell. Our winner was Aayush Nair who will now go on to represent ABMS in the county bee to be held at Woodland Spring Middle School in the Spring Hill School District on Saturday January 29th. Good luck to Aayush and once again congratulations to all our participants.

## New Semester

Welcome to our new semester. Back to School night seems like a long time ago. For that event, our teachers created videos to introduce themselves and their class. With the new semester beginning we thought it would be helpful for parents to get a chance to meet their student's teachers for this semester. So if you are new to ABMS or have new EXPLO classes, please take some time to get to know your student's teachers by clicking on the following links.

[6th Grade Core Teachers](#)

[7th Grade Core Teachers](#)

[8th Grade Core Teachers](#)

[EXPLO Teachers](#)

[ABMS Office and Special Services](#)

**Play Information**

PLEASE VISIT THE PLAY WEBSITE AT <https://tinyurl.com/abmsspringplay>.

The ABMS Spring Play has officially been announced at school! This year, we will proudly present Ms. Kim's Class and the Book Reports of Destiny, by Dean O'Carroll! This goofy comedy is a brand new play that has yet to be published! I've been in contact with the playwright, who is excited for us to produce it for the first time, and has plans to zoom with the cast.

- The cast list will be posted on the night of Friday, January 14th. Rehearsals will begin on **Tuesday, January 18th** and will be held daily afterschool from 3-4. As shows get closer we will go to 4:30, and then 5:00. A more detailed rehearsal calendar will be available once rehearsals start.
- Performances will be on **Thursday and Friday, March 24th and 25th**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Garcia at:

[jmgarcia02@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:jmgarcia02@bluevalleyk12.org)

## **Club Information**

### **Diversity Club:**

Diversity Club will have its first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 20 from 3-3:30pm in Mrs. Vail's room (310). All are welcome! Please join us if you are interested!

### **Community Service Club:**

Community Service Club will be meeting on Wednesday, January 26 from 3-3:30pm in Mrs. Vail's room (310). All are welcome! We will be planning our service projects for the next few months.

## **Math Counts**

Math Counts chapter competition participants will meet on Thursday, January 20th from 3:00-4:00 pm in room 313.



## PTO News

### BATTLE OF THE BANDS

10th Annual Battle of the Bands benefiting BVEF

Please join our very own "BVIP" Season Lentz for this fun, adults-only night out! This event raises money for music and arts in Blue Valley schools.

You don't have to have kids in the district to attend and if you're a BVSD employee, you get a half-price ticket (\$15)!

Click [Blue Valley Educational Foundation - Battle of the Bands 2022 \(bidpal.net\)](https://www.bidpal.net) and buy a ticket for \$30. Input BVIPSeason as a promo code so we know you're coming.



Aubry Bend Middle School PTO

There are also sponsorship opportunities if you'd like to get a reserved table and help promote your business.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 26

**WHERE: RC's Back Door in Martin City**

**WHO: 5 past Champion bands will be performing.**

**(These are not student bands, these are adults with ties to Blue Valley.)**

### **PTO MEETINGS**

Would you like to learn more about PTO and get involved? Currently, our meetings are via zoom and the dates are as follows:

Friday, January 21, 2022 9:00am

Friday, February 25, 2002 9:00am

Friday, March 25, 2022 9:00am

Friday, April 15, 2022 9:00am

Friday, May 20, 2022 9:00am



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15.7 KB

## **6th Grade News**

### **ELA**

ELA started the “Argumentative Essay – Cell Phones in the Classroom?” Unit this week. We reviewed the elements of argumentative writing, analyzed sample text, and began reading and evaluating sources (articles) on this topic. After reading the articles, students determined what side of the argument they are on (stance). Ask your student what their stance is on the Cell Phone debate?

### **Math**

Students are learning how to divide fractions using pattern blocks and Cuisenaire rods. We will continue our work with dividing fractions into next week where they will take their knowledge of division and apply it to the algorithm for dividing fractions.

### **Social Studies**

This week we talked about innovations of ancient Greece. Ask your child what Greece invented or discovered that we still use today. We also talked about the 4 forms of government in ancient Greece. Next week we will be talking about the differences between Sparta and Athens.

### **Science**

Students learned about the layers of the earth last week. This week we will learn more about density, which will deepen knowledge about why tectonic plates move.

## 7th Grade News

### ELA

Students are learning the main components of an argumentative paper. We have refreshed our knowledge of the terminology, and we have been practicing writing arguments. In addition, students have been working on transitions (see what I did there?) and verifying if evidence is credible.

### Math

We are continuing our work in connecting percents to common everyday situations, such as shopping! We are mainly focusing on discounts and markups when it comes to products. We are also learning about salary and commissions. An assessment over these percent concepts will shortly follow!

### Science

We've begun diving into genetics! Last week we introduced the topic by having students identify which form of certain traits they possess (widow's peak vs straight hairline, dimples vs no dimples, hair on fingers vs no hair on fingers, etc), and then this week we've been looking at vocabulary, because there's so much of it in understanding and applying this content. What does homozygous recessive mean? Heterozygous? Hybrid? Dominant? Heredity? So much vocabulary! Your student was given many different ways to acquire this vocabulary knowledge and practice the skills ALL week, and we'll continue to work with the vocabulary throughout the unit. Next week we look at cell division/reproduction!

### Social Studies

We've been hard at work on the Kansas State Social Studies Assessment this week! Students were introduced to the banana industry and have to form an argument for the question, "Are bananas worth the (cheap) cost?" We looked at the problem through three different lenses, environmental, economic, and social/human, in order to answer the question, and have sorted evidence into pros and cons. It's quite the inquiry, and a fabulous opportunity to practice the skills they are learning in ELA on argumentative writing!

Coming up next we'll transition from Geography to Kansas History! We'll review the five themes, discuss primary and secondary sources, learn about the early people of Kansas, and plan a road trip through the state.

## 8th Grade News

### Algebra 1

Systems of equations – focus on substitution and elimination methods for solving. We will progress to being able to apply these strategies to real-world scenarios.

### **Math 8**

Review solving equations from first quarter. Calculating angles when a transversal intersects parallel lines.

### **Social Studies**

Continuing with our unit House Divided, the United States build-up to the Civil War. Students will be participating in a role-play activity, simulating the Election of 1860. Some students will take on roles of Presidential candidates and some will take on roles of voting groups within the US. From there we will hold a mock convention.

### **ELA**

Begin reading Night by Elie Wiesel and continue investigating avenues and causes of the Holocaust.

### **Moss Science**

Newton's 2nd and 3rd Law. Examining how mass influences acceleration of falling objects.

### **Farris/ Amihere Science**

Beginning Force and Motion. We will do an egg drop as part of this unit. AMBS will provide the eggs; students need to gather supplies that will prevent the egg from breaking when dropped for the 3rd floor.

## **From the Desk of Mrs. Tate**

Many of my readers know that I am a big fan of Dr. Tim Elmore, best-selling author, and international speaker on leadership. His blog this week was titled "A Commitment for Educators: Being Fully Present in the Moment."

When I read the title, I must admit that I wasn't going to read the text because I thought, "Oh my goodness! Our teachers are bending over backward to be present for our kids right now," but my curiosity got the best of me, and I read on.

He shared the commitment he made going into the new year to pay full attention to the moment he is in. He quoted Nancy Collier, psychotherapist, who "reminds us, 'When we're fully present, we feel connected to life and everything in it. We are part of the moment, inside it.'"

He shared his belief that "we should never abandon our ambition to achieve," yet asserted that in working toward achievement of our goals we sometimes forego mental health and wellness. Now that got my attention. I'm worried about the health and wellness of the teachers and leaders in our building and in our district.

It's no secret that schools are struggling to find ways to keep doors open as this new surge of the pandemic hits our community. We have record absences of students and staff, and we are doing our best to cover for each other to provide as normal a school day as we can for our

kids. We have amazing substitute teachers who help us out, and even they are covering extra classes during the day. We do this because we love kids and want them to continue to achieve. We do this because we love each other and want our colleagues to feel supported. We do this because we love our community.

Dr. Elmore shared four ideas for being in the moment each day that may be helpful to teachers, kids, families, and leaders to be in the moment. It's impossible to be in EVERY moment but taking a little time to take a breath may be the healthiest thing we do this week. Here are his four ideas:

1. Constantly jot down thoughts so you don't lose them.
2. Let yourself waste time and wander each day.
3. Find time to pause and consciously breathe for a moment.
4. Mono-task: focus on one item at a time.

For the full text of Dr. Elmore's blog, [click here](#).

Take care of yourself and your families. Take care of our staff and our community. We are all doing our best!

Have a restful, safe weekend!

Sincerely  
Diana Tate, principal



## Aubry Bend Middle School

 Facebook  @smorenewsletter

 12501 West 175th Street, Ove...

 AubryBendMiddle@bluevalley...

 913-624-2300

 bluevalleyk12.org/ABM