



Middle Matters

Bethel-Tate Middle School

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Have you noticed the big brown mulch area in front of our building? Well, look again! Ms. Jones, one of our 7th grade teachers, attended a science class this summer and was awarded a grant from Miami University to create a butterfly garden. The first installments of plants were put in on Nov. 3rd. The Bethel Environmental Team (B.E.T) will be completing the rest of the work. Ms. Kristin Jones and Mrs. Susan Dotson have volunteered to sponsor the B.E.T. this school year. Thanks to our teacher volunteers and our BTMS students!

Congratulations to last years 8th graders. They scored 4th in science and 7th in reading among 309 Middle schools in 31 states that are participating in Making Middle Grades Work. What an accomplishment!!! That placed BTMS in the top 20 schools . Big thanks to our students and to our great staff for everything they do that makes BTMS the best!

We have been reviewing our cell phone/electronic device discipline plan with other districts and have decided to modify as follows:

1st offense: Student receives after school detention and the cell phone/electronic device must be picked up by a parent/guardian.

2nd offense: Student receives a one day suspension and cell phone/electronic device is returned to the parent.

3rd offense: Student will be suspended from school for five days and the cell phone/electronic device will be returned to the parent.

REMEMBER, CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TO BE IN THE STUDENT'S LOCKER, TURNED OFF AND LOCKED UP.

If you have any questions about the discipline please contact Mr. Gill or Mrs. Arn. Please read further for information about the concerns for cell phones/electronic devices in schools.



STUDENT ISSUES

CELL PHONES – THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES!

Recently we have seen an increase in cell phone use during school hours. Our Student Code of Conduct specifically state that no electronic devices are permitted during school. (Page 14 in the agenda, item #26.) Research continues to support schools to prevent use of a cell phone during school hours. They say:

- Text messaging makes it far easier for students to cheat on tests, and students can even photograph questions and send them to students taking the test in later classes.
- Cell phones can spread misinformation with amazing speed. Even if there was a school emergency, students may pass on incorrect information.
- Cell phones make it easier for students to make prank calls to the school. Some have even called in bomb threats, which is illegal.
- If a student's phone goes off during class the ringtone or alarm may disrupt the class and impede learning.

- If students have cell phones they are tempted to use them –regardless of the school policies—and texting can be a constant distraction.
- Cell phone use by students can impede public safety response by accelerating parental response to the scene of an emergency during times when officials may be attempting to evacuate students to a safe location.

(taken from the Montgomery Advertiser 9/14, 2008, Kym Klass.)

Remember, when you are at school the rule for a cell phone or electronic device is:

TURNED OFF AND IN YOUR LOCKER!



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Jim Smith

Yesterday, the earned income tax levy failed by a substantial margin. While all of us were obviously disappointed, I understand how tough times are economically. For many the timing of the issue was not good. Nevertheless, the district is faced with a deficit that must be dealt with. \$1 million dollars must be cut from our \$15 million dollar general fund budget. Since we're one of the lower per pupil spending districts in the state (20th), we could soon be the lowest. The decision on implementing the previously announced cuts will be announced sometime in the near future. I pledge to keep you informed on the cuts and how we can work together to make the best of a tough situation.

I would like to thank our wonderful fifty person campaign committee chaired by Scott Hobart for all their hard work and time. They ran a strong campaign that worked diligently to communicate with the voters. Plans for another ballot attempt are as yet undetermined.



SPORTS UPDATE



BASKETBALL

11/13	Fayetteville*	G-H	5:00pm
11/19	Fayetteville*	B-A	4:30pm
11/22	Nagel*	B-H, G-A	10:00am



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4	NO SCHOOL - ELECTION DAY
Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL - VETERANS DAY
Nov. 21	END OF 1ST TRIMESTER
Nov. 26 – 28	NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK

