

SMS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



Principal's Corner

Happy Winter! We have reached the end of our first trimester and are excited to share the growth of your students.

As you are aware, the Bozeman middle schools are fully implementing a new standards-based reporting system this year. Many of you have been on Power School and have seen the changes in the gradebook from previous years. The traditional grading system of A's, B's, C's and so on has been replaced with values indicating proficiency levels of learning--3's, 2's, 1's--on the specific standards in each content area.

The change to the standards-based system has been made to provide both you and your student more specific information regarding their learning. Rather than one grade for an entire subject, you now have the ability to see the student's level of learning on the specific contents and skills essential to that subject at his/her grade level.

The new report card is now fully electronic and will be posted on Wednesday, Dec. 5 (paper copies are available upon request). It will be accessible through your Power School portal on your computer or a browser on your cellphone.

The report card shows the most significant "themes," or major standards, in each class. We are working with students to achieve a level of mastery, identified as a 3, through the course of the year. Additionally, with the new format, we are able to share information on the important attributes of being a strong student--organization, engagement, perseverance and universal expectations; skills necessary for success throughout life.

Linked [here](#) is additional information on standards-based grading. We trust you will take the time to discuss your student's progress with them--identify strengths, determine strategies for areas of growth, and celebrate their success! Thank you again for partnering with us in your child's learning.

Gordon Grissom

Main Office: 522-6400
Attendance: 522-6410

Core Value for November COMPASSION

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

6 SMS 6th gr Band/Choir/Orch,
7:30pm, Gym

7 Winter Dance, 6:00-8:30pm

10 SMS Select Choir/Eclectic
String Orchestra 6:00pm,
Café

17 Team Elk-- Bridger
Bowl

19 Team Antelope-- Bridger
Bowl

**24-Jan 4 Winter Break,
No School**

JANUARY

**7 First day back to school
from Winter Break**

15 PAC Speaker Series
8:30-9:30am

17 Geography Bee, Library 3:30

19 Trimester 2 Mid-Term

21 PIR Day- No School K-12

23-25 Team Yellowstone, West
Yellowstone overnight

24 Team Boulder- Big Sky

25 Team Madison -- Big Sky

29 SMS 8th/CJMS 8th/BHS
Choirs, Willson TBD

31 Team Bison -- Bridger Bowl

FEBRUARY

1 SMS Family Spirit Night
5:00-7:30pm

7 Spelling Bee, SMS Cafeteria,
3:30pm

11 SMS Orchestras, SMS Gym,
7:30pm

12 PAC Speaker Series, 6:00-
7:00pm

12 SMS/CJMS/BHS Jazz Bands,
Willson, TBD

**18 President's Day Holiday --
No School**

21 5th Grade Parent Night, 6:00-
7:30pm

PAC

Thank you for your donations to SMS PAC. These donations directly impact our students.

An easy way to continue supporting your students through PAC is by utilizing **Amazon Smile** when you order from Amazon. Just order on your Amazon account login via smile.amazon.com and select Sacajawea Middle School Parent Advisory Council under Supporting. Thank you for your continued support of SMS PAC.

Your PAC Team: Monica, Janet, Kristen, and Anna Marie



Please save your Boxtops! The SMS Library has a great volunteer who clips and ships them off. We get two reimbursements per school year. We use Boxtops \$\$ to fill teacher and student requests
Thank You! SMS Library

BSD Public Information Session – Proposed High School Boundaries

Thursday, December 6, 6-8pm

BSD7 will host a public information session to answer questions and take comments regarding the proposed high school boundaries. This will be an informal information session. We will provide some maps and details about the possible options for the high school boundaries. Public comment will be accepted regarding the options. For more information regarding the work of the transition committee, please see our information at:

https://www.bsd7.org/district_news/high_school_transition_committee

Also, for public comment, please use the following email address: highschoolfuture@bsd7.org

All interested community members are welcome to attend.

Bozeman High School, Berg Library (North end of the school, second floor.)

Winter Dance

On **Friday, Dec. 7**, Sacajawea will have a Winter Dance for our ***seventh and eighth grade*** students. Completely organized by our students, the dance will take place between **6:00-8:30pm** and will be held in our cafeteria. **Cost is \$2**; refreshments will be available for a minimal charge; dress is nice school wear. **Please pick up your students promptly at 8:30.**

Parent University

Suicide Warning Signs & Prevention

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m

Presenter: **Karl Rosston**, LCSW Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Montana DPHHS

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for adolescents. Karl Rosston, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Montana, will discuss how teen depression manifests itself and what to do if you spot the warning signs.

Willson Board Room #122, Willson School, 404 West Main Street

M Bar T Pass

In recent years, the Moonlight Basin and Big Sky Resorts have offered reduced season ski passes for students with strong grades. With the new grading system for our middle schools, the criteria for eligibility of these passes has changed: students with proficiency levels of 3 or 4 on all attributes are now eligible. We believe this will recognize the strong effort, not just academic ability, demonstrated by our students. A list of students who qualify will be given to the Big Sky ticket office. Contact the school office for more information.

Lost and Found

The Grand Opening of the Sacajawea Store for Lightly or Significantly Used Clothing and Lunch Bags will be coming soon! Actually, that is not true--we do not intend to sell the massive amount of clothing and lunch bags which accumulate in our cafeteria through the weeks. However, we would very much appreciate you encouraging your students to use their lockers, **check the lost & found** when something is missing, and just, overall, be responsible for their items here at school. **(Clothing left for a month or longer are donated to a local charity.)**

Thank You!

SMS Clothes Closet

We are in need of teen girl clothing and snow boots for teen boys. If you would like to donate, please drop off clean items, in good repair at the Main Office. Gift certificates to purchase items are welcome too!

Health Tip

Healthy Tip: Sleep is just as important to your children's development and well-being as nutrition and physical activity. The amount and quality of sleep we have can affect our safety, how alert we are, as well as our memories, moods, behavior, and learning abilities. Establishing good sleep practices while your children are young will not only benefit you, it will help them for many years to come. (from: HealthyChildren.org)

After School Clubs	
Clubs Currently in Session: A variety of clubs are in session and open to students to participate. Clubs occur from 3:30-4:30 on the days listed below, are free, and are open to students on a drop-in basis. Encourage your students to participate in clubs of interest.	
<u>Monday</u>	Computer – Gordon Chamberlain – Rm C8 Outdoor Club – Chris Ottey – Rm F22 Falcon It Right (Service Club)– Deb Tew – Rm F14
<u>Tuesday</u>	Robotics – Gordon Chamberlain – Rm C8 Arabic – Sayed Keliey – Rm A24 Art Club – Tim Rooney – C-5
<u>Thursday</u>	Robotics– Gordon Chamberlain – Rm C8 Knitting – George Scott – Rm D12
Coming later this year —Yearbook and Archery	
Thrive	
<p>Attendance Matters: Is your child missing a few days of school each month? Excusing an adolescent for a headache or a Bridger powder day, initially, doesn’t seem like a big deal. Over time, chronic absenteeism can have an impact on a students’ academic performance and ability to graduate from high school.</p> <p>Missing only 2-3days per month translates into missing a month of content per school year. Studies show that absenteeism has a negative impact on kids’ academic performance and reduces their overall graduation rate (attendanceworks.org).</p> <p>What is a parent to do? Here are a few tips:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Send the message that school is important. Our middle schooler loves to stay home-and will find any reason to miss. With him, I have had to take a firm approach. Unless he is truly sick (fever, vomiting etc.) he goes to school. <p>Obviously, not every kid is like mine. Use your intuition and discretion-if your child truly seems sick, keep him/her home. If it seems a bit gray, encourage your child to go to school. He/she can always call home if needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Address School Avoidance. School avoidance and anxiety is a real thing facing many Middle Schoolers today. Notice what is leading up to a child’s request to remain home: Is your child struggling with peers? Is your child getting enough sleep? Is there a pattern of sadness? Is the content in a class too difficult? <p>Many of these issues can be addressed in partnership with the school. Contact me (your Parent Liaison) and/or your child’s School Counselor to set up a meeting. School meetings produce rich dialogue between parents and teachers. Such synergy supports kids’ emotional and academic wellbeing.</p> <p>For these and other parenting tips, contact your SMS Thrive Parent Liaison, Ashley Mares Jones at 522-6713 or email her ashley.maresjones@bsd7.org</p>	
Correction	
<p>Please Note: The calendar provided in the SMS Student Planner has incorrect dates for Spring Break. <i>Spring Break is March 18 - 22</i></p>	
Bozeman Indoor Track Club	
<p>Annual Meeting 2018-19 Indoor Track Season <i>Tuesday, December 4, 6:30pm, BHS North Cafeteria</i></p> <p>This meeting is required for all athletes and parents interested in participating in the indoor track & field season. Membership fees, meet schedule, uniform fitting and practice sessions will be discussed during the meeting. For more information visit http://bozemantrackclub.org or email us at info@bozemantrackclub.org</p>	

