



BCMS

Guide to Afterschool Activities

2011-12



About Student Activities at the Middle School

Bethlehem Central recognizes that participation in school activities has an inherent educational value for students in terms of building sound social relationships, developing interests and individual talents and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship. Therefore, the district encourages all students to become involved in the life of their Middle School.

How to Join

Find a club that interests you? Be sure to listen to the morning announcements for information about when groups will begin meeting each year. Morning announcements are also posted on the Middle School's Web page each day. A list of current club advisors is available from the Main Office and on the Web site. While some clubs require auditions or other qualifications (as described in this guide), most are open to any interested students.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Participation in school activities is a privilege for BCMS students. Students are required to be in attendance at school on the day they participate in any facet of school activities. Students who are suspended from school (internal and external suspensions) will be barred from all school functions (i.e., athletic events, dances or other school events) on the day of suspension or from the next scheduled function. Inappropriate behavior at school activities will result in a referral and corresponding disciplinary action.

Other Extracurricular Opportunities

Included in this guide are chartered clubs and organizations, those that have received Board of Education approval. Each year, however, a handful of clubs and activities may spring up out of the interests of a particular group of students. Whether or not they become chartered clubs depends on the continued interest of students. To find out what other clubs might be available in a given school year, contact the assistant principal's office or visit the district's Web site.

How to Start a Club

If you are interested in forming a club, feel free to ask a teacher or the Middle School Principal about the proper procedure.

Organized Clubs and Organizations

BOOK CLUBS

LMC Book Club

Students in grades 6-8 meet monthly to discuss a book they all read. Book selection is generated by the group and is quite varied, including nonfiction, classics and most other genres. Participants are encouraged to share ideas and opinions, resulting in very lively discussions.

Charlotte Award Book Group

Every two years, books are nominated for the NYS Charlotte Award. Students read all ten young adult nominees and discuss plot, character, setting etc. In the spring, participants across the state vote for the winning book. This is a great opportunity for students to read new, critically acclaimed books.

ATHLETIC CLUBS

S.W.A.T.

S.W.A.T. is an acronym for **Student Wellness and Training**. Students come on a self-determined schedule on Tuesday and Thursday from October through June. The program begins at 6:45 a.m., with 25 minutes in the weight room for a muscular workout. Then students complete a cardio workout in the gym, usually through a game. Following the exercise, students enjoy a healthy breakfast in the cafeteria. S.W.A.T. is open to all BCMS students. Come and get your day started in an upbeat way!

Intramurals

Intramurals offer students a variety of games that promote cardiovascular exercise. Participants meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30-8 a.m., and Wednesdays from 2:36-3:35 p.m. Morning activities include Dance, Dance Revolution, fitness center, and basketball pick-up games. Afternoon activities are organized tournaments three times a year: Fall: flag football; Winter: basketball; Spring: Pickleball/ultimate Frisbee.

THEATER CLUBS

Staged Creations

Staged Creations is open to all BCMS students. No prior theater or acting experience is required. Students are cast in the production based on auditions, which are held in mid-December at a mandatory introductory meeting.

Each year there is a maximum number of students selected for performance parts in the show, and not every role is a speaking part.

Meetings and rehearsals are held Tuesdays through Fridays (and some Mondays) after school from 2:46-3:46 p.m. During the month of March or April, additional afternoon rehearsals may be held on Saturdays and on some evenings. *Students must attend all assigned rehearsal dates in order to participate in the production.*

If a student is already involved in an activity that will conflict with rehearsals, he/she will not be able to audition for this show. As an alternative, students can consider joining the tech crew. Tech crew meetings are flexible, and students will not always need to attend every meeting.

Students on tech crew are involved in running the show. The tech crew designs and builds the sets and props; helps out with publicity, costumes and make-up; runs the lights, curtain and sound; and moves sets and props on and off stage throughout the performance.

Musical

The Middle School musical has been a tradition for more than 15 years. The musical typically involves a cast of 100 students and a technical crew of 50 students. Performances are usually the first weekend in February. Students audition and rehearse from late October through January. Student involvement is an integral part of the production, including character development, set building, costumes, makeup, lights and sound. Past musicals have included *Peter Pan*, *Oliver*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Beauty and the Beast*.

OTHER CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Television Studio Club (Morning Announcements)

Students in this club broadcast the daily morning announcements using the school's television studio equipment. Students are responsible for all aspects of production, including reporting, editing, camera/microphone operation, advertising and broadcasting. The club meets during homeroom each day and after school as needed to work on larger, school-based projects (e.g., slide shows, commercials, video editing and covering events that would be suitable for morning announcements). Ample training on equipment use and proper broadcasting technique is provided. This club is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

S.A.D.D.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) is a peer leadership organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driv-

ing, teen violence and teen depression and suicide. The club's mission is to provide students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with these issues. This group has hosted guest speakers and organized many school activities like Red Ribbon Week, An Annual Walk for Wellness, February is Wellness Month, Teens Against Tobacco Week, and Mix it Up Day at School. In addition, members have advocated within the community by selling "Stop DWI" magnets and distributing health awareness messages to families attending winter concerts. S.A.D.D. is open to students in grades 7 and 8 and meets every other week after school.

Helping Hands Club

The Helping Hands Club is a democratic organization of students dedicated to reaching out to their community, nation and world as global citizens. They create, design and coordinate activities which help people and the environment. They also assist other organizations in similar endeavors when possible. The club meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Some of the club's previous activities include:

- Selling "rainforest" t-shirts to protect land in Central America and Asia.
- Making friendship bracelets, buttons and blue-bird houses.
- Coordinating car drives to build a high school in Belize and educate children in Africa.
- Coordinating an international art exchange.
- Assisting the Delmar Kiwanis Club at Cross-gates Mall to sell "Bells of Life."
- Assisting the Kiwanis Club at their pancake breakfasts.
- Coordinating a walk-a-thon for endangered animals.
- Posting educational environmental posters around the school.
- Making arts and crafts items as gifts for sick children.
- Visiting local residences for the elderly.

Student Councils

Each of grades 6, 7 and 8 have their own student council open to all students in that particular grade level. The types of activities vary from year to year and among grade levels. Student Council meets at a regularly scheduled time three to four times a month. Additional meetings may be necessary for special events. Activities fall into several categories—school improvement, school spirit, community service, promotion of grade-level activities and staff recognition. Examples of past activities include dances and/or socials, Adopt-A-Family, purchasing new water fountains, painting



lockers, end-of-the-year activities and recognition of retiring staff members.

Natural Helpers

The Natural Helpers are a group of 7th and 8th graders who make a commitment to serving others. The primary focus of the group is learning the “helping skill”—focusing on the importance of supporting peers and community members. The BCMS Natural Helpers have volunteered at St. Peter’s Hospital and have designed motivational posters, greeting cards and “caught being kind” labels. They have also created an interactive game about making the “right choices.” The Natural Helpers meet every other week to discuss school issues and to brainstorm strategies to best solve these concerns. All Natural Helpers are nominated by their peers.

Science Academic Bowl

This club is for students who have a strong interest in science and math. The club meets once a week from November through March to prepare for the Regional Science Bowl competition. During this competition, students engage in two events - a hydrogen car race and a science academic bowl. The Middle School team consists of five students selected from the club. They design and construct a model car powered by a fuel cell/hydrogen gas, which races against cars designed by teams from other area schools. Students then compete against these other schools in an academic bowl, trying to answer science- and math-related questions in a round-robin format. The combined scores from the race, a quiz, and the academic bowl determine the winning team from our area who earns an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Science Bowl competition in Colorado.

Science Club

Science Club is open to all 8th grade students. The purpose of the club is to offer hands-on activities that further explore and enrich the physical science concepts introduced in the classroom. Students focus on problem solving, application of concepts through construction activities and friendly competition. Past projects have included model rocket building, soda bottle raft construction, musical instrument design, Rube Goldberg devices, NASA training activities and team problem solving. The interests of the members often determine the type of activities pursued. The club meets once a week throughout the year.

Ski Club

This club is sponsored and supported by the Town of Bethlehem and is open to all BCMS students. Students attend an informational meeting in November, after which they may sign up for as many trips as they wish. Most trips are sched-

uled for Saturdays. The club travels to a variety of mountains, including Gore, Stratton, OKEMO, Bromley and Jiminy Peak, usually leaving from the Middle School at 6 a.m. and arriving back at the school at 6 p.m. This is a combined trip for Middle and High School students.

Computer Club

Students participate in technology-based learning through working with computers and sharing their ideas with others. They also assist and collaborate with teachers to incorporate more technology into the classroom through GenYes, an international youth program designed to promote technology, education and student empowerment. The computer club is open to all students. Meetings are held once a week, 2:46-3:45 p.m. GenYes Program Link: <http://genyes.com/program/genyes>.

The “PIT”

The “PIT” is located in the basement of the Middle School and serves as an after school gathering place for BCMS students. The PIT is run by the Town of Bethlehem’s Parks and Recreation Department and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 2:46-3:45 p.m. starting in October. Games, snacks and music are available.

Yearbook Club

The Yearbook Club is made up of 8th grade students who are interested in photography, layout design and using a web-based publishing program. Yearbook Club members work as a team to organize, design and create the Middle School Yearbook. Members also take many of the photos that are included in the yearbook. Meetings are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m.

BCMS Garden Club

The BCMS Garden Club is an environmental and community service project. Staff, students and parents work together to grow healthy, organic produce for our school cafeteria and to tend our school flower gardens. The BCMS Garden Club also attempts to raise awareness about important environmental issues that face our children. The Garden Club will meet twice a week, weather permitting, on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Fall Garden club season runs from the start of school until roughly the end of October, spring Garden Club begins meeting in April until the end of the school year.

Students can take the 4:00 p.m. late bus or be picked up by their parents. Any changes to the usual Tuesday/Thursday schedule will be announced on the morning and afternoon announcements.

Music Program

Chorus, Orchestra, and Band are graded courses at the Middle School. Students are required to make a full-year commitment to these activities. Each group meets twice a week during school. Performing groups are Grade 6, 7 and 8 Bands, Stage Band and Orchestra 6, 7 and 8. Stage Band, Piping Rock, and Grade 6 Select Chorus meet after school one day per week. Choral programs are Chorus 6, Chorus 7, Chorus 8, Grade 6 Select Choir and Piping Rock. If you have any questions about the Music Program, please contact the district's music department supervisor at 439-4921, ext. 22129.

Interscholastic Sports Program

MODIFIED SPORTS

Modified sports are played by students in grades 7, 8 and 9. To participate in modified sports, students need no special testing. They have to pass a regular physical [*see information at right*] and, if more players try out for the team than there are spots available, students will be selected by the coach.

SELECTIVE CLASSIFICATION

Sports that require selective classification are normally restricted to students in grades 9-12. Therefore, a Middle School student must demonstrate that she or he is both physically capable and mature enough to play with high school students, in addition to having a current physical [*see below*]. New York State has established strict criteria by which to measure a student's physical ability, and the physical education department staff will administer a fitness test to determine this. [*Note: Cheerleading is not open to Middle School students.*]

Sports Physicals

In order to participate in either selective classification or modified sports, Middle School students must have a current physical exam. This can be performed by the district physician or by the student's primary care physician (after which it will be reviewed by the district physician).

Because of the paperwork and sport physicals required, the Middle School begins sign-ups approximately two months before each season begins.

Fall Sports

Boys

- Junior Varsity Golf
- Junior Varsity Volleyball
- Freshman Cross-Country
- Junior Varsity Cross-Country
- 7th-8th Grade Soccer
- Freshman Soccer
- Junior Varsity Soccer
- 7th-8th Grade Football
- Freshman Football
- Varsity Swimming

Girls

- Freshman Field Hockey
- Junior Varsity Field Hockey
- Junior Varsity Tennis
- Freshman Volleyball
- 7th-8th Grade Soccer
- Freshman Soccer
- Junior Varsity Soccer
- Freshman Cross-Country
- Junior Varsity Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Varsity Swimming
- Junior Varsity Golf

Winter Sports

Boys

- Modified Wrestling
- Modified Swimming
- Junior Varsity Bowling
- 7th-8th Grade Basketball
- Varsity Diving

Girls

- Freshman Basketball
- 7th-8th Grade Basketball
- Modified Swimming
- Junior Varsity Bowling
- Varsity Gymnastics

Spring Sports

Boys

- Freshman Baseball
- 7th-8th Grade Baseball
- Track
- Junior Varsity Tennis
- Freshman Lacrosse
- 7th-8th Grade Lacrosse

Girls

- Freshman Softball
- 7th-8th Grade Softball
- Track
- 7th-8th Grade Lacrosse
- Junior Varsity Lacrosse

