

# Bruce M. Whittier Middle School

1457 Maine Street  
Poland, ME 04274  
(207) 998 - 3462

## Summer Newsletter



August 2, 2022

### Welcome to Whittier!

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year at Bruce M. Whittier Middle School. I hope you are having a fantastic summer. The halls of the middle school are very quiet right now, but they will soon be filled with excited students, nervous students, and some students who may be a little of both.

Middle school is about new learning, relationships, and opportunities. Students learn about themselves through new challenges and experiences. It is always exciting and amazing to see the academic, physical, and social development of our students during their time here.

In a few short weeks, it all begins. Let's make the 2022-23 school year the best year yet!



See you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shaun Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

### Calendar Items

**Monday, August 29:** Open House! Drop in anytime between 5:00pm and 6:00pm. Visit the school and meet staff.

**Wednesday, August 31:** First day of school for Grade 7 students.

**Thursday, September 1:** First day for Grade 8. All students attend.

## Communication

This will be the only newsletter sent through the U.S. Mail. Our primary form of communication is through email. Please keep your email address (and phone number) updated with the school. Contact Maureen Mooney ([mmooney@rsu16.org](mailto:mmooney@rsu16.org)) if you need to make changes. Also, check your email filter to make sure that RSU 16 email is not sent to your junk mail. I will send a weekly newsletter via email starting on September 4th. You can also find Bruce M. Whittier Middle School on Facebook.

## School Staff

We have a great team ready to go for the 2022-23 school year. These are the staff and position changes that have been made since last school year:

- **Kelly Adams** is our new dean of students. In recent years, she has served as a special educator and previously taught 8th grade math.
- **Nicole Fox** will teach 8th grade social studies and English language arts. Last year, she taught writing at Whittier.
- **Holly Patenaude** will teach 7th grade math and science. She is joining us from Minot Consolidated School, where she taught 6th grade.
- **Kim Adler** will teach 7th and 8th grade writing. For the last two years, Kim has been our “super sub,” filling in wherever she has been needed.
- We said goodbye and see you later to some outstanding Whittier educators. **Erica Swenson** is going on an adventure and teaching overseas. **Sam Chatto** is now an assistant principal in Westbrook. **Sarah Henderson** is spending the year at home with her son and brand new daughter.
- We currently have one opening and are actively seeking a special educator.

## Nurse Notes

Students will receive the 22/23 standing orders, tooth fairies, and fluoride forms on their first day of school. Please complete all applicable forms and return to school for your student to receive standing order medications throughout the school year as well as dental services if desired.

If your student has asthma and/or allergies, please send a copy of the asthma and/or allergy action plan to school. It is important to have clear communication between you and your student, your health care provider and school staff for managing asthma and/or allergies at school. A written asthma and/or allergy

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action plan developed by your healthcare provider and shared with the school will help keep your student safe at school.

Most medications can be administered outside of school hours. If it is necessary to administer medication at school for your student, parents/guardians are asked to bring the medication to school in its original container and to complete an Authorization to Administer Medication form, which is available from the Nurse's Office. The student's health care provider may need to be contacted to verify the medication order. Students are not allowed to transport medication on the bus. This includes over-the-counter medication such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns related to your students' health for the upcoming school year.

Thank you,

Lisa Storer RN, BSN

BMWMS/PRHS School Nurse

(207) 998-5400 EXT. 108

## Recommended Supply List

The following supply list is provided annually to help guide back-to-school shopping. Some items may not be needed immediately at the start of the school year. We have resources available for your child if necessary. Please let me know if you need help getting supplies.

- 2 three-ringed binders
- 5 pocket folders
- tabbed dividers for the binders
- basic calculator
- sticky notes
- highlighters
- pencils, pens, erasers
- zippered pocket for writing utensils
- colored pencils
- ear buds (cheap ones for school; please leave valuable ones at home)
- water bottle



## Mr. King: Fall Athletics

Happily, we will return to a normalized Fall Athletic Season! We will again be offering boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey and cross country.

**Coaches:**

Field Hockey-Jenn Lacombe, Deb Downing- [jlacombe@rsu16.org](mailto:jlacombe@rsu16.org).

Cross Country-Serene Gagnon- [sgagnon@rsu16.org](mailto:sgagnon@rsu16.org)

Boys' Soccer-Logan Landry, Rhonda Lauzier- [llandry@rsu16.org](mailto:llandry@rsu16.org)

Girls' Soccer- Leya Harvey

All athletes must be registered by parents at [www.familyID.com](http://www.familyID.com), our organization is **RSU16**.

In addition, please provide a doctor's note or physical, clearing the student for participation. The date of the exam is required on the documentation. Physicals are good for two years and can be included with the registration, faxed to 998-5060 or emailed to [dking@rsu16.org](mailto:dking@rsu16.org).

- **Cross Country** practices begin Thursday, September 1 at 2:30 (our first meet is September 15)
- **Soccer** practices begin Tuesday, September 6 at 2:30.
- **Field Hockey** practices begin September 6 at 3:45.

**Important Notes:**

- Students will take the bus to and from games, but may be signed out from away games by one of their parents.
- Athletes should be prepared for practices in appropriate clothing such as shorts and sweatshirts when appropriate.
- NOCSAE approved shin guards are required for soccer and field hockey. Cleats are needed for these sports as well. Scott Segal of the Poland Recreation office, has an extensive collection of used equipment for free (998-4650).
- Mouth guards will be provided.
- Soccer and FH will need both blue and white game socks.
- Field hockey players will need a stick and NOCSAE approved goggles.
- Cross country will need a good pair of running shoes.
- Each program will have a parent meeting during the first week of practice.

Sports schedules can be found at [rschooltoday.com](http://rschooltoday.com). Any questions, please feel free to contact [dking@rsu16.org](mailto:dking@rsu16.org), 998-5060.

**Upcoming Event:****School Violence Prevention Through Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management**

Join us for a special presentation from Dr. Karen Barnes on the steps families and schools can take to continue to improve school safety. The program will take place on Tuesday, August 16th at 6:00 in the

school auditorium. Dr. Barnes will provide an overview of the use of the multidisciplinary approach to behavioral threat assessment and management as a violence prevention strategy. She will discuss the key role that parents play in recognizing and communicating behaviors of concern and the importance that the relationship with school plays in this process.

Dr. Karen Barnes is the Threat Assessment/Mental Health Coordinator for the Maine School Safety Center housed within the Maine Department of Education. Karen works with a diverse group of safety stakeholders at federal, state, and local levels to mitigate acts of targeted violence in schools by developing effective strategies to identify students who may be on the pathway to violence and provide early intervention to change their trajectory. Much of her work focuses on facilitating the development of multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment and management teams as well as providing training and ongoing support to these teams. Before joining the MSSC, Karen worked 25 years in public schools, with the majority in adolescent mental health.

## School Meals

In the coming SY 2022-2023 school meals will be provided to your children at no charge. I'm writing to let you know how important it is to fill out the school meal application form even though meals are free for the next year.

Some parents are concerned about listing income amounts and social security numbers on the application. Any personal information you provide will not be shared. Along with the paper application we now have an online application, please access it at [www.nlappscloud.com](http://www.nlappscloud.com). Free and reduced price meal applications are confidential. Your information will only be used to determine your child's eligibility for the school meal programs. We cannot share your information without your written permission.

There are a few important reasons to fill out this form:

- If your child qualifies for free or reduced price lunches you may qualify for Pandemic-EBT benefits
- Your child may receive other school benefits. The number of applications that are returned and approved can affect how much funding our school gets to help students meet academic benchmarks, including materials like books and computers. These numbers are the percent of free and reduced, no one is individually identified
- Another benefit is after school and summer meal programs. Local summer programs can benefit by having meals provided to them at no cost to the parents.

The forms will be sent home on the first day of school.

Sincerely,

Ellen Dore, Food Service Director-RSU 16

[edore@rsu16.org](mailto:edore@rsu16.org)

207-998-5400 ext 107

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up

The student school day is 7:35-2:10. If you are transporting your child, please arrive between 7:15 and 7:30 and drop them off in the inner circle of the driveway. The lane closest to the school is for bus loading and unloading. Please do not drop off your child prior to 7:10am. Supervision is extremely limited prior to 7:15.



Students are dismissed from school at 2:10pm (1:10 on Wednesdays). You are encouraged to park in the student lot (near the track) and have your child meet you there. You do not need to sign out your child. They can meet you at your car. Leaving school at the end of the day will require some patience. Our priority is to get the buses out as quickly as possible, so they can get to their elementary runs in a timely manner. Thank you for your help with this.

## Good Things to Know:

- **Transportation:** Our transportation team will be working hard to send accurate bus route information to families on August 22, and sooner if at all possible. If your student was assigned to a bus stop located anywhere other than at their residence last year or did not ride the bus last year and plans to this year, please submit a [transportation request form](#) ASAP. If you have questions or concerns, please contact our transportation director, Fred Barlow, at [fbarlow@rsu16.org](mailto:fbarlow@rsu16.org).
- **Breakfast and Lunch:** Free breakfast and lunch are available to all students daily. However, we ask that all families complete the National School Lunch Program form. Participation from families provides potential for school resources that we may not otherwise have. Thank you for your help.

Students may bring their own breakfast and lunch items to school, but breakfast (such as Dunkin' treats and drinks) must be completed by 8:00. Following that time, students may carry water bottles only. There will be a designated snack time around 10:00.

- **Summer Reading:** Every Whittier Middle School student is encouraged to read at least one personal reading book of choice over the summer. Students received a Maine Student Book Award/Tarin Challenge Summer Reading Sheet to record books read. If it was lost in the summer shuffle, students should just keep a list of titles and authors from the books they completed since school ended. All students who submit a summer reading sheet will be invited to a party in September.
- **Cell phones:** Starting at 7:15, students' cell phones and all other electronic devices must be left with teachers, locked in lockers or dropped off at the main office, where they are to remain for the entire day. Students may not carry cell phones or other personal electronic devices during the day. If you need to get a message to your child, please call 998-3462 and we will be happy to relay the message.
- **After School Supervision:** After school supervision is limited. All students are required to go home at the end of the school day unless they have scheduled time with a teacher or are participating in a sport or co-curricular activity. If the activity does not begin directly after school, students will wait in a designated area until it is time for the activity to begin. Middle school students are not to go to Subway, Dunkin Donuts or McDonalds while they wait for practice to begin.
- **Technology:** Laptops will be distributed in September. Due to the high cost of repairs, Regional School Unit 16 requires a non-refundable, annual technology device use fee of \$20.00. This use fee is not insurance. This fee will cover replacement costs and/or repair costs for damages not covered by the technology device warranty with the exception of negligence. Negligence is defined as failure to exercise the care that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in like circumstances. Students that would qualify free and/or reduced lunch will pay \$10. Repair fees incurred due to negligence\* will be billed to the parent at \$100 per incident. The repair fee is not insurance. *\*The principal will make this determination after investigating how the damage occurred.*

