

# BALLINGER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



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## Welcome Back 2017-18 School Year!

Dear Ballinger Junior High School Community,

On behalf of the staff at Ballinger Junior High, I am excited to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year. We hope you are enjoying the last bits of summer and anticipating the start of a new and exciting year. I feel both honored and privileged to continue to be your principal and to work with our highly qualified and dedicated staff, our wonderful students, and all of the supportive parents and community members that make this a great school. At BJHS we are committed to keeping student achievement and individual growth our highest priorities. With this, we are committed to partnering with you, offering a well-rounded education, developing character, and providing engaging academic challenges for all BJHS students. I encourage you to carefully read over this letter and feel free to contact us with any questions.

First, we were very pleased with the success of all of our core classes and programs. We are excited to continue the AVID program for all BJHS students. This course focuses on WRITING, INQUIRY, COLLABORATION, ORGANIZATION, and READING skills (WICOR). These skills all gear and focus on creating a pathway and vision for future college success. One important part of our AVID class is the Student Organizer/Agenda checks. All students will be required to purchase and carry an AVID binder to each class, every day regardless of enrollment in the elective class. Their binders, in conjunction with their computers, students will record daily classwork and homework assignments. You can help your child succeed by setting aside some time every week to connect with your child regarding their work. This will

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Every minute matters;  
Every day brings improvement.

ensure that we are all committed to upholding academic excellence at BJHS. Our Teen Leadership course focuses on character education, leadership skills, and community building lessons. We are also pleased with the amazing results we have seen with our Enrichment program. We have been hard at work preparing these classes to help serve the needs of our students. If your student is struggling in Reading or Math, this program provides school-wide academic support, literacy, Reading and Math content support, and vocabulary lessons. We are also excited to offer new elective choices, in addition to our established Performing Arts courses (band, choir) which include Art for 6-8 graders and Theater Arts for 7-8 graders. Our goal is to provide a positive, challenging, and supportive academic environment in order to guide students towards success and college/career readiness at the high school level. The high state standards will continue through middle and high school, and holding students accountable for their continued academic progress is crucial in their success. We appreciate your support in ensuring your student is attending school every day and by regularly connecting with your student's teachers.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- August 1, 2017 – Front Office Opens
- August 7, 2017 Registration 8:00- 5:00 Ballinger High School gym foyer
  - Students will receive their schedules after registration.
- August 8, 2017 Registration 10:00- 7:00 Ballinger High School gym foyer
  - Students will receive their schedules after registration.
- August 14- 22, 2017 Teacher In-service and workdays
- August 17, 2017 Open House at 6:30-8:00pm.
- August 23, 2017 – **First day of school for all students**
- September 4, 2016 – Labor Day. No School.
- September 29, 2017 End of 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks.

#### **SCHOOL TO PARENT COMMUNICATION:**

BJHS is committed to maintaining effective communication and providing families with the information they need to keep their students on track and growing. We encourage both students and families to keep current with upcoming events and activities by regularly checking our website at [www.ballingerisd.net](http://www.ballingerisd.net), like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter. In addition, Ballinger Junior High has a preliminary conference plan for the 2017-18 school year. We aim to provide numerous opportunities for parents and teachers to connect regarding student progress.

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Please review the following options available to get quick information:

- **Get connected with our online grading system txConnect Parent Portal. This is a great way for you to stay up-to-date with attendance and your child's academic progress.**
- Regularly visit our school's website @ [www.ballingerisd.net](http://www.ballingerisd.net)
- Sign-up for Electronic newsletters and notices: Remind 101 (office staff, teachers, coaches).
- Use the Quicklinks on our website to email staff members.
- Get Connected through Social Media – find us on Facebook at **@BallingerJHS**
- and follow us on Twitter **@Ballinger\_JHS**
- Call the front office at (325) 365-3537.

### **2017-18 BJHS Parent Communication and Conference Plan:**

#### **Yearlong Communication:**

- Progress Reports emailed every 3 weeks
- Ongoing parent emails, phone calls and meetings as requested/needed
- Regular Education teachers in attendance at IEP meetings
- Counselor and teacher consultation regarding 504 updates as needed

#### **Fall:**

- Open House – August 17<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm
- Targeted communication from teachers/counselor/administration to parents we would like to meet with in October.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> Scheduled Parent conferences.
- Grade Level targeted parent meetings/phone calls after October 9<sup>th</sup> for families that were unable to attend conferences.
- Individual parent meetings arranged as needed/requested.

#### **Spring:**

- Targeted communication from teachers/counselor/admin to parents we would like to meet with in February.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> Scheduled Parent conferences
- Individual parent meetings arranged as needed/requested.

### **REGISTRATION:**

We are happy to continue to offer fast and efficient middle school REGISTRATION.

Due to the final stages construction, you will need to come to the Ballinger High School gym foyer to complete the important registration papers. All students need to accompany their parents for the registration process. There will be forms for the students to sign. Please carefully read the **Registration Directions** and fill out these forms prior to the first day of school. Students will not be allowed in class without complete registration forms.

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## **Please also note the following:**

- Student Organizers/Agenda's: **All students MUST have a BINDER.** Agendas will be completed on student computers.
- Bearcat Pride Shirts: Our goal is for ALL students to have a Bearcat Pride t-shirt to wear on Fridays. The cost is only \$5 and can be purchased at registration. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Halfmann if you need financial assistance with your shirt purchase.
- Athletics: For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders we are able to offer *football*, cross country, *basketball*, and *track*. A physical (*good for two years*), UIL drug screening form, and a signed Code of Conduct are required for participation. Please refer to our athletic web page for athletic forms and more information. You can also contact our Athletic Director, Chuck Lipsey via ext. 5046 or email at [chuck.lipsey@ballingerisd.net](mailto:chuck.lipsey@ballingerisd.net)

## **OPEN HOUSE:**

To help create a positive experience for our new students and parents we have created an Open House program that includes student schedule pick up, locating locker assignments, Student Handbook review and Bearcat Pride Shirt pick up, informational booths, and an opportunity to meet your child's teachers. **Please attend the open house on August 17<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8pm.** Student class schedules will be available by 6:15pm. This is also a wonderful time to ask questions and listen to helpful responses from our staff. Schedule changes, if needed, will be postponed until the first day of school.

## **1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL:**

District-wide all students will be starting on the first day of school **August 23<sup>rd</sup>.** National Junior Honor Society students and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be supporting our 6<sup>th</sup> graders during their 1<sup>st</sup> day by helping with directions, lockers, bathrooms, getting to lunch, and finding their buses at the end of the day. If you are dropping your students off and picking them up daily, we ask that you drop students off in front of school by the Ballinger Junior High sign. Please follow safe driving while dropping student off or picking them up. 1<sup>st</sup> period will begin at **7:55 am.** Students are not allowed into the building until **7:20am.** Once students arrive at school they are to remain on campus, and they will need to wait in the cafeteria until they are released to their 1<sup>st</sup> period. School ends at **3: 38 pm.** Students are expected to ride the bus, walk home, or get picked up unless they have a note from a parent or legal guardian.

## **PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION:**

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We strongly encourage all of our families to join our Parent Teacher organization. Our kick-off meeting will take place before school begins in August. Please check our website or the PTO Facebook page for specifics. We are eager to see returning and new faces this year. Fundraising is paramount to the success of BJHS and we hope you will help support our programs and events throughout the year. When a fundraising event surfaces please consider supporting it through donations or time as it helps support our number one priority, your children. You can make a huge difference! Get involved.

The staff here at Ballinger Junior High is excited for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you at the Open House. If you have any questions related to school policy and procedures, schedules, etc., please feel free to notify the main office at 325-365-3537, check our school website via [www.ballingerisd.net](http://www.ballingerisd.net) or email me at [stacy.tucker@ballingerisd.net](mailto:stacy.tucker@ballingerisd.net). Here is to a great school year.

Warm regards,

Stacy Tucker

*Principal*

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