August 2026

Dear Seventh Grade Families,

We hope this letter finds everyone enjoying the end of summer! The faculty will soon be back on campus together, joyfully planning the upcoming school year. It is always a thrill to return to campus after a summer of restoration and rejuvenation. Your 7th grade advisors are full of positive energy and are truly excited to get to work with this year's group of students. **Our goal as 7th grade advisors is to support the class' development as a cohort, as well as foster each student's academic, personal, and social growth.** We can't wait to have students back on campus! We look forward to several opportunities to connect at the beginning of the year, but for now, here are a few forward-looking details to keep in mind as the school year approaches.

First Days of School

Students will return to campus for **orientation on Tuesday, September 1st (12:30-3:30pm)**, before their first full day of school on Wednesday, September 2nd. On September 1st, there will also be a ***new family orientation*** **for new parents and guardians from 9am - 10am.**

On **Thursday, September 3rd**, all families and students are invited to our all-school potluck picnic at Hamlin Park from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Classes

Seventh grade academic curriculum builds upon the work of 6th grade. Students will participate in Social Studies, English Language Arts, Science, Math, Spanish, PE/GO (Get Outside!), and arts offerings throughout the year (Drama, Vocals, Instrumental Music, and Visual Art). Seventh graders will meet on a daily basis with their advisors, and weekly as a class, to build cohesion, develop collegial work habits, talk about issues that arise surrounding individual health and well-being, and prepare for class trips.

Advisory

Seventh grade is a time of dynamic personal change. It can be surprising and amazing to watch these changes take place, and there are some home-life factors that can help students manage periods of uncertainty. **It is increasingly important to provide a consistent time and place for completing homework**, to help your student eat well, sleep enough, manage technology use, and keep up with personal hygiene. Your child's advisor is meant to be a bridge between family life and school life. It is our intention for advisors to schedule a 1:1 meeting with each family toward the beginning of the school year. These "get-to-know-each-other" meetings help us build a foundation for partnership throughout the year. You will hear more about this directly from your child's advisor. Additionally, there will be opportunities throughout the year to talk to other faculty experts including Greg Smith (Director of the Learning Center) and Rob Heavner (Dean of Student Life) about adolescent brain development and behavior to make sense of your complex, wonderful, rapidly-changing child!

Please note that **Curriculum Night will take place on Thursday, September 17th.** This is a chance to meet all of your student's teachers and get a sense of each subject's rhythm for the year. **Fall Conferences will take place on the evening of October 29th and during the day on October 30th**. There is no regularly scheduled school on Friday, October 30th.

Advisory

Below, please find your child's advisory group. You can expect an email from your advisor in the next few weeks with some introductory information and an invitation for the "get-to-know-each-other" conversation.

7th Grade 2026-2027 Advisory Groupings

Maya	Ryan	Greyson
Austin	Alex	Adin
Elias	Amanu	Annika
Greyson	Emran	Ayyub
Linnea	Erick	Bryce
Lotem	Max	Charlie
Myer	Drew	Olyad
Nutifafa	Spieck	Travis
Thalia	Uli	Vicky

Trips

Trips are an essential part of the Billings 7th grade experience - please take the time <u>now</u> to get these dates into your calendar so that there are no conflicts with trips! We are VERY excited to get outside with this year's 7th grade class. The dates of the 7th grade trips are:

Fall Yakama Nation Trip- October 6th-8th

Central Washington Trip -- April 7th-9th

Spring Backpacking Trip -- May 5th-7th

As we know from the last few years, unforeseen events may cause these dates or plans to change, but our fingers are crossed that these trips go off as planned! **Trips are planned with the intention to stretch students in many ways - they will work together and each be pushed into their challenge zone**. For some students, this means a night under the stars without family; for others it could be speaking with a Yakama elder, or participating in service. Advisors work closely with students in the weeks before a trip to practice skills, process emotions, define responsibility, and answer myriad questions! Teachers take an active role in planning these trips, so there are relevant curricular connections that are integrated into each trip. Because trips are such an integral part of Billing's core values and have strong curricular connections, **they are a required component of our curriculum**, not optional experiences.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer! Please don't hesitate to contact your advisor with any follow-up questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you all at the beginning of the year and at curriculum night.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Maya, Greyson, and Ryan