Billings

August 2026

Dear Eighth Graders and Families,

We hope this letter finds you enjoying a relaxing Seattle summer. The faculty are back in the building together and planning our upcoming school year. We believe this year will be filled with learning and connection and many opportunities for students to step into leadership and growth. We are especially excited about working with this year's lively, inquisitive and conscientious group of incoming eighth grade students in the Class of 2027.

Here's some quick information on the first weeks of school:

- **8th Grade Orientation** - Tuesday, September 1st from 12:30pm-3:30pm
- **First Full Day of School** - Wednesday, September 2nd from 8:30am-3:30pm
- **All-School Potluck Picnic** - Thursday, September 3rd from 5:30pm-7:30pm, Hamlin Park
- **Labor Day, No School** - Monday, September 7th
- **Curriculum Night** - Thursday, September 17th from 6:00-8:00
- **8th Grade FLO Backpacking Trip** - Tuesday-Friday, September 22nd - 25th

CLASSES

Students will be building on successes of their seventh grade year. Students will continue to take classes in ELA, social studies, mathematics, science, and Spanish, as well as enrichment classes like arts, and PE/GO! (Get Outside!).

EIGHTH GRADE PROJECT

Students will complete the Eighth Grade Project, a capstone experience at Billings, in ELA class with April. The project provides students with guided practice in the kind of independent research, writing, and presentation that will be expected in high school and beyond. The 8th grade project is a powerful stepping stone from the 7th grade Artifact Project, allowing students to practice more independence, responsibility, and leadership through a research-based project.

ADVISORY

Eighth grade can be a whirlwind of personal discovery and growth. We are here to partner with you through this developmental stage. As advisors, we are charged with helping your student manage the increasingly complex world that is eighth grade and the eventual transition to high school. Each of the eighth grade advisors will work in the classroom setting with your student, be part of trips and special events, support eighth grade project completion, and serve as a point of contact for families and the school. We will have weekly class meetings and will organize opportunities for stewardship and leadership.

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8th Grade Advisory Assignments for 2026-2027

Amy	Blake	Nathan
Jake	Abrahim	Avi
Miles	Dreyden	Cyrus
Niamh	Ella	Graham
Platon	Isaac	Rowan
Quinn	Michael	Theo
Sawyer	Mireya	Torvald
Willa	Sam	Van

TRIPS

Trips are an essential part of the Billings 8th grade experience - and we are excited to embark on trips with this intrepid group of teenagers! The dates of the trips are:

2026-27 Trip Dates

September 22-25-- Fall Leadership Outing to Mt. Adams (FLO)
February 11-12 -- February Overnight Trip to Lake Wenatchee
May 24-28 - 8th Grade Olympic Coast Backpacking Trip

Trips are designed to stretch students in many different ways. During each adventure, students will work together to move beyond their comfort zones and create positive, collaborative experiences. This kind of work takes preparation and practice. Advisors work closely with students in the weeks prior to trips to practice skills, process emotions, define responsibilities and provide a clear context for scheduled events. Please note that trips are a required component of our curriculum; they are 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 on September 17th.

With gratitude and eager anticipation,
Amy, Blake and Nathan

Amy Bowton-Meade (Social Studies)
Blake Cisneros (Spanish)
Nathan Hunnicutt (Math)