Billings

Hello Sixth Grade Families,

We're thrilled to welcome students to Billings in just a few weeks! Sixth grade advisors are excited to meet our new class in person and begin guiding their middle-school journey. The first day of school for 6th graders is **Tuesday, September 1st** and is designed as an orientation. This is a **half-day for students, 8:30-11:30am**, with activities that facilitate getting-to-know each other, sharing personal interests, team building, and learning about day-to-day life at Billings. The first full day of school is Wednesday, September 2nd. Our annual All-School Potluck Picnic on Thursday, September 3rd (5:30-7:30) is a great early opportunity to connect with faculty and other Billings families.

The 6th grade class will be venturing on two overnight trips during the year, starting with a one-night trip to Deception Pass State Park on Whidbey Island. All trips and expeditionary activities are designed to encourage group interdependence, individual self-confidence, age-appropriate challenge, and all types of fun! Beyond this, they will connect with concepts and themes taught in classes throughout the year to create experiential learning opportunities. Please note that trips are a required component of our curriculum rather than optional experiences.

2026-2027 Expeditions
September 24-25 - Fall Trip
May 26-28 - Spring Trip

The sixth grade advisors provide academic and social support for your child. We meet with them multiple times throughout each week in small advisory groups, weekly all-grade meetings, and all-school assemblies. Advisors also meet as a faculty team each week to discuss student issues, social dynamics, and upcoming events. The advisor-advisee relationship is a crucial one for our students. We strive to be trusted adults who advocate for our advisees and teach them, over their three years at Billings, to increasingly advocate for themselves. Students will meet all the 6th grade advisors at the beginning of the school year, and permanent advisory groups will be formed after the first few weeks of school.

By now you should have received an email including a welcome letter from Nick, our school supplies list, and other forms. Please reach out if you have questions about anything. We know the start of a new school year can be a bit overwhelming–for students *and* parents. We look forward to connecting with you this fall and throughout the school year. Until then, enjoy the rest of summer!

Warm Regards,

The 6th Grade Advisory Team
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Rob Howard (6th & 7th Grade ELA; 6th Grade Advisor) robhoward@billingsmiddleschool.org
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