

Frequently Asked Questions by New Families to Centennial Middle School

Welcome to Centennial Middle School! Here are some questions that new families to our school often ask. If you have any additional questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Centennial office staff or counselors, or any of the parents listed on the Centennial PTO website.

Centennial Website: cem.bvsd.org
PTO Website: www.centennialmspto.org

Who is who in the Front Office?



Principal:
John McCluskey
720-561-5440



Assistant Principal:
Brooke Daerr
720-561-2042



Community Liaison: Elizabeth Olivas
(Habla español) 720-561-2020



Counselor: Last Names A-K
Leah Taylor
720-561-5441



Counselor: Last Names L-Z
Jason Giguere
720-561-2035



Principal's Assistant:
Laurie Georgemans
720-561-2002



Assistant to the assistant principal:
Marcela Chavez (Habla Español)
720-561-2003



Assistant/Registrar support:
CoLeen Prusiner
720-561-206



Health room, Office support:
Kathy Gilbert
720-561-2005

DAY-TO-DAY ITEMS

How do we enroll at Centennial?

For a step-by-step checklist of how to enroll at Centennial, please visit:

<http://cem.bvsd.org/About/enrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

Office staff and counselors are always happy to take your calls and help you. The number for the front office is 720-561-5441.

When is the first day of school?

You need to check the district calendar for the specific mid-August date here:

<http://www.bvsd.org/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

However, an important thing to note is that there are two first days of school at Centennial: the first day that the school is open is for 6th graders ONLY, and day two (and beyond) is for all grades (6, 7, and 8). So if you have a 7th or 8th grader starting new at Centennial, their first day will be on day two.

What does my child need for school?

A list of school supplies can be found on Centennial's website. Go to

<http://cem.bvsd.org/students/Pages/default.aspx> to see a dashboard for each grade. This area of the website contains school supply lists, lunch menus, clubs and activities, and tips about transitioning to middle school.

A note about supplies: Centennial students are not allowed to carry backpacks from class to class, so many students find it helpful to buy one, large zip-up binder to carry all their notes and supplies around during the day.

Finally, we live in a dry climate, so many kids find it helpful to have a water bottle they can take to class. PE is often outside, so sunscreen is useful and should be applied in the morning before school.

How can my child get to school?

We'd love your student to begin the day refreshed, energized, full of fresh air and ready to learn! Thus, we encourage students and their families to walk, ride bikes, skateboard, scooter, and use other student-propelled methods to get to school all year round! For the map of our walking/biking area and drop-off/pick-up procedures see:

<http://www.centennialmspto.org/transportation-guide/>

Students living more than 1.5 miles from school are eligible to take the school bus. Bus number and pick up/drop off times will be mailed to families prior to the start of school. For more information on transportation, call (720) 561-5120.

What is the bell schedule?

Centennial's detailed bell schedule can be found here:

<http://cem.bvsd.org/About/Documents/2018-19%20Bell%20Schedule.pdf>

Class hours are: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: **8:35 am - 3:38 pm**
 Weds (late start): **9:35 am - 3:38 pm**

Buses run to school in time for the start of classes each day. On Wednesdays, this means they will pick up students later and drop kids at school between 9:20 - 9:30 for our late start time. All staff are in meetings from 7:45 - 9:30 each Wednesday. During this time, staff engages in Professional Development, grade level meetings to discuss students who are struggling and events specific to that grade level, and core planning so that teams of teachers who teach the same courses can collaborate. There are some opportunities at school beginning at 7:45 for students who must arrive earlier than 9:20 on Wednesday.

When is lunch time?

There are 3 different lunch times. Check out the Bell Schedule

<https://cem.bvsd.org/About/Documents/2018-19%20Bell%20Schedule.pdf>

6th graders will always have “first lunch”, 7th and 8th graders will be split between 2nd and 3rd lunches. Please encourage your student to bring extra snacks if they are in the 3rd lunch, it is late in the day. Teachers will let students know when they can snack in their class.

Centennial has a cafeteria that serves fresh, nutritious food every day. BVSD Food Services is a leader in avoiding highly processed foods, high fructose corn syrup, chemicals, dyes and food additives. Salad Bars are stocked daily with fresh, delicious and when possible, local farm fresh produce. For more information on daily menus and prices, visit:

<http://food.bvsd.org/Pages/default.aspx>

How does my child buy lunch?

At the bottom of the website in the above section, there is a link to your child’s BVSD Meal Account. This account can be loaded with money from a credit card (either on a one-time basis, or you can set up an auto-refill), and then your child only needs to punch in their student number to purchase a meal, rather than carrying cash.

Where can I find information about BVSD policies?

Please see the following link to view the BVSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide:

<http://bvsd.org/studentrights/Pages/default.aspx>

This guide covers BVSD’s policies about such topics as academic honesty, student conduct, attendance, health education, open enrollment, food allergies, use of district technology, annual district calendar, and much more!

KID-SPECIFIC

I am new to this school! How will I know where to go and what to do?

Centennial has a program called 360 which is a leadership program for 7th and 8th grade students. 360 Leaders serve as mentors for incoming 6th grade students, ambassadors for families new to Centennial, and role models for all students at Centennial Middle School.

Incoming 6th grade students from Centennial’s feeder elementary schools are invited to an orientation night in mid-May of their 5th grade year. During this event, they tour the school with

360 leaders, practice using combination locks, do ice-breaking activities to meet each other, and lots of other fun things! Parents also are invited to the parent portion of this event to meet each other as well as have the opportunity to ask questions of veteran Centennial parents.

Kids who join Centennial either mid-year, or as 7th or 8th graders, will be assigned a 360 leader of their own, who will help orient them to the school. New students have a student orientation session with the counselors before the school year starts. There is no formal plan to meet with these students on a regular basis, however counselors access information about student achievement, social/emotional adjustment, etc. through regular team meetings with classroom teachers. Parents are also welcome to contact counselors if they have a concern about their child and adjustment to the new setting. Please see the Centennial website to find your child's counselor's contact information. Counselors are also in the lunchroom on a regular basis and are able to informally observe student interaction and make sure that new students are connecting with others.

In addition, the PTO also has Welcome Committee members who can be contacted through the front office. New families are encouraged to reach out to them if they need more guidance or information.

For the 2018/2019 school calendar year contact:

Stasi York (English) stasiyork@me.com after January 2019

Wendy Castillo-Barinek (English and Spanish) 312-282-9212

What kind of extracurricular activities can I participate in?

Centennial offers many clubs and extracurricular activities, such as band and orchestra practice clubs, art club, choir, and computer club. There are theatre productions and history bees, maker clubs and science fairs, and so much more! Students can represent their school playing basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, track, cross country, and wrestling. For a complete list of what is available, visit <http://cem.bvsd.org/AandA/Pages/default.aspx>.

There are no tryouts for sports, but some start within days of the first day of school in August, so you must pay attention to sign-up deadlines. Kids: You must listen closely to the daily announcements so you know when and where you need to be. Parents: Be sure to read the weekly e-Blast to stay aware of deadlines that are coming up.

A note about participating in sports: A current athletic physical form is required for all interscholastic sports participation. This can be obtained from your child's physician. Please try to get this from your physician BEFORE the start of school to avoid delays in participation!

What are the RISE Recognition and Honor Roll Award Breakfasts?

In 2018-2019 the school has moved to a semester grading system. Since we have up to date grades with infinite campus system, the quarter grades are ending. As a community we hope to redefine how we recognize student's achievement. Stay tuned. In the past, Centennial recognizes students each quarter who get a GPA of 3.5 or above and students that have demonstrated the RISE citizenship values by inviting them to an Awards Ceremony. Watch the e-Blast for information on dates and times, how to find and/or calculate your child's GPA, and links to volunteer time or food donations. Separate grade level ceremonies will be planned for January to honor 1st semester achievement and citizenship. 6th and 7th grade

Spring honors and citizenship will be acknowledged in May and 8th grade honors and citizenship as a part of their continuing ceremony.

Is there a dress code?

Yes, Centennial has a dress code (but not uniforms), and the specifics of it can be found in your child's planner that they will receive at Locker Day (see next section). Generally speaking, the language your child will be familiar with from the discussions at school is that breasts, bellies, bottoms, and backs (the 4 B's) need to be covered.

What is Locker Day?

Locker Day, also known as Check-In Day, occurs a day or two before the first day of school (please check the "Campus Events" section of the Centennial home page cem.bvsd.org or call the office for the specific date). Check-In Day is for ALL students from 6th-8th grade.

On this day, the school is open from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. You and your child should come at a time that is convenient to you within those hours. Once there, you will find signs directing you to the gym, where you will line up to check in your student. Your child's registration information will be confirmed, and you will have the opportunity to pay for and pick up planners and textbooks. Your child will also get their locker assignment and school-issued lock. Many students will bring their school and locker supplies on this day, so that they can "move in" after they finish checking in. In the gym there will also be representatives from the PTO who will be selling Spirit Wear, handing out Grocery Cards (a popular and easy fundraising opportunity), and answering any questions that you may have. Finally, your child will also have their school photo taken this day, so remind them to comb their hair before you come!

Note: your child will not get their class schedule on this day! Schedules will be handed out on the first day of school.

PARENT-SPECIFIC

What is Infinite Campus and ADU?

Infinite Campus is a web-based, secure, student information system providing families with access to student records including attendance, fees, and grades. Additionally, Infinite Campus is a family-based system, which means parents/guardians can each have their own login to view information for all of their students. The Campus Portal provides the following information:

- Grades and assignments
- Report cards and transcripts
- School and co-curricular fees
- Daily and period attendance
- Student schedules (middle school and high school)

When you register, you should receive an email with a Campus Portal Activation Key and instructions. The subject line of the email will be "Message from BVSD - your access to Infinite Campus Parent Portal" and the sender email address is "ic.messenger@bvsd.org". If you do not

receive the email with activation key, please contact CoLeen Pruisner at coleen.pruisner@bvsd.org.

After you set up your Parent Portal, you need to complete your family's Annual Data Update (ADU). This is how you assign emergency contacts, electronically sign Technology and Behavior agreements, and upload vaccination records. More detailed Annual Data Update directions are available on the BVSD website at bvsd.org/ADU. If you have questions, please contact the BVSD Student Enrollment Help Desk at 720-561-5247 or by email to enrollment.helpdesk@bvsd.org.

How do I get information about my child's grades and assignments?

This is all contained in [Infinite Campus](#). Your IC Parent Portal will give you access to your child's schedule, grades (including each grade for specific assignments), upcoming assignments and tests, and a listing of your child's attendance. There is a downloadable app for this so that you and your child can access this information on your phone as well. It is an incredibly useful tool, so be sure to check it regularly, and encourage your kids to keep tabs on their grades and assignments periodically too.

What if my child has special needs?

If your child is currently in advanced classes or requires extra support, call the Centennial counselor that is assigned to your child to discuss which class options will best support your student. Students with last names A - K should contact Leah Taylor leah.taylor@bvsd.org and students with last names L - Z should contact Jason Giguere jason.giguere@bvsd.org. If your child is on an IEP, their academic support person will be in touch with you. If you haven't heard from them in the first month of school, please contact your appropriate counselor.

How will I get to know other parents?

If you are here for the beginning of the school year, the school and the PTO host [Welcome Back Coffees](#) every year. Here, you can meet the principal, some staff, and other parents in a casual setting. These coffees are generally held on the first days of school (day one is for 6th grade only, day two is for 7th and 8th graders).

The easiest way to meet other parents is to attend and/or volunteer at school functions and the monthly PTO meetings (see <http://www.centennialmspto.org/pto-meetings/> for the meeting schedule). There is no membership fee to join the PTO. In fact, just having a student at Centennial automatically makes you a member! Many parents come to the PTO meetings even if they do not have a "position" within the PTO since it is a great way to hear about what is going on at the school. Be sure to read the e-Blast as well so you don't miss events for families (eg. Back-to-School Picnic, Community Nights, etc).

Your children will also make new friends who have come from other elementary schools, so be sure to participate in the Student Directory so that you can make contact with their families, and they with you! (<http://www.centennialmspto.org/student-directory/>)

What do I have to do to be a volunteer?

To help with PTO-sponsored functions, all you have to do is sign up! Opportunities abound, and you can sign up online, attend a PTO meeting and sign up there, or email any one of the event coordinators listed on the PTO website.

If you are going to do any volunteering where you will be working with students directly (eg. tutoring, helping in a teacher's classroom, chaperoning a field trip), you need to have a background check completed. There are two kinds of checks that you can do:

- 1) A single school-year approval using TC Logiq. The TC Logiq check is fast, online-only, and cheaper (\$17 at this printing), but only is good for a single school year (August - June). It will cover you at all BVSD schools for that time period. The advantages of this process are its lower cost and its speed (eg. if you need to go on a field trip later the same week!)
- 2) A multi-year CBI Background check. This is the more expensive option (\$40 at this printing), and takes a lot more effort (you need to make an appointment to go to an approved location to have fingerprints taken). It also takes much longer before you receive approval. For this reason it is an EXCELLENT idea to do this over the summer break! The main advantage to this process is that not only does it cover you to volunteer at all BVSD schools, it lasts throughout all your children's years at school, so you only need to do it once and you're covered through your youngest child's senior year of high school.

For detailed information on the kinds of volunteering that require a background check, please see: <http://www.bvsd.org/policies/Policies/IJOC-R.pdf>

For detailed instructions of how to complete the two processes listed above, see <http://www.bvsd.org/volunteer/Pages/Level2-Inst.aspx>

What happens if the school is closed for snow or other inclement weather?

Though this is a familiar routine for natives to BVSD, for those new to winter weather it can be a surprise the first morning of a big snowfall! When you register in BVSD, you enter your contact information and can choose how you wish to receive communications from the district. If school is closed for any reason, you will receive automatic notifications based on the methods you elect (emails, texts, voicemails, etc). You can sign up for multiple modes of notification.

You can also check the website at www.bvsd.org. On the left side of the main page there is a dot that is green if school is happening as normal. If it is yellow or red, check the website for more details of either a delay or a cancellation.

Please note that on some days, school will not be cancelled, yet mountain buses will not run. On those days, families living on routes 501 and 503 will need to decide whether they can safely drive their students to school.

If my child is not coming to school, who should I notify?

Call the attendance line **before 8:30 AM** at (720) 561-2019, or enter the absence on Centennial's website at: <http://cem.bvsd.org/parents/Pages/Report-Absence.aspx>

Can I borrow books from the school library?

Yes, see the Centennial librarian to obtain a library account to check out materials.

When and how does my child get their report card?

Report cards are issued on Infinite Campus at the end of each quarter. Sign in to your Infinite Campus account, select your student at the top, look on the left side, and click on the “Reports” tab to find report cards.

How do Parent-Teacher conferences work here?

Parent-Teacher conferences are 3 days in October from 3:45-7:45pm. There will be information sent to you in early October about how to schedule your 8-minute appointment with each of your student’s teachers. It is highly recommended that your student come with you. There are also Parent-Teacher conferences in the Spring.

What is Fuel the Cyclones?

Funding from the state and district falls short of instructional and administrative needs. Your donation helps us fill the gap while supporting new and innovative programs. Instead of doing multiple fundraising events or sales, we ask for donations in the Fall to support the school and the PTO. Any amount is greatly appreciated and donations are tax deductible. You will see flyers with details of the campaign around the school and in Cyclone Connections. The fastest and most secure way to give is to simply navigate to our school website and make your donation through Revtrak for the school and go to the PTO site to donate to the PTO.

What is Revtrak?

Revtrak is the school system to pay for class fees, yearbook sales, planner and atlas sales, instrument rental, field trip fees, and contributions to the school.

Why do the PTO and the School raise money separately?

The PTO at Centennial is striving to support parents, teachers and students at CMS. Instead of asking parents to endlessly bring pizza and treats, we pool our resources and create community events like the RISE values and honor roll breakfasts, winter party for the kids, teacher appreciation meals, and community picnics. Until the state increases funding for our schools, Centennial will always need more money for professional development and various innovative teaching ideas. See the Fuel the Cyclones question above.

Are there other ways we can help the school financially?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. To enroll, go to www.smile.amazon.com. Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page, and select Centennial Middle School Parent Teacher Organization.

Reloadable Grocery Cards are another way to fund the school without costing you anything. You “load” the card before you buy your groceries, when you use the card 5% of your total goes to the Centennial PTO. There are Lucky’s, Safeway and King Soopers cards available. Visit <http://www.centennialmspto.org/grocery-card/> to get the card(s) or talk with the grocery card coordinator.

If you have participated in grocery card programs at your elementary school, the cards that you've been using are still funding your elementary school. In order to help Centennial, please finish using those cards, and obtain a new cards from the school website or coordinator since these will be solely linked to Centennial Middle School.