

Ben Franklin Junior High School

Seventh Grade/New Student Orientation - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What time does school start and end? When will my child eat lunch?

School begins each day at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:55 p.m. Lunch will be either 4A or 5A depending on his/her schedule. Approximately 2/3 of the 7th grade students will have 4A lunch and the other 1/3 will have 5A lunch.

2. How do every other day classes work?

Each day at Ben Franklin Junior High is designated as either Day 1 or Day 2. The first day of school is Day 1, the second day is Day 2, the third is Day 1, the fourth is Day 2, etc. If a class meets on Day 1, then it meets every other day, as do classes that meet on Day 2. A day off of school for some reason, a snow day, or a record-keeping day, is disregarded, and the schedule continues to alternate.

3. Describe the lunch procedures and policies. Our lunch program features the regular district “hot lunch” program as well as an “a la carte” line with sandwiches, fruit, salads, etc. Each student is issued a 5 digit pin number (also on their Student ID Badge). Students will have their ID badges scanned at the end of the lunch line. The cashier will enter the student’s ala carte purchases and that amount will be deducted from the account. Lunch payments can be made in the Main Office (payment placed in an envelope with the first and last name of the student clearly marked on the outside). Parents may also add money to their lunch account via on-line Family Access. Individual pin numbers are confidential and should not be shared with or used by other students. Ben Franklin Junior High School is a closed campus, which means students are required to remain in the building during the school day.

4. Describe the breakfast program.

Healthy breakfast items are available for purchase each morning in the cafeteria. Second chance breakfast is available after 1st hour and can be eaten in the students' Advisory class.

5. How are credits earned?

Students do not earn credit until ninth grade at which time students earn 1/2 credit for full semester courses. Students in seventh and eighth grade who fail classes may be retained or may repeat classes, as outlined in school district policy.

6. Where do buses arrive and depart? How do students know what bus to ride?

Student bus information will be accessed online. Letters/cards will not be mailed. Accurate route information will be available online the week before school starts. Use the following link:

<https://vtweb.tyleritech.com/StevensPoint/elinkrp/Login.aspx> This will take you to the Versatrans Elink page where you put in your user name and password, which is the same as the MyStop app. Your login is your student firstname.lastname as recorded in Skyward. Password is the birthday 00000000 (2 for month 2 for day 4 for year). If your student does not need transportation and had it last year please call transportation to cancel it. If you move, you need to re-sign up for transportation, students are no longer added to routes.

Buses arrive and depart from the circular driveway at the north side of the building at Ben Franklin.

7. 7th Grade and New Student Orientation?

An extensive, all day orientation is scheduled for seventh grade students and new students on Thursday, September 1st from 7:45-2:55. Students receive schedules and locker combinations. Students are taught how to read their schedule, and they are given time to find their classes and to use their locker.

8. Does every student take both reading and English?

The curriculum of the reading and English classes differ significantly. The reading class helps to further develop reading skills as well as enhance study skills across the curriculum. Students do take both reading and English; however, some exceptions are granted for students with exceptional reading skills who would like to fit an additional course into their schedule.

9. Is a physical required to play sports?

Physicals are required every other year for the sports program at Ben Franklin Junior High School. Most seventh grade students will need a physical in order to sign up for a sport. [WIAA Physical Form](#).

10. Are physical education uniforms required?

No. A plain t-shirt and plain shorts are acceptable for physical education class.

11. Where is the best place to drop off my child before school and pick up my child after school?

Parents must use the drop off/pick up loop at the front of the building on Polk Street.

12. What should I do if my child needs to take medication at school?

Parents of students who need to take medication at school should contact the guidance office for a health form to complete. This form allows school staff to dispense medication. The forms are available: <https://wi01932907.schoolwires.net/domain/71>

13. How do parents stay informed about upcoming events at school?

A parent newsletter is published every month, emailed to families, and posted on the BF website. Parents may request that all newsletters be mailed home. Our website provides a wealth of information from course information, sports to daily announcements. Parents also receive an email via Skyward. In addition, we send information reminders about upcoming activities through Skyward. Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BenFranklinJH/>

14. Do seventh grade students have all year or semester classes?

Seventh grade students have full year classes in math, English, social studies and science. Other classes including chorus, reading and physical education meet for the full year, but meet every other day. Family & Consumer Science and Business/Career skills meet every day for nine weeks each.

15. Are there fees that a student will incur during seventh grade?

There is a school activity fee and there are fees associated with certain elective courses and with athletics. During the fall of the school year, school yearbooks and school pictures are sold. These costs are not included in the basic school fees. Schedule changes could result in additional fees/and or a refund of fees.

16. How are grades reported? How is academic progress reported?

Grades are reported each quarter during the school year. Report cards are mailed home at the end of each quarter. "Family Access" is available to parents, which allows them to view their child's grades on-line at any time.

17. What do I do if my child is absent from school?

Parents must report all absences to the main office at (715)345-5413. Student absences will not be excused unless a staff member in the main office has contact with the student's parent or guardian. If a student is going to be absent for more than three days, the student must complete the pre-arranged absence form prior to the leave.

18. How can parents be involved in their child's education at the middle level?

Parents are welcome to attend parent meetings during the school year. The meetings are to provide information and address parent concerns. In addition, parents are encouraged to attend "Back to School Night" in the fall as well as both fall and spring parent-teacher conferences.

19. What extracurricular activities are available for seventh grade students?

A variety of clubs and sports are available for seventh grade students. All sixth grade students receive a handbook, which describes all the extracurricular activities or can be reviewed online at <https://wi01932907.schoolwires.net/Page/5219> and <https://wi01932907.schoolwires.net/domain/441>