

## ***Welcome to the 8th Grade!***

*My name is Jennifer Burks and I teach reading and writing. This is my 14th year teaching, six at the high school level, this is year eight here at BMS. I moved to Bardstown in the spring of 2013 and this has become home to me! I am married and I have three children: Jackson (5), Harper (4) and Wyatt (2). I am excited to get this year started and I am looking forward to teaching your child!*

*In periods 1,2,5 and 6, Jessie Downs will also be in the classroom. She is starting her fourth year at Bardstown, and her eighth year of teaching. She is married and has two children, Tatum (5) and Tannar (2).*

*We are so excited to have your child in our classroom this year! We are firm believers in building strong, positive relationships with kids and we would like your input. You know your children better than anyone and we only get them for one school year; we promise to take very good care of them. :) With that being said, they will not have an easy ride in our class. We will challenge them and push them outside of their comfort zone. We will learn about them and will do whatever we can to prepare them for what may lie ahead. We want to get to know their strengths and weaknesses as quickly as possible, so that we know what to do to make them successful in our classroom and beyond.*

*In addition to getting to know your child, we want to have a positive relationship with you. We want to be in contact with you for the good, the bad, and the ugly. As you know, it can be difficult at times to deal with teenagers; if we are a united front, we will be prosperous in making this year a success for your child!*

### **How do I contact Mrs. Burks and/or Mrs. Downs?**

Please reach out to us at your convenience, even if you know your child is doing great! We love keeping you up-to-date on their progress!

**Phone:** 502-331-8803 (The best time to reach us by phone is from 7:45am-8:15 and from 2:40-4:00pm.)

**Email:** [jennifer.burks@bardstown.kyschools.us](mailto:jennifer.burks@bardstown.kyschools.us)     [jessica.downs@bardstown.kyschools.us](mailto:jessica.downs@bardstown.kyschools.us)

Please email us at any time with questions, concerns or just to check in on what's going on in our class or at BMS!

**Remind101:** This is a text program to keep in touch! Feel free to text me any time through this program. Text the following code(s) to 81010.

Reading: @cgcd6c

Writing: @262h9k

**Instagram:** @jburksbms

### **What is Google Classroom?**

Google Classroom is a way to organize class materials; it is the best way for you to know what your student is doing in my classroom on a daily basis. With the risk of remote learning, being educated on Google Classroom is more important than ever. All agendas, reading and assignments will be posted here weekly. All students have access to GC through their school Google Account. All students will join the main content page AND their class period page. The purpose of separate pages is to track individual class assignments.

### **How do I access Google Classroom? (Currently only students are able to access, but please look at this together regularly!)**

1. Log into your school Google Account.

2. Open a Google page and click the grid in the top right corner.
3. Click on Google Classroom--it is a green and yellow icon.
4. Click on the + sign in the top right corner and select "join class".
5. Enter your class code: (Codes will be updated close to the start of the school year when schedules are finalized.)
  - a. **ALL WRITING CLASSES Code:**
  - b. 1st period writing:
  - c. 2nd period writing:
  - d. 3rd period writing:
  - e. **ALL READING CLASSES Code:**
  - f. 5th period reading:
  - g. 6th period reading:

### **Expectations:**

8th grade students are held to high academic and behavior standards. In addition to teaching content, it is critical to prepare our students for high school. There will be consistent conversations about earning credits and accountability. In short, our expectations include:

- You're going to work--Don't say you can't. Don't say you won't.
- Have integrity--follow the rules and do the right thing even when no one is looking.
- Be respectful--be kind and respectful to your teachers, classmates and respect yourself.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Challenge yourself--work hard and don't be afraid if work is hard; that is when you learn!

Classroom Expectations: In addition to our 8th grade expectations (seen above and on your syllabus), there are several expectations we have for you in our room.

- Be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there.
  - You are tardy to class if you are running in the door.
  - When the bell rings, you are expected to be in your seat.
- When you enter the room, read the screen so that you know what you should be working on at the beginning of class. You are expected to be working/prepared before I tell you what to do.
- Be respectful.
  - Criticizing one another will not be tolerated.
  - Be kind and tolerant.
  - Be empathetic.
  - Be encouraging and helpful.
  - Be accepting of others and their opinions, beliefs and lifestyles.
- Be engaged.
  - Be an active listener. You may not always understand what you're being taught, but if you listen, you will pick up on a lot more information.
  - My number one rule is to ALWAYS KNOW THE QUESTION.
    - You don't have to know the answer, but you better know the question; that means you are ENGAGED and listening. :)
- Take ownership.
  - We all make mistakes; don't make excuses for it--own it and learn from it.