



Bluejacket-Flint Family

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Principal-Teddi Pendland
Admin Asst.-Kathy Crawford
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BJF Mission Statement:

We are a diverse learning community dedicated to inspiring students as they achieve their full potential through grit and grace, in a safe and supportive environment.

Upcoming Events of the Week:

Tuesday, August 14th First Day for Pre-K and Kindergarten

News from BJF...

- The first day and a half of school has been a joy! We are so excited to have **Pre-K and Kindergarten** join us **tomorrow!**
- This week, we will be practicing our **safety drills**. All schools in SMSD are required to practice three tornado drills per year, **one fire drill per quarter**, and **one lockdown drill each month**. We will also have on-going discussions in our classrooms about the need for staying safe in all situations. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding safety drills.
- Here are some important reminders for **arrival and dismissal**:
 - Use crosswalks at all times
 - Be cautious and drive slowly, looking for pedestrians
 - Stay off cell phones to be at your highest alert
 - School begins at 8:10 and ends at 3:10. Be punctual for arrival and dismissal
- We will also be handing out **SOAR tickets** this year when students are positively:
 - S-Staying Safe
 - O-On Task for Learning
 - A-Acting Responsibly
 - R-Respecting Self and Others

We will be having quarter celebrations to honor our students for soaring, as well as featuring them in our weekly newsletter!

- **iPads** will be distributed to students within the next few weeks. Please be sure to set up your student's Skyward Account by contacting Kathy Crawford, BJF Secretary, at 913-993-2000. If you already have a Skyward account for your child, it is important you complete the **permission forms** you will access when you log into your child's account. This needs to occur before your child will receive their iPad.

BJF NEEDS YOU TO BECOME A MVP!

The volunteers in the Shawnee Mission School District's (MVP) My Volunteer Pal program are making a difference daily in the lives of students in our schools. Educating today's students is a collaborative partnership, and volunteers play a valuable role.

In as little as thirty minutes per week, you can make a difference in the life of a student. The Shawnee Mission School District MVP Program connects adult volunteers with youth ages four to 18. Volunteer pals choose from a range of school activities, including mentoring, serving as a lunch buddy, classroom volunteer, sharing special talents or career interests, tutoring in math or reading, or simply being a **friend who listens. No special skills are required, only the ability to develop a good relationship and be** a good listener. Volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, and most activities take place on school grounds during school hours.

MVP's identified as Tier I volunteer in a capacity in which they have direct contact with students, either individually or in groups. Examples may include tutor, mentor, classroom volunteer, chaperone, etc.

Examples of Tier I volunteers who need to be MVP trained include but are not limited to the following:

- Chaperones for SMSD Approved Field Trips.
- Chat 'n Chew
- Field trips
- School volunteers. Examples: art room, classroom, library, office, workroom, etc.

MVP training and fingerprinting should be completed at least 6 weeks prior to the MVP's anticipated start date.

MVP training is required anytime a student is handed off to another adult before or after school who is not the parent, guardian, parent approved adult, or school employee. Examples include: Chess Club, Mad Science and Master Gardeners. Refer to BOE Policy IFCB for a definition of USD Approved Field Trips and Non-Sanctioned Field Trips. Volunteers under 18 years of age are trained, but not fingerprinted. A FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) document must also be signed. **Fingerprinting/background check procedures need to be repeated every 3 years.*

Steps to Become an MVP Volunteer (please do these steps in order):

1. Complete an online MVP [application](http://www.smsd.org). (Visit www.smsd.org)
2. Attend a MVP training session. (Training dates and times are posted on the "Volunteering" page on the district's website. These sessions can fill up quickly and are limited to 12 attendees.) Combined training and fingerprint screening dates are offered at the Center for Academic Achievement, 8200 West 71st, and require a reservation. Please call 913-993-6447 or email volunteer@smsd.org for a reservation.
3. Drop in fingerprint screening is available at the Center for Academic Achievement, 8200 W. 71st St., on **Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and from 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Fingerprint screenings can only be done **AFTER** attending a training session. Visit www.smsd.org for more information about the MVP program. E-mail volunteer@smsd.org or call (913) 993-6447 for more information.

Greetings 5th grade parents and students!

Welcome back to school 5th graders! Summer seemed to fly by, but that's ok, because THIS year, you have the best opportunity of your entire elementary career....joining BAND! Trust me, you don't want to miss out on this.

Over the next few days, I will be traveling from school to school, along with the elementary strings teachers, to give every 5th grader the chance to play any instrument he or she wants to try. In fact, you can try them all if you want!

Parents, after your child has tried out the instruments in their classrooms this week, you are all invited to our **Instrument Petting Zoo on Tuesday, August 21**. This is an evening event at Shawnee Mission North High School. Band instruments will be displayed from 6:00-7:00, and Orchestra (strings) instruments will be displayed from 7:00-8:00. During this event, students will have one final opportunity to get their hands on their favorite instruments, ***and parents can ask as many questions as they want of the band staff***. We will also provide plenty of information about what instruments to buy, what accessories you will need, and where you can find these items. I will also send all of this information home after I have visited with your students classes.

Once you have decided what to play, feel free to go to the link below and enroll your child in band:

[Online Band Enrollment Form](#)

You can also find this link, and other elementary band information, at the Shawnee Mission North Bands website: smnorthbands.org

If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact me at rebeccafillingham@smsd.org. I am looking forward to meeting you all and getting this year off to a great start!

All the best,

Rebecca Fillingham

HEY NORTH AREA 6TH GRADE BAND!



Let's get the music started!

Rehearsal Start

Dates:

August 20-
Nieman
Bluejacket-Flint
Merriam Park

August 21-
Santa Fe Trail

August 22-
East Antioch

Greetings parents and students,

I am very excited to continue the musical journey that you began last year! We have a lot of growth to look forward to, and you will have some NEW opportunities later this year to rehearse and perform with the North Area 6th Grade Honor Band. This is an exciting year for you all, as the top dogs in your buildings, and I am honored to get to be a part of it.

Please make sure that you have three things ready for your first rehearsal:

- ☐ Your instrument (including reeds and maintenance accessories)
- ☐ Your book (Tradition of Excellence, Book 1)
- ☐ A pencil

If you rented an instrument last year and you DO NOT currently have it in your possession, please email me so I can make sure I have the instruments needed for the first day of band. Let's have a great year!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Rebecca Fillingham
rebeccafillingham@smsd.org

*Music is the
shorthand of
emotion.*

-Leo Tolstoy