

WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRIZZLY TIMES



30 September, 2024/Vol. 09

Week 8 Update: Maximizing Instructional Time and Supporting Student Progress

Dear West Briar Families and Staff,

As we enter Week 8 of the school year, I want to take a moment to highlight the importance of maximizing instructional time and ensuring our students are making meaningful academic progress.

Maximizing Instructional Time:

Every minute in the classroom counts. We are committed to creating a learning environment where distractions are minimized, transitions are smooth, and students are engaged from the moment they enter until the final bell rings. Teachers are working diligently to make the most of every instructional period by focusing on bell-to-bell teaching. Parents, I encourage you to continue supporting our efforts by ensuring that your student arrives at school on time, ready to learn, and by scheduling any appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Together, we can ensure that every student benefits from a full day of learning.

Supporting Academic Growth:

Our goal is to see every student make consistent academic progress, regardless of where they started. This week, teachers are using multiple checks for understanding throughout the lesson to identify student strengths and areas for growth.

Based on our STAAR performance data, we will be making some necessary schedule changes for students who were unsuccessful in math and reading. These changes are designed to provide targeted support and intervention, ensuring that these students have every opportunity to succeed. We will be using the upcoming long weekend to carefully adjust schedules, and we aim to have all changes finalized by Monday, October 7. Parents we ask for your support in ensuring a smooth transition. Our team is focused on ensuring that these students receive the academic support they need to thrive.

How You Can Help:

Staying connected with your student's academic progress, checking grades in PowerSchool, and maintaining regular communication with teachers will help us to work as a team. If you notice any areas where your student might need additional support, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Our commitment to your student's success is unwavering, and we know that with your continued support, we can help every student at West Briar Middle School thrive.

Thank you, as always, for being such vital partners in the education of your student. Let's make Week 8 the best week yet by working together to maximize every learning opportunity and ensure that our students are set up for long-term academic success.

Wishing you all a productive and engaging week!

~Principal Blanchard

Power School Access for Parents

Please make sure you are monitoring your student's grades and attendance in PowerSchool. For assistance with accessing your student's information, please email Lauri Lamar at llamar@houstonisd.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30, 2024

- Varsity Drum Line Practice 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- 7th grade Football 5:00pm at West Briar

October 1, 2024

- Varsity Brass Practice 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- Picture Day - students may dress nice for pictures

October 2, 2024

- Christian Club Meeting 7:50am
- Honor Roll Celebration during lunch
- Varsity Woodwinds Practice 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- West Briar Football (8th) vs Black - Butler 5:00pm
- West Briar Volleyball (7th/8th) vs Revere - West Briar Middle School 6:00pm/7:00pm

October 3, 2024

- Staff PD (No School for Students)

October 4, 2024

- Fall Holiday (No School)

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT DAY 9/30

I am thrilled to remind everyone that Monday, September 30th, is Teacher Assistant Appreciation Day! On this day, we come together to recognize the hard work and dedication of our incredible teacher assistants who make a lasting impact on the lives of our students every day.

Please take a moment to show your appreciation for their efforts—whether it's a kind word, a thank-you note, or a simple gesture of gratitude. Their contributions truly make a difference!

CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY 10/2

October 2 is National Custodian Appreciation Day! Please join me in recognizing and celebrating the incredible work of our custodial staff. They play a vital role in keeping our school clean, safe, and welcoming for our students, staff, and visitors every day.

Their hard work often goes unnoticed, but their impact is felt throughout our entire campus. Let's take a moment to show our gratitude and thank them for all they do!

NATIONAL PRINCIPAL MONTH OCTOBER

October is National Principals Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the hard work and dedication of school principals across the country. As the principal of West Briar Middle School, I am honored to serve our students, staff, and families. Together, we are building a brighter future for every Grizzly, every day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a positive and successful learning environment.

WHO DO I CONTACT? 🐾

ATTENDANCE: MS. YOUNG - SYOUNG1@HOUSTONISD.ORG

REGISTRATION - MS. COOPER - NAKIYAH.COOPER@HOUSTONISD.ORG

NURSE: NURSE PAPILLION- REBECCA.PAPILLIONS@HOUSTONISD.ORG

SPECIAL EDUCATION: MS. STOKES - KENDRA.STOKES@HOUSTONISD.ORG

6TH GRADE HOUSE SECRETARY: MS. YOUNG - SYOUNG1@HOUSTONISD.ORG

7TH GRADE HOUSE SECRETARY: MS. EDWARDS - LATOSHA.EDWARDS@HOUSTONISD.ORG

8TH GRADE HOUSE SECRETARY: MS. JOHNSON - AJOHNS44@HOUSTONISD.ORG

SCHOOL COUNSELOR: BRIDGETTE RYANS - BRIDGETTE.RYANS@HOUSTONISD.ORG

6TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - MS. WILLIAMS - LERONEATRA.WILLIAMS@HOUSTONISD.ORG

7TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - DR. MCCURDY - DEWAYNE.MCCURDY@HOUSTONISD.ORG

8TH GRADE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - MR. JOHNSON - DJOHNS41@HOUSTONISD.ORG

PRINCIPAL - MS. BLANCHARD - CRYSTAL.BLANCHARD@HOUSTONISD.ORG



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Weekly Instructional Focus Area

T-Tess 2.1: Achieving Expectations

- The teacher sets academic expectations that challenge all students.
- The teacher persists with the lesson until there is evidence that most students master.
- The teacher addresses student mistakes and follows through to ensure student mastery.
- The teacher provides students opportunities to take initiative of their own learning.

T-Tess 2.2: Content Knowledge and Expertise

- The teachers conveys accurate content knowledge in multiple contexts.
- The teacher integrates learning objectives with other disciplines.
- The teacher anticipates possible student misunderstandings.
- The teacher provides opportunities for students to use different types of thinking.
- The teacher accurately reflects how the lesson fits within the structure of the state standards.

T-Tess 2.3: Communication

- Establishes classroom practices that provide opportunities for **most students to communicate effectively with the teacher and their peers**
- Recognizes student misunderstandings and responds with an array of teaching techniques.
- Provides explanations that are clear and uses verbal and written communication that is clear and correct
- Ask remember, understand and apply level questions that focus on the objective of the lesson and **provoke discussion**
- Use probing questions to clarify and elaborate learning

Strategy for the week

QSSSA



QSSSA is an engagement strategy that ensures total participation and the use of academic language in all classrooms. It is a strategy designed to get students to use new academic language during student-student interactions.

Question

An engaging, open-ended question that will spark conversation

Signal

Students are provided with a signal which shows the teacher which students are ready to share (wait for 100%)

Stem

Stems are provided for all learners, teaches students to speak in complete sentences

Share

Students turn and talk with a partner or with their groups their thoughts

Assess

Assess students either by warm or cold call, call for volunteers, or write out their response

When to Use

Use any time during a lesson to encourage accountable talk:

- As a warm-up activity to discuss previous lesson
- After five to seven minutes of oral or written input, to help student process what they have just heard or read
- During class discussions as a way for students to discuss ideas before sharing them with the class
- As a closing activity so that students can review what was learned in the lesson
- As a clarification tool for a complex problem or new guiding question posed by the teacher

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.houstonisd.org/westbriar

TWITTER

@WestBriarMS

INSTAGRAM

@westbriarms

Important Links

- [West Briar Handbook](#)
- [HISD Student Handbook](#)
- [School Supply List](#)
- [Bell Schedule](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Campus Assessment Calendar](#)
- [Health Inventory Form](#)
- [School Pay](#)



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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

“AUGUST”

Lydia Foster, 6th grade



Julia Meiller, 7th grade



Aziza Walizai, 8th grade



Staff Birthday Corner

Dr. Maneen – 10/4/2024



Special Shoutout

Ms. Cooper

**Thanks for handling all
attendance and registrations!**



A festive birthday banner with a blue background, white and blue balloons, and colorful triangular flags. The text "Happy Birthday" is written in a large, white, bubbly font with a black outline. To the right, a smaller "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" is written in colorful, blocky letters. The background is decorated with confetti and stars.

Happy Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Student Name	Birthday	GRADE
De La Torre Prado, Mishel Sofiia	09-29	7
Gonzalez, Natasha Nicole	09-29	8
McCray, Astin Stephon	09-29	8
Smith, Adam Lee	09-29	6
Negrin Mora, Guillermo Enrique	09-30	6
Clement, Oluwatofunmi Goodluck	10-01	8
Francis, Ava Blane	10-01	7
Hunter, Cadyn Demetrius	10-01	7
Oluwo, Folaranmi Ajoke	10-01	8
Sanchez Mendoza, Alison Julieth	10-02	8
Glenn, A'nyiah Bridgette Deann	10-03	6
Yanez, Aaliyah Emma	10-03	8
Anane, Yasmin Meriam	10-04	7
Lorene, Nahla Aidah	10-04	7
Smith- Jones, Rashad Stephan	10-04	7
Buhay, Jakob Raul	10-05	8
Diaz, Landon Mauricio	10-05	8
Taylor-Alsanders, Darian Brice	10-05	8