



# Blevins Middle School

## Blevins Middle School

2101 S. Taft Hill Rd.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

## Principal:

**Melissa Wagner**

## Assistant Principal:

**Rick Overton**

## Dean of Students:

**Amy Currier**

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## Welcome Incoming 6th Grade Families

May 2021

Home  
of the  
**BRUINS**

**Blevins**  
Middle School  
2101 S. Taft Hill Rd  
Fort Collins, CO  
80526

**Phone**  
970-488-4000

**Attendance line**  
970-488-4044

**Fax**  
970-488-4011

**Office Hours**  
7:30AM - 3:30PM

**Principal**  
**Melissa Wagner**  
melissaw@psdschools.org

**Assistant  
Principal**  
**Rick Overton**  
roverton@psdschools.org

**Dean of Students**  
**Amy Currier**  
acurrier@psdschools.org

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the Bruin Family! I am very excited about the 2021-2022 school year at Blevins Middle School and our new class of 6<sup>th</sup> graders! Our job is to serve each student and provide them with an outstanding curricular and extra-curricular middle school experience. Our staff respects all and provides a safe learning environment where we can build positive relationships. In middle school we balance the academic and social/emotional needs of students on a daily basis. My encouragement to all students is to become involved and experience school pride. I so look forward to meeting and working with you!

This communication is to get incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade families as much information as possible at the beginning of summer break in order for you to plan for the upcoming fall semester. This newsletter will help you and your student have a smooth transition to middle school. We have included many dates and times for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that these were planned to the best of our knowledge but may need to be adjusted once the school year begins. There will also be a July newsletter that you will receive by email.

To our new incoming students, we extend a warm welcome and share your excitement as you enter this new stage of development and school. At this time, we are finalizing our master schedule, planning the school calendar of events, selecting new staff members, and preparing for the "kick-off" to a new school year. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team of teachers is absolutely awesome and will help prepare you for the new school year as you become a Bruin.

To our parents/guardians, whether as a first time Blevins parent or returning, Blevins extends our hand as a partner in your child's education. We encourage parents to remain an active partner in their child's education. I hope you will join us in our school community.

Blevins is also actively recruiting parents and community members to fill some vacated positions in the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) and SAC (School Accountability Committee). If you are interested, please contact Blevins' Office Manager Michele Trujillo or myself, Melissa Wagner at 970-488-4000.

Back to School Night is Thursday, August 26th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

I hope you find this initial information helpful. Should you have any questions, please reach out to us. The staff and I look forward to meeting you in August.

Warmly,

Melissa K. Wagner, Principal

### *BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:*

*Our Mission is to Inspire Everyone Every Day.*

### *BLEVINS MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT:*

*Blevins Middle School exists to welcome and inspire everyone in the learning community in a supportive environment that fosters creative opportunities for middle school students to grow and achieve.*

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tuesday, August 10:** Laptop pick-up, School Picture Day (see below)

**Friday, August 13:** First Day of School for 6th Grade: 8:05 AM - 2:55 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and will be free for the school year again.

**Monday, August 16:** School starts for all students: 8:05 - 2:55 PM

**Thursday, August 26:** Back to School Night, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

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### **Tuesday, August 10:**

All students will obtain their laptop and have their school picture taken. Packets for school picture purchase will be available August 10th. Parents are welcome to come with their child at the assigned time.

**6th Grade: 7:30 to 9:00 AM**

**7th Grade: 9:00 to 10:30 AM**

**8th Grade: 10:30 AM to Noon**

Fall athletic fees, class fees and yearbooks may be purchased August 10th in the Blevins Office. SchoolPay can be used starting July 15th for the 2021-2022 school year to pay your athletic fees, purchase a yearbook, and pay class fees. [Schoolpay.com](https://www.schoolpay.com) is your first stop for any payments your child will incur during the school year. If you are interested in having any student fees waived, complete a Free & Reduced application here:

[www.myschoolapps.com/Application](https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application). The Free & Reduced application is completed by parents yearly. If your application has been approved, visit [ParentVue](https://www.parentvue.com) to complete a Permission to Share Form. This form must also be completed yearly. In order to create an account in ParentVue, an activation key code is needed. If you already have a ParentVue account, no need to create another account. Creating an account in School Pay lets you see fees associated with your child. Creating an account in ParentVue lets you see the academic side of your child's profile. Each of your children are associated with the same ParentVue account. If you do not have a ParentVue account, Blevins will give you an activation key code and help with navigation. Please contact Blevins Registrar, Gillian Tremble at [gtremble@psdschools.org](mailto:gtremble@psdschools.org) or 970-488-4008.

***You are Invited!***  
***First PTO Meeting: August 24, 6:30pm***  
***(In-Person and online)***

On behalf of Blevins PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) - welcome to Blevins Middle School! We are a group of parents that meet once a month on Tuesday evenings with Blevins administrators to provide support for Blevins' teachers and staff. As you begin your family's journey with Blevins, please consider becoming involved with PTO and registering as a volunteer. Although middle school is a time when your child is taking steps towards greater independence, the needs of the school are similar to elementary school, if not greater. Often Blevins' volunteers are asked to help with the Blevins STRIDE, contribute to teacher appreciation luncheons, help chaperone a dance, provide input on school decisions being considered by Blevins' leadership, help with 8th grade end-of-the-year events, help with 6th grade bike safety rides in PE, or participate in field trips when possible (as well as a few other things that come up throughout the year!)

Teachers and staff need your support to make these activities possible for Blevins' students. Participation in PTO is also a way of hearing what is happening at Blevins, as well as sharing ideas and providing feedback. Blevins Administration attends each PTO meeting. It is the support and involvement of families that takes a school from a good one to a great one, so please consider becoming involved! Volunteer times can be as little as an hour!

Register to volunteer today using the link below.

If you are a registered volunteer at a different school, you can also log on to the PSD volunteer website to add Blevins under your school preferences.

<https://www.psdschools.org/community/volunteers>

We are planning to have an in-person meeting with a remote option for parents who would rather not come to the school. Please let Michele Trujillo (mtrujill@psdschools.org) know if you would like an invitation link sent to you so you can join the meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the front office. Again, welcome to Blevins Middle School!

**Blevins Middle School  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Supply List  
2021-2022 School Year**

**Please label all supplies with your first and last name in Sharpie marker.**

**Required Supplies**

- 1 – 3 ring binder - 1 1/2inch heavy-duty (D-ring binders are preferred)
- 4 – dry Erase/Expo Markers (multi-colored package)
- 3 – boxes/24 count, #2 pencils
- 1 – pencil pouch with 3-holes (fabric pencil pouches are more durable)
- 1 – handheld pencil sharpener
- 1 – two-pocket folder
- 5 – composition lined paper notebooks
- 1 – package of sturdy plastic dividers (8 tabs)
- 2 – packages of highlighters (4 colors)
- 2 – large boxes of Kleenex
- 2 – Scotch tape refill rolls (we have dispensers)



**Technology Resources**

- 1 – set of earbuds or headphones (for personal use in class with laptops – label with first and last name)

**Optional Supplies**

- 1 – plastic pencil/art supply box (optional)
- 1 – package of colored pencils (optional)
- 1 – Wireless mouse (highly recommended)

**Donations Requested:**

- Kleenex
- Dry erase markers
- Clear plastic page protectors
- Bright color copy paper
- Bright color cardstock
- Dividers
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Sandwich sized Ziploc bags
- Gallon size Ziploc bags
- Colored sticky notes (3 x 3)
- 1 – Ream of white copy paper

Required PE Supplies

- Crew neck T-shirt
- Athletic Shorts or Pants
- Tennis Shoes
- Water bottle

## **Immunization and Student Health Information for 2021-2022:**

### **Immunizations for the 2021-2022 school year**

**Prior to the first day of school you must provide one of the following to your current school in order to comply with the state law.** Please submit proof of these immunizations as soon as possible to your current school. If this is not done, your student will be excluded from school. You may fax immunization records or request your doctor's office to fax this information to Blevins at (970) 488-4011 Attn: Health Tech. We appreciate your prompt attention and help.

1. A Completed **Certificate of Immunization** certifying your student has received the minimum immunizations as indicated below:

- DTaP/DTP/DT/Td - 5 doses
- Tdap booster - 1 dose (6th - 12th grade)
- Polio - 4 doses
- Hepatitis B-3 doses (2 dose series available for children ages 11-15)
- MMRs - 2 doses
- Varicella - 2 dose grades K-12 (or disease history from health care provider, parent/guardian.)

2. **Statement of Exemption** to Immunization Law— Must be submitted on July 1st or later for the 2021/22 school year, and must be renewed each year.

- Must be submitted on or after July 1st and must be renewed each year.
- New for the 2021/22 school year: **Exemptions must be signed by a physician.**
- Exemption forms can be found at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions>

### **A Tdap booster is required for all 6th-12th graders**

This is different than the DTaP vaccinations they received as infants and pre-K. The “p” (pertussis) has been added to the standard Td booster in order to protect teens against whooping cough.

### **Health Care Action Plans**

If your student has any health concerns that you would like the school to be aware of, please provide details to Blevins Health office. Migraines or frequent headaches, Diabetes, Seizures, Asthma (especially Inhaler users), severe allergies (*especially Epi Pen users*) or any other conditions needing special attention and/or care may require a Health Care Action Plan. The school nurse will review any information you provide and a Health Care Plan may be developed. (**Must be renewed yearly**). This form must be signed by a parent/guardian and a physician. Please Return the signed forms to Blevins for the 2021-2022 school year. **Health Care Action Plan forms are available online at [psdschools.org](https://psdschools.org) , or on the Blevins website [ble.pdschools.org](https://ble.pdschools.org).**

### **Medication at School**

**All** medications (doctor prescribed or over-the-counter) given at school or school sponsored activities must be accompanied by a PSD Medication Release Form for the 2021-2022 school year (**Must be renewed yearly**). This form must be signed by a parent/guardian **and** a physician. The medication must be provided to Blevins in the original prescription or manufacturer bottle, accompanied by the completed PSD Medication Release Form on the first day of school. **Medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian.** Students may carry their inhaler or Epi Pen/antihistamine for a severe allergic reaction, but a Medication Self-Carry Form must be completed and kept on file in the health office for the current school year. **Students cannot carry any other medications** besides inhalers and Epi Pens, as per the Code of Conduct, as this can lead to suspension. **Health Care Action Plans and medication forms are available online at [psdschools.org](https://psdschools.org) or the Blevins website, [ble.pdschools.org](https://ble.pdschools.org).**

The School Nurse and Blevins Health Tech want to meet the needs of your child to insure a safe and healthy school year. For any questions please call the Blevins Health Clinic at 970-488-4007.

Thank you for your assistance,  
Allie Sanders, Blevins Health Technician  
Heather Haycraft, RN, BSN, School Nurse

## SCHOOL LUNCH INFORMATION

Meals will be free again during the 2021-2022 school year, thanks to a government grant.

- *Breakfast and lunch will be served at school beginning on Friday, August 13.*

**Even though meals are free, Qualifying for Free and Reduced lunches can help lower or eliminate other school fees for athletics and fees.** Free and Reduced Lunch applications are online. Applications must be completed each year. Follow this link for more information and to fill out your application: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. The application is also found at [Schoolpay.com](http://Schoolpay.com).

*Identity of students participating is kept strictly confidential.*

## Non-Permission Forms Photos, Videos

Classroom activities and events sponsored by the school are occasionally photographed or video taped.

If you **do not** want your child to be photographed, video taped, you must sign and return a Non-Permission Form to Mrs. Duke in the Blevins Library.

*\*Forms may be obtained online at [ble.psdschools.org](http://ble.psdschools.org)*

*under School Information or in the Blevins Student Services Office.*

**\*\*\*A new form must be submitted at the beginning of every school year, before September 1.\*\*\***

## YEARBOOKS

We have an amazing year ahead of us at Blevins Middle School for the 2021-2022 school year, and our yearbook will capture all the big events of the school year. Don't let your student miss out on our yearbook designed by our students, for our students. Watch for ordering information in the Blevins August Newsletter when Jostens opens their ordering site for the new school year. Please email Gabby Wymore-Schauer with any questions at [gwymore@psdschools.org](mailto:gwymore@psdschools.org). She will be looking for photographs of sports, clubs or events your child participates in outside of Blevins for our next yearbook.



### **Meet the 6th Grade Team**

#### **Becky Duran**

I am excited to start my 22nd year teaching at Blevins. I love math, and I hope you will too. My family consists of my husband, a daughter and a son at Rocky, a great dane, and a llama. I've lived in Fort Collins since I was 2 years old. I have a Physical Science degree with minors in Mathematics and Geology, along with a masters degree in Gifted and Talented Education. I enjoy being outdoors, swimming, watching science documentaries, and being with my family.

#### **Kristin Griese**

I am so excited to be entering my 5th year as a Blevins 6th grade teacher. I am heading into my 18<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and still love sharing my joy for learning and especially my enthusiasm for math with all my students. My teaching career began in Virginia before my husband and I moved to Fort Collins six years ago. We absolutely love Colorado and spend most of our time outdoors. My family recently purchased a new home, so we have been spending lots of our free time working outside. I love digging in the dirt, gardening, and landscaping. We also spend our summers and weekends backpacking, camping, canoeing, biking, running, and traveling. In fact, I love traveling so much that I have been to all 50 states at least once, have lived in nine different states, and travel around the world whenever possible. I love exploring different countries and cultures. When I'm not on an adventure, I spend as much time as I can with my family back in my home state of Iowa. I'm looking forward to welcoming all of you to Blevins next year.

#### **Annika Gurley**

I am Annika Gurley and this will be my second year at Blevins. I have taught elementary and middle school here in the United States as well as overseas for many years. I love teaching middle school because of the wonderful energy students bring to the classroom. I am passionate about helping kids find their superpower in learning – how to find their strengths and how to overcome obstacles in learning. I started my teaching career in Sweden, where I was born and raised. My husband and I moved to Fort Collins 19 years ago. We have three kids, Noah, who is a junior at CSU, Natalie, who is exploring fashion design in Sweden, and Liam who is a freshman at FRHS. Me and my family like to be active, so in the summer we hike, bike or paddleboard, and in the winter we love to ski. I also love spending time with family and friends, and we travel a lot around the United States as well as overseas to visit family. I look forward to meeting all our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Meet the 6th Grade Team**

#### **Mary-Pat Hulse**

I like to joke with the kids that I have been teaching since dirt was old. They get a good laugh out of that comment. Even though I have taught for over 30 years, every year is an exciting adventure of learning and growth for me. My growth starts each year anew because of the students who enter my classroom. My official job title is a Math teacher. However, I like to think of myself as a growth mindset coach, encourager, and queen of inspiration or the energetic individual who will make you laugh with silly life stories to help you find humor and happiness in life. My world is filled with the joy of pet ownership, parenting my own children, and pursuing activities that keep my mind and body healthy. Welcome to Blevins Middle School!

#### **Christine Jasmann**

Welcome to 6th grade at Blevins. We are so excited to have you join the family. I teach English, drama, and reading. I am a voracious reader and hope that by the end of 6th grade you will be too. In my spare time, I can be found swimming, biking, snowboarding, running, ballroom dancing, and playing with my three kids. I have two bachelors degrees one in English and one in biology, and I have an MA in English. I can't wait to share my love of reading and writing with you.

#### **Matt Tanner**

I am Matt Tanner and I am thrilled to be starting my 5th year at Blevins. It is amazing to teach in the district where I was educated from Kindergarten through High School. When I am not at work I like to spend much of my time outdoors. My hobbies include golfing, soccer, and trail running in the mountains and I love finding ways to incorporate technology into my teaching. My wife and I have two children, a Daughter and a Son. We also have a 6 year old Borador who is the best running partner!



## Frequently Asked Questions

We know you have many questions about what to expect next year for your 6th grade student. Transitions can be difficult for any child no matter what the grade level change. Please feel free to contact the Blevins 6th grade team with your questions.

**What interaction will 6th grade students have with 7th and 8th graders?** The 6th grade classrooms and lockers are all grouped in the SE corner of the building. Restrooms are located near this area and are communal. During passing periods and lunch, hallways and the cafeteria are heavily supervised. Your student will move throughout the building to travel to their 6th grade electives. Interaction with other grades may occur during these times. 6th grade students will not have classes with the other grades unless they are in an advanced math class.

**Will my child have a homeroom teacher?** Middle school homerooms have a different structure than elementary homerooms. Your student will have a teacher advocate assigned to them at the beginning of the year who will connect with, and advocate for your child.

**What kind of homework should I expect my child to have?** District policy is approximately 10 minutes of homework for each grade level. Your student should expect to have up to an hour of homework per night. The 6th grade team meets regularly to discuss class calendars to avoid overlapping test and project due dates (See policy in Blevins Student/Parent Handbook located in the front of the Blevins Student Planner).

**How will I monitor my student's grades and missing assignments?** Grades are updated at a minimum every two weeks in our electronic grade book. These grades are available for you to view through ParentVue. At the beginning of the school year, your student will receive information regarding how to log in to StudentVue. At the beginning of the year you will also receive information regarding specific teacher policies and procedures as well as a Student Profile Data Sheet that must be reviewed and returned to the office. Once we receive this data sheet with current contact information, you will receive an email with instructions for ParentVUE if you do not already have an account set up.

**How many teachers will my student have?** Your student will have 2-3 teachers who will teach the core subjects of Math, Science, English and Social Studies. The number of elective teachers your child has depends upon the electives your student is taking.

**Lockers?** We will not have lockers assigned for the 1st semester. Students will be carrying their backpacks with all their items with them to each class period. We will re-evaluate this decision as the year progresses.

**What kind of discipline philosophy is used at Blevins Middle School?** Students are directly taught the expectations of the classroom and school environment, allowing more opportunities for success both academically and socially. You will see the Six P's posted throughout the school, and in every classroom, giving students real clarity of what is expected of them. The 6 P's: Prompt, Prepared, Polite, PMA (Positive Mental Attitude), Produce, Participate.

## 6th GRADE SPORTS SCHEDULE 2020-2021

### FALL SPORTS

Cross Country (Grades 6, 7, 8) (No Cut): August – early October. - see separate page for more Cross Country information

### SPRING SPORTS

Golf (Cut) Mid-March – Early May

Track (Grades 6, 7, 8) (No Cut): Late March - Mid May

For all other sports at the 6th grade level, programming is offered through Fort Collins Recreator.

All students who plan to participate in any sport must obtain a Silver Card from Mrs. Koepf in the Blevins Office. The Silver Card lets their Coach know they have completed the required process. In order for students to obtain a Silver Card they will need to have the following on file in the Front Office:

- 2021-2022 Middle School Physician Certification of Student Fitness for Athletic Participation (Valid for 365 days from exam date unless rescinded)
  - > Forms can be found on the Blevins website, PSD website or the Blevins Front Office
- The \$120 athletic fee (per sport) must be paid or waived prior to participation
  - > Athletic fees are waived for individuals who have been approved for Free & Reduced lunch who have completed their Permission to Share Waiver which is accessed through ParentVue
- Register for your sport on SportsEngine by going to <https://www.psdathletics.org> and navigating to Middle School sports tab. Make sure to click on MS Registration then Blevins. (See the next page in this newsletter)

If you have any questions, please contact Blevins Athletic Secretary, Mrs. Koepf beginning August 4, 2021 at [lkoepf@psdschools.org](mailto:lkoepf@psdschools.org) or call 970-488-4003.

**SPORTS PHYSICALS:** Does your student need a sports physical and you don't have a Primary Care Physician or are having trouble getting an appointment?

The Health and Wellness Center at Centennial High School offers sports physicals/well child exams June - August. The Center can bill insurance and no child is ever turned away for inability to pay. *For more information visit [www.hwcenter.org](http://www.hwcenter.org) or call their office at*

*970-488-4950. Se habla español!*

**Blevins Sports****START YOUR ATHLETIC REGISTRATION NOW!**The logo for Sportsengine registration features the word "sportsengine" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "e" is stylized with a blue and orange shield-like shape behind it. To the right of "sportsengine" is the word "registration" in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark grey background.**Blevins Middle School Athletics Registration**

Register your student for a sport online and avoid printing off the forms and waiting in the long lines at the athletic office.

Registration for Fall sports will open on July 1, 2021.

>Please go to: <https://www.psdathletics.org/msreg>. Middle schools are listed alphabetically at the bottom of the page.

You must complete all the information before exiting the registration. You cannot save a partially completed registration. Please have the following information available before you begin the process:

- PSD Student ID#
- Date of last physical exam for student athlete
- Emergency contact information
- Medications, tetanus booster and allergy information

Once the registration process is complete there will be a link to SchoolPay.

>SchoolPay is the PSD online payment system

*\*\*Please understand if a credit card is used for payment, you will be charged a small processing fee for the transaction. There are no refunds under any circumstance for the processing fee. Of course, you may choose to pay with cash or check to avoid the credit card processing/convenience fee. **Cash or check payments can in the Blevins Office.***

*Reminder: Sports Physicals must be turned in to Blevins Office.*

## ***Blevins Cross Country***

)Any Blevins student (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) can join the Blevins Cross Country (XC) team and run all races with the team! No cuts!

### **2021 Season Info:**

>Shoe Night at Runner's Roost, 15% off for whole family on shoes & merch! Mention you're part of Blevins XC. Date TBD. Runner's Roost is located a few doors down from Trader Joe's

>Parent/Runner Info meeting: Wed 8/18/21 – 5pm – 5:45pm, Blevins Auditoria

>Required: 1) Online registration begins July 1, 2021 SportsEngine at <https://www.psdathletics.org/msreg>

2) Must have physical (valid for 1 yr) on file at Blevins

<https://ble.psdschools.org/athletics/athletic-information> -

3) Paid \$120 athletic fee. Fees waived for families approved for Free/Reduced Lunch w/ completed "Permission to Share" form

>Pre-Season Practice: Tues 8/10 thru Fri 8/13 @ Cottonwood Glen, 4 – 5:15pm; bring water, don't bring other stuff

>Regular Season Practice: 3:10 – 4:45 @ Blevins, Mon – Fri, regular season goes Mon 8/16 thru early October.

Please note we have two Saturday races – Rattlesnake Rumble and District Championships! Dates TBD..

>Come prepared for running in any weather and with good running shoes and a water bottle (w/hand strap – great!).

Please leave all electronics inside! We will practice in the heat, rain, and snow, but we'll head inside for lightning and either do circuit work in the gym, running movie time, or cancel practice. No jeans or jean shorts please.

>The date for our annual "A" Run will likely be the week of Districts or the week after. Optional but tons of fun w/ the team!

> We are seeking a bold, brave team parent to host our end-of-season pasta party at their home. If possible, tradition has us running from Blevins to the "A" and back down to the pasta party household. Ever wanted to host 50 energetic yet well-mannered middle schoolers at home? Now is your chance! You will get plenty of help from other team parent volunteers to help cook & serve the food and clean up. This is an amazing way for us to end the season and we hope to be able to continue this long standing team tradition. (All team families will contribute \$\$)

**Thank you so much for coming out for cross country! We look forward to a great season!**

**Coach Mark Lonac ([mlonac@psdschools.org](mailto:mlonac@psdschools.org)) 488-4058**

**Coach Erica Rezendes ([erezende@psdschools.org](mailto:erezende@psdschools.org))**