



A SOLO FIRST DAY FOR SIXTH GRADERS EASES TRANSITION



By Lucy Malphurs, Lydia Camboni, and Abby Watts

August 15, 2024 was the first day for Bexley Middle School sixth graders. Only they went to school on this first day, meaning seventh and eighth graders did not attend.

The idea of the separate start was so that the new students had one thing less for them to worry about, also making the halls less crowded and loud.

Some of the students liked the separate start, others felt it was unfair that the sixth graders had to go to school when the other two grades did not.

What was it like for sixth graders on the first day of school without the seventh and eighth graders? A few were happy with it like Molly Chaput who said, "I felt more at ease because I knew it was just me and the other sixth graders." However, others did not appreciate having the first day without the other middle schoolers. Emerson Brown felt "Disappointed and jealous."

Despite the fact that the first day was exciting, there were very different opinions on how it was set

up. The sixth grade spent the morning in small group activities in random classrooms and in large group activities in the gym. In the afternoon, they ran through a shortened version of their class schedule.

Some kids may have enjoyed the first day of school activities, but they still had advice. Like Beckett Baugh who thought "It would have been better if we just went to class." Sophia Tourkow said "The rush to get from place to place was a little overwhelming." Mallory Maestri wished there was "less time in the gym." There were lots of different opinions on changes BMS could make on the first day, but most kids agreed that they wanted more time in class to meet the teachers.

Many different students had different thoughts on the staggered start, but mostly the students thought that this was a good idea and kept a positive attitude throughout the day. This day allowed the sixth graders a chance to support each other and keep a good attitude towards each other.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF A SOMEWHAT TRUE TALE

By Lydia Camboni and Abby Watts

This past September The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood was chosen to be the middle school play. Many middle schoolers here at BMS were in the play, and if you have been involved with a past play or musical, then you would know that it can get really stressful in the weeks leading up to the show, especially as the shows get closer.

Both cast and crew members reflected on the progress of the play a few weeks before the performance. Lucy Malphurs said "I think the play is going good, but some people aren't off book yet," she thinks that this is normal, but it is a little worrying because the play is soon. Others agreed and said similar things, Haddie Dunstan said "Good-ish? Not really. We are missing all of our cues, and it is just not going wonderful." She thinks this because some people aren't really reviewing their lines.

Even though there are some students concerned, some people think otherwise, like Ellie McNally. She says, "I really enjoy the script, and I think that the

play will turn out to be really funny; however, I am worried about some things like, the set building because the crew only has two weeks." Even though she is concerned, she believes that, "It will be good in the end, because most theater productions turn out great."

We asked how the last few rehearsals of the play were going and Edward Fahey said, "Well..." His lack of response is because he feels it is going well, besides the fact that some people are missing their entrances.

The view of some of the people in the play was that some of the cast members need to remember to rehearse their lines at home. People also thought that the play was going well, but some people needed to remember their entrances while they were rehearsing.

Break a leg to all who are in the cast and crew of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*! Check back in the next issue for our review of the performance!



FIRST DAY IS SECOND DAY FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS



By Maya Hernandez-Romito and Ari Feinberg

On Thursday, August 15, BMS seventh and eighth graders received an extra day of summer. The sixth grade students at Bexley Middle School had to attend school without seventh and eighth grade present in order to get a feel for middle school.

In response to the seventh and eighth grade 'day off' many seventh and eighth grade students shared a feeling of relief and happiness. A collection of eighth grade students shared that they felt "thrilled," "kind of relieved," "excited," and "elated."

Many students used this day for recreational activities. For instance, eighth grader Ace Miller, "went to field hockey practice." Many others simply stayed home and hung out either alone or with friends. "I texted people and enjoyed my time at home," said Sasha Vilensky. At least one student took advantage of siblings having to report to

school when she did not. Eighth grader Violet Eshelbrenner said, "While my brother was in school- he's a fifth grader- I spent the last day with my friends and my mom and went out to lunch."

There was a consensus among seventh and eighth grade students that the staggered start should continue for years to come. One eighth grader named Everest Bricker stated, "it gives sixth graders an opportunity to find their classes and know their way around the school and get to meet their new teachers." Another student also thought this trend should continue. "The sixth graders have more of a chance to get to their classes ... without crowded halls," said eighth grader Alisha Ranjitkar.

The staggered start to the school year has been something new that could help sixth graders find their way around the school, as well as letting the seventh and eighth graders have another day to relax.



MAP TESTING SHOWS GROWTH AND TESTS PATIENCE



By Violet Eshelbrenner and Mia Shankle

On August 27, Bexley Middle School students took their first MAP test of the year. There are three MAP weeks in the year, and each week has two MAP testing days.

Of course, like any other test, some students find MAP testing hard and annoying, but the test is unfortunately necessary. An eighth grader who shall remain nameless, says, "I feel that while it does help teachers know where their students are and how to help them, it is frustrating to have to do these lengthy, annoying tests instead of school." Another student who wished to be anonymous says, "I feel like testing is unnecessary and causes extra stress for students. It is also a waste of time because we spend days testing and we could be learning during that time."

Although MAP testing is disliked by almost all of BMS, it's necessary to do, so parents, students, and teachers can see the growth of that student. One student says that the test gives them anxiety, but they do think testing is important. They say MAP testing "shows your skills at the beginning of the year and how much you have grown by the end of the year" which is a good summary of the importance of MAP testing.

So, many students see the im-

portance of MAP testing over time. Another eighth grader says, "I feel that testing is important because it can show your growth throughout the quarters or a steady decline. It can be used to see what went well in one quarter and what methods you used that could improve your grades further or it could show what didn't go well and not to try for next time."

However, not all students see it this way. Another student said, "I understand that some testing allows the state and our teachers to learn about our growth and knowledge; however, I feel like we have to test too often. We should only have to do two tests per year."

Furthermore, some students find fault with the testing environment. "I was in the gym, and it was not very enjoyable," one student said. "Any noises echoed a lot, and I couldn't even do school work on my Chromebook." He continued saying, "And we have to stay dead silent until the last fifteen minutes of the testing period, regardless of the fact that everyone has finished testing."

MAP testing definitely gives mixed feelings. Overall, though MAP testing is stressful, overwhelming, and just annoying, it is important.

