



JASON REYNOLDS INSPIRES BMS

By Sophie Skoog and Olivia Green

Jason Reynolds is a *New York Times* bestselling author who wrote the book *All American Boys*, and others like *The Boy in the Black Suit*, and the *Track* series.

Jason Reynolds grew up during hard times. He told us during the assembly that he would write poems to get through the tough times that he faced, he believed that these poems would be his way out.

Once Reynolds moved to New York, he would write in his free time because that was his passion. Once Reynolds got his first book deal he was rich! Actually, he spent it all and had to keep on working to pay the bills. That money was gone pretty quickly.

Reynolds kept writing books and soon they got popular. Reynolds told us how in his books he used all the same names as his friends in the books and he recalls his friends calling him asking if one character was them.

In eighth grade English classes, the students read a

book by Jason Reynolds, *All American Boys*. Ms. Riegler, the Middle School librarian, wanted to get Reynolds to come to BMS and speak to the school, and this was going to happen right around the time the eighth grade finished *All American Boys*. The

assembly got postponed, and he was finally able to come on February 23. The assembly was led by former middle school students, and they asked him questions. At

the end, students were able to ask him questions. "It was very inspiring to hear about his background and see where he ended up," says Josie, an eighth grader at BMS.

"It was really good and interesting. It was very engaging as well. It was a very nice discussion overall," says Izzy, an eighth grader at BMS. "I thought it was really good. I think he has a great connection with students.

And while he is soft spoken, he can really connect with people," says Mr. Sidel, an Eighth grade teacher. Reynolds has created tons of books that people love, and now he is the Jason Reynolds we know.



A SMALL GROUP MAKES A BIG CHANGE

By Izzy Skoog

Recently BMS added pads and tampons to the girls and gender neutral restrooms, and many people have already realized the difference. Josie Herrmann, says “I think it’s a good change because if girls don’t already have them it helps to know that you can just go into the bathroom and they will be there.”

This however, was not a quick process for the student council’s Climate and Wellness group. The group who made this happen consists of Chiara Wood, Brianna Dekle, Cierra Miller, Phoebe Reiser, and Izzy Skoog.

They first had to talk about it amongst the group, and then bring the idea to Mrs. Zeman and

Ms. Nakasako, and then make a plan on how to get data about which restrooms had pads and tampons, as well as make sure there was a trashcan in each stall for said sanitary products.

To do this, they had to go during Flex to every single bathroom in the middle school, as well as the music and arts wing. Their findings concluded that

the only bathrooms with pads, tampons, and trash cans. The only bathroom meeting this criteria was the Nurse’s restroom.

The Climate and Wellness group brought these findings to the assistant principal, Ms. Armstrong. And in under two weeks, all bathrooms in the middle school that were assessed for sanitary products had pads and tampons.

However, there have been some issues. A few inci-

idents involving people wasting sanitary products, such as when people put tampons soaked in water on the ceiling. However, overall the effect of the addition of sanitary products to the restrooms has been positive.

Ms. Ball, a health and Physical Education teacher at BMS says: “I think it is a good resource having it accessible as well as

free for females as it would provide a little less worry or stress if they forgot it at home or didn’t have one, or didn’t have access to them before.”

There is still more work to do however, as there is still the issue of not trash cans in every stall has not been addressed, however Bexley Middle School is heading in the right direction.



WHAT DO TEACHERS DO AT LUNCH?

By Payton Theile and Addyson Schehl

What do teachers do at lunch? Of course you see what your classmates do: eat, talk, go on their phones, and occasionally catch up on homework.

Some students even go home! Teachers might do the same, but have you ever wondered what they do at lunch?

We interviewed some teachers to find out what they do at lunch and these were their responses.

A sixth grade English teacher, Mrs. Copp, said that she usually just works during her lunch to limit how much work she has on the weekends.

Mrs. Clemmons, a grade seven and eight math teacher, said she prepares for her afternoon classes and catches up on today's news. She stated that she used to eat with other teachers and socialize during lunch, but, because of COVID she doesn't do that anymore.

Similar to that, Ms. Ranft, a seventh grade English teacher, eats lunch with other teachers to discuss new topics, families, and what they are doing in their classes. She loves interacting with other teachers and looks forward to it every day.



Spanish teacher Mrs. Shankle said her lunch changes everyday. Since she lives in the community, some days she goes home for lunch, other days she eats with her fellow Spanish teacher Mrs. Zeman. Like Mrs.

Shankle, Mrs. Robertson, sixth grade English teacher, goes home for lunch since she lives near the school.

Two other teachers who often eat together include Mrs. Jax and Ms. Bennett. Ms. Bennett says that during lunch they “eat Wario's cold cut sandwiches, plot out our summer excursions, and make macramé wall hangings.”

Another group of teachers that might be sighted together at lunch includes Mr. Frank, Mr. Sidel, and Ms. Carley. They sit on the front lawn of the school building when the weather is nice. “We have to text Ms. Carley about the weather because her room does not have any windows,” said Mr. Sidel.



From these interviews we now know that many teachers work as well as watch or read something during lunch. We found that many teachers liked to socialize in the teachers lounge during lunch, but since COVID they haven't been able to. After COVID, maybe many of your teachers will return to the teachers lounge during their lunch break.

