



# BMS ASSEMBLY HONORS VETERANS

By Payton Theile and Zeke Moses

Every year on November 11, people across the country celebrate Veterans Day. This year, BMS hosted three separate assemblies to honor our veterans. We heard from speakers, the choir, teachers, and veterans themselves. Today you will hear more about the preparation for the assemblies, how COVID changed it, and more.

At two of the assemblies, we had a surprise guest performance by the one and only Mr. Gardner! You might've heard him sing the "Star Spangled Banner" or play "Taps" on the trumpet at one of the assemblies. Although, this wasn't his first time playing the "Taps." He said "...I did get the opportunity to play "Taps" at the Veterans Day Assembly when I was in 8th Grade at BMS..." He says he would love to perform again next year! Mr. Melville, a design teacher, coordinated all three of the assemblies. Mr. Melville lost track of how many years he

planned and put together the assembly, but he hopes to continue his role as the coordinator for Veterans Day. He has some ideas on how to change the ceremony so each student has a unique experience every year!

COVID impacted this year's BMS Veterans Day as-



semblies in many ways. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade all had to be separate from each other, so they each had their own ceremony on a different day. Mr. Melville pointed out that, "This also required 3 different speakers, and different student speakers, as well." Not only that, but everyone who sang during

the assemblies had to wear masks which makes singing more of a challenge. Mr. Gardner said that with the smaller crowds it allowed the audience to be more focused on the presentations, but he hopes everyone will be able to come together next year.

# EDITORIAL: AWARDS RECOGNITION



By Ellie Ramsey and Sophie Skoog

At the end of quarter one, BMS had an awards assembly. This assembly was to recognize students who showed positive characteristics and improvement at school. Mr. Sidel, an 8th grade English teacher says “I like the idea of recognizing students, but I am conflicted about students who are not recognized. I wish there was a way we could recognize even more students for things beyond academics and extracurriculars.” Although participants in fall extracurriculars were recognized as a team, participants were not recognized individually. Mr. Sidel also said “I think recognition is important, but I am not sure if assemblies are the best method of recognizing students... I think it is tough for students, especially those not being recognized, to sit through an hour assembly with little or no interaction.” Congratulations to all the recipients who were recognized.

Although this assembly does have some benefits, it goes against all sorts of newly found social ideas of this generation, could be a better use of time, and it implies the idea that people need to be not only perfect, but extraordinarily perfect to be recognized. You can be doing everything exactly as you need to be doing, straight A’s, perfect attendance, have

amazing work habits and leadership skills and still not make the cut.

School assemblies are not just a chunk of the day, sitting in a room with a group of other people, it can also provide learning opportunities and further explore people's horizons in a plethora of ways. On November 9, a Veterans Day assembly was held for the eighth grade, and the days after carried the remaining of the grades assemblies. One student told us that they will never forget one of the stories that was told in that auditorium. Meanwhile, they stated that they remember the awards assembly but do not think that it is worthwhile to spend time on as people who work very hard may not be recognized, while others who put in the same amount of work or even less do.

These kinds of assemblies in general can hurt people's social and emotional health. Because this gathering supports the idea that no matter how hard one works, it is not good enough, some people may decide that it is not worth trying as hard if they will not be recognized, and therefore try less as a whole. This is not the future of America that we want. We want people who believe in themselves, are confident in themselves, and know that it is not important to be recognized or not, because no matter what, they will be the ones doing the right thing.

# WHAT FLEX REIGNS SUPREME AT BMS?

By Jack Westergaard

Flextime is a very important part of the day, and is often the favorite of some kids. But what is the favorite Flex to go to? A survey was conducted on Flextime, and the results are quite surprising.

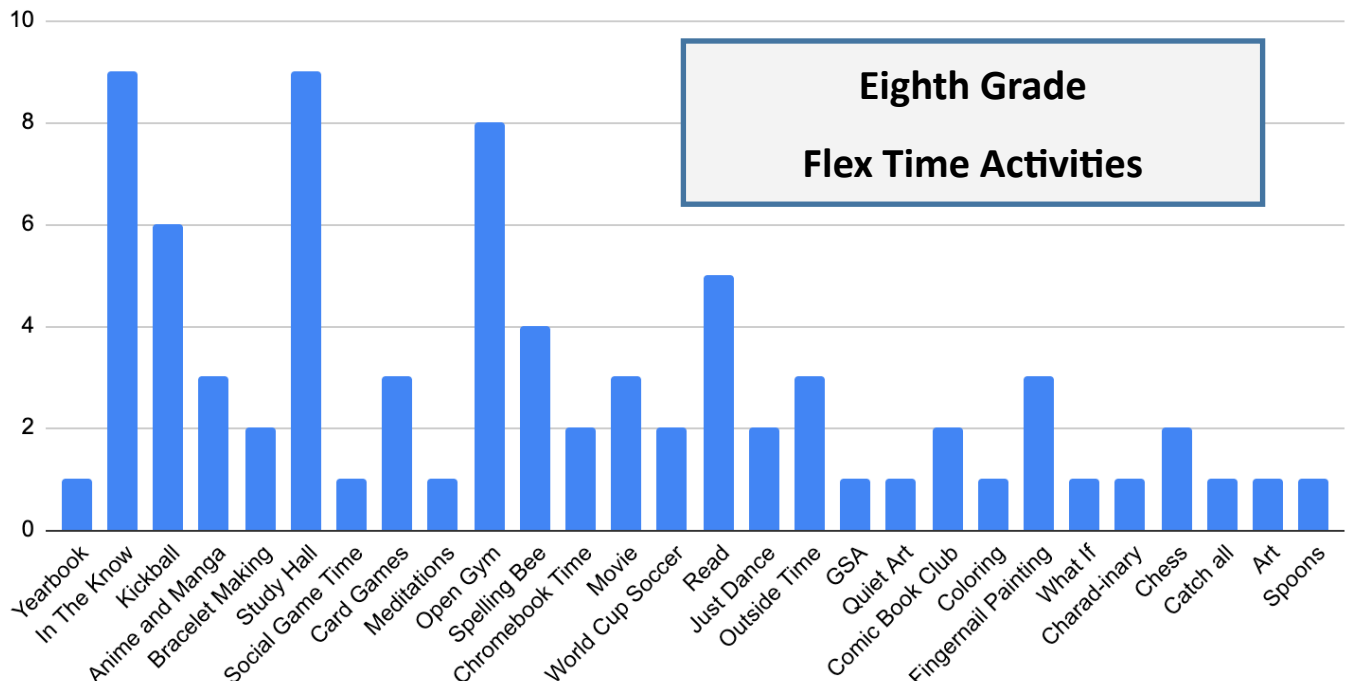
Most 8th graders prefer Flex over Study Hall, and the results of those flexes are varied. The Flex that was the most frequent is kickball. This is most likely because of the high publicity and how new the kickball tournaments are. This might also be because the 7th graders are more involved in the kickball games, and there were more results from the 7th graders. For example, 85 7th graders responded to the survey, while only 49 8th graders graced the google forms' presence.

Brace yourself, because bracelet making is the new 2nd best thing to do! Only according to 7th graders, though. 8th graders were actually evenly split, with open gym and study hall tying. In 3rd place are movies. Yes the results indicate that if there are no

bracelets, kickball or study hall, movies are the way to go! Before we get to the top pick, I would like to give out an honorable mention to the study hall teachers, because a surprising number of kids put down some study hall or another in some of their top picks. It's nice that some kids did the responsible thing and got help for their work from a teacher.

Fortunately, 71.6% and 52.1% of 8th and 7th graders (respectively) enjoy flextime more than study hall. Because of that, the top pick of the 8th graders is In The Know! The fun trivia game in Ms. Resek's room takes the #1 crown for the older kids. Student Oliver Corlew says that he likes it "Because I get to go and play with my friends, and learn stuff." But the 7th graders preferred pick is kickball (no surprise). When asked, Everett Tetzlof says that "I always played soccer, and kickball is like a happy medium for baseball and soccer. And I don't like baseball."

How will cold weather impact Flex? Will these survey results guide future activities? Keep Flexing!





# SAY CHEESE! CRITTER ENCOUNTERS

By Kayla Duffee

Eek! Nothing sends shivers down your spine quite like the thought of a mouse loose in the house. But now, students and staff at BMS are all wondering: "Could there be mice at school, too?" You might be shocked to learn that Mickey Mouse himself has been spotted here at BMS.

"I kept my candy on top of the cabinet and, I came in one day and saw a hole in the ceiling. Some of the candy was eaten, so I talked to Tom the custodian and got a trap. About a week later I caught a mouse." said BMS teacher, Mr. DelRosso.

So, maybe this was just a one time thing. But... not so fast! Another teacher here at BMS reported seeing a mouse at his job interview!

"When I did my interview to get the job at Bexley Middle School, a mouse came out into the principal's office," said BMS teacher, Mr. Sidel.

Apparently mice have been seen in the school for a while now. But what about rats? "To my knowledge, there have been no rats in the building. We have seen a couple outside by the dumpsters, but not for

a long time" says the school custodian, Mark Cooper.

Maybe the teachers need to get their eyes checked, but students have spotted mice recently, too! "During the first quarter I saw a mouse in the locker room," said eighth grade student, Evie Lippman. "It ran away up the stairwell, and it was really fast."

Both teachers and students report sightings of mice at Bexley Middle School. Pest control visits Bexley Middle School every other month, but to avoid these little squeakers in the meantime don't leave open containers of food out, and always make sure that you dispose of trash.



## VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY CONT.

Each grade had different speakers from that grade, and they shared some facts about Veterans Day and more. Elli Murray who spoke at the seventh grade assembly, said that her favorite part of the assembly was the singing. Athena Baith, who sang "There she Stands", and is a part of the sixth grade choir, said that she would love to be a part of the singing aspect and although she was a bit nervous, she had a lot of fun! Erica Golden, who also spoke at the sev-

enth grade assembly said that she learned more about military training. As you can tell from teacher and student responses, Veterans Day means a lot to many people. We are happy we got to help celebrate our brave heroes by singing, speaking, and listening. Although COVID prevented many things from happening, we are all very grateful we could honor our veterans.