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Bangor Public Schools - 801 W. Arlington Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013
"Providing Educational Excellence as a Pathway to Success"

Superintendent's Article

Grit

By Dennis Paquette, Superintendent

In schools, we do a great job of measuring IQ. We test our students constantly. We should be able to look at these test scores, these measures of intelligence and accurately determine which of our students will graduate from college, which students will ultimately succeed in life. However, we cannot look at measures such as test scores or grades and make any form of an accurate prediction about future successes. Why? I'll get to that shortly.



Angela Lee Duckworth is a psychologist. She left a high paying job in the corporate world to teach seventh grade math. After a few years of teaching she went to grad school to study psychology. She is associated with the study of the psychological trait known as grit. Grit in psychology is a positive, non-cognitive trait based on an individual's passion for a particular long-term goal or end state, coupled with a powerful motivation to achieve their respective objective. This perseverance of effort promotes the overcoming of obstacles or challenges that lie within a gritty individual's path to accomplishment, and serves as a driving force in achievement realization.

Duckworth's research suggests that when it comes to high achievement, grit may be as essential as intelligence. That's a significant finding because for a long time, intelligence was considered the key to success. Intelligence "is probably the best-measured trait that there is in all of human psychology," says Duckworth. "We know how to measure intelligence in a matter of minutes." Intelligence is easy to measure...grit is not.

But intelligence leaves a lot unexplained. There are smart people who aren't high achievers, and there are people who achieve a lot without having the highest test scores. In one study, Duckworth found that smarter students actually had less grit than their peers who scored lower on an intelligence test. This finding suggests that, among the study participants -- all students at an Ivy League school -- people who are not as bright as their peers "compensate by working harder and with more determination." And their effort pays off: The grittiest students -- not the smartest ones -- had the highest GPAs. It's not clear what makes some people grittier than others, but Angela Duckworth believes grit is something people can probably learn.

We all know individuals who work harder than others. We know people who refuse to give up until they have succeeded. These people are gritty individuals. I wish for my own sons, is to be gritty. Duckworth and her colleague Chris Peterson developed the Grit Scale. If you wish to take the Grit Test, go to <https://sasupenn.qualtrics.com/> Find out how gritty you are.



The Bangor Apple Tree Preschool has been studying "Community Workers". On Tuesday, November 10th, we had two special guests in the building. The Bangor Chief of Police, Tommy Simpson, and Officer Jason Gardner visited the students and explained to them that the job of a police officer was to protect the people in the community. The students were very engaged and asked several questions. They wanted to know about the equipment belt that Chief Simpson was wearing. He showed and explained to the students the use of handcuffs, cell phone, note pad, and the baton. They also got to sit in the Police car.

South Walnut Elementary

LEGO Night at South Walnut!

By Kim Goodrich, Teacher

On Monday, November 23rd, South Walnut Elementary hosted their very first Lego Night. The elementary students had been working on their Lego creations and were excited to share Lego Land with their family and friends. Legos projects were displayed in one of three categories, free builds, kit builds or challenge builds. Lego tables were also available for building, photo opportunities, and door prizes! The Bangor Area Community Fire Department and Honor Credit Union were very generous in their donations to this event and deserve a big thank you. The participation was large.



Congratulations to South Walnut teacher, Kim Goodrich.

Kim was selected as an Honor Credit Union, Honor Award winner. The Honor Awards give local teachers and school faculty an opportunity to win \$100 to use for their classroom or school. Kim submitted a short description of what they would use the \$100 for, and 30 winners were selected by a panel of Honor Credit Union team members. A total of 382 submissions were received from over 300 schools throughout Honor's branch areas. Great job Kim. We are very lucky to have you here in Bangor.

Bangor Middle School

Socktober

By Cathy Kimbler, Teacher

The middle school participated in a sock drive for Socktober, sponsored by the middle school student council. We received donations of 90 pairs of socks. Our goal was 100 pairs so we were very close! We appreciate the donations that were brought in, and a special thanks to Mr. Paquette who donated 30 pairs of socks. We look forward to a bigger and better sock drive next year.



From Apple Tree Preschool

Miss Shafer and Mrs. Luna brought their Pre-School students to South Walnut for Trick or Treating! What a cute group of goblins and monsters!!

Bangor Middle School

Donors Choose Makes a Difference at the Middle School

by Lucas Smith, Teacher

The way my classroom works today has completely changed from the way it was one year ago today. This is thanks to the generous donations of local parents and people across the country on DonorsChoose.org. Several teachers throughout the district have utilized this wonderful site in order to fund classroom projects of all kinds. In my class, I have added much needed technology that has allowed my class to go paperless through Google Classroom. My goal, over the course of the next year, is to have each student in my class using a Chromebook! If you are interested in helping contribute to a DonorsChoose project, whether it be for my class or any class, and would like more information, please email me! lsmith@bangorvikings.org



Friday Fun Day at BMS

by Roberta Davison, Teacher

Friday Fun Day is back at Bangor Middle School! This is a great opportunity for staff and students to interact outside of the classroom. Last year the staff at Bangor Middle School decided that they wanted to take a different approach to the traditional after-school dances that were held in the past. The middle school staff started putting together activities once a month. They began to offer a variety of activities that students in grades 5-8 could participate in. Students can dance, play video games, buy baked goods, play dodgeball, paint their fingernails, and play board games. Other exciting, new events are going to be added each month. Not only is it a wonderful way to spend time with friends and the staff, but the funds raised provide students with a field trip at the end of the school year. All the proceeds that are collected at Friday Fun Day are divided evenly among each grade level. Each grade level uses the money to put towards their end of the year activities. The staff is very excited that Friday Fun Day is such a great success. They hope to continue the event for years to come! The Bangor Middle School staff would also like to thank all of the students that have participated in and supported Friday Fun Days.



How to Build a Tough Viking

Jason Maynard, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Varsity Football Coach, and Parent

As a parent, I understand the need and urge to give your child all the advantages that you can. On a daily basis parents strive to make their child's life more fun and enjoyable than theirs. Parents buy their children \$150 shoes, \$200 head phones and it seems everyone has a nice phone. We as parents want to mitigate the bad experiences and give them everything they want, however, we need to take a step back and understand our role as the parent. Just like every other parent, I want my two sons to have the benefits my parents were not able to offer me, but I have to remember what skills my parents instilled in me that did not cost them any money.

When people think of toughness they correlate it with physicality, but it is more. Toughness should be thought of as a synonym to perseverance; the ability to continue regardless of the situation. It is a mindset that needs to be cultivated from a young age. It is steeped in discipline, diligence and persistence. Kids need to know that bad things are going to happen and it is how they respond that is going to matter. We as parents need to be disciplined and diligent as well. We need to be examples to our children, and we need to teach our children that no matter the situation if we control our attitude and our effort that we can accomplish goals. Life is tough and in order to be successful you need to be tough and that is one of the greatest skills we can bestow upon our young Vikings.

Bangor Middle School

Dear Families,

The leaves have turned, the chill of winter is in the air, and the school year has hopefully settled into a productive and positive routine for your family. I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children since the beginning of the school year. Recently, we completed our first marking period at BMS. We also completed our student/parent/teacher conferences on Thursday, November 12th. Thank you to all the students and parents who attended. It's important that students see your support and communication regarding their academic progress. It shows them that you understand how important their education is, and helps students view it as a priority as they become increasingly more responsible for their education as they grow older.

The Middle School recently completed a Pennies for Patients drive. Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country. The funds, which were collected during a one week period, benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Everyone who participates is a winner! The Middle School raised approximately \$650.00 during this time. Thank you to all of those students, parents, teachers and staff that contributed to this amazing cause.

The month of November is full of opportunities and important dates for our students. The boys' basketball and wrestling seasons have begun. Our annual Veterans Program was held on Wednesday, November 11. Dan Thorbjornsen, Assistant Principal, did a remarkable job thanking those that have served and continue to serve in the Bangor area. The Middle School will have their next "Fun Friday" on November 20th. Our Student Council will be holding a non-perishable food drive from November 16th until November 30th. All canned vegetables and fruits are welcomed. This is a great way for us to support the community of Bangor. We will not have school on November 25 - 27 for Thanksgiving break.

We look forward to continuing to work together to provide your child with the best educational experience here at Bangor Middle School. On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. This year, I am very thankful for the opportunity to lead a student-centered staff, work with supportive parents, and with your incredibly talented children within a great school district.

Thankful to be a Viking,
Michael Dandron, Principal
Bangor Middle School

Bangor High School

Welcome New Intern Counselors

by Wendy Tremblay, High School Principal

The High School Counseling Department is happy to introduce two interns from Western Michigan University's Master's of Social Work Program. Mariah Boss and Ebony Shorts are both in their first year of the MSW program and are completing their first of two internships with Bangor High School. Both Ms. Mariah and Ms. Ebony come to us with outstanding previous experience from their undergrad programs. If your son or daughter at the high school level could benefit from more intensive support academically or emotionally, please don't hesitate to contact the High School and request their services.



Ebony Shorts



Mariah Boss

The Scores are in!

Practice PSAT and SAT scores are in!!! We have received the results from your child's Practice PSAT and SAT. We have provided your child with a copy of the scores and attached a copy to your child's report card at conferences on November 12th. A score that is considered college ready is 900 or above. If you have concerns about your child's score, please take advantage of the built in opportunities that collegeboard.org has for your student or visit khanacademy.org for additional practice in preparation for Spring testing. Please remember that grades 9, 10 and 11 will all test this spring. Our teachers are working diligently to incorporate review for your child as part of our regular curriculum in preparation for the state assessment as well.



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Bangor Public Schools