



DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mon., May 30	Memorial Day-No School
Thurs., June 2	C.E.C. Graduation 7:00
Fri., June 3	High School Graduation 7:00
Fri., June 10	Half Day
Mon., June 13	Last Day of School, Half Day

## Superintendent's Article

### The Adult Realities for Every Graduate

By Dennis Paquette, Superintendent



With every graduation season, we send a new batch of young people out into the world ready to make their mark. The state department of education dictates much of our curriculum in high school. They tell us what to teach, what to test and often how to evaluate a student's educational needs. But what do our graduates really need? What do they need to know in order to succeed in the real world? I ask myself this question often. In an ever changing world some of the graduate's needed skills are evolving and transforming every few years. However, some skills and realities stand the test of time.

1. A graduate should be able to talk to strangers... Faculty, deans, advisers, bosses, landlords, store clerks, human resource managers, coworkers, bank tellers, health care providers, bus drivers, mechanics—in the real world. You can't text everybody. We teach kids not to talk to strangers instead of teaching the more nuanced skill of how to discern the few bad strangers from the mostly good ones. Therefore, kids end up not knowing how to approach strangers—respectfully and with eye contact—for the help, guidance, and direction they will need out in the world.

2. A graduate should be able to find his or her way around...A campus, the town in which her summer internship is located, or the city where he is working or studying abroad. We drive or accompany our children everywhere, even when a bus, their bicycle, or their own feet could get them there; thus, kids don't know the route for getting from here to there, how to cope with transportation options and snafus, when and how to fill the car with gas, or how to make and execute transportation plans.

3. A graduate should be able to manage his assignments, workload, and deadlines. We remind kids when their homework is due and when to do it—sometimes helping them do it, sometimes doing it for them; thus, kids don't know how to prioritize tasks, manage workload, or meet deadlines, without regular reminders.

4. A graduate should be able to contribute to the running of a house hold. We don't ask them to help much around the house because the check listed childhood leaves little time in the day for anything aside from academic and extracurricular work; thus, kids don't know how to look after their own needs, respect the needs of others, or do their fair share for the good of the whole.

5. A graduate should be able to handle interpersonal problems. We step in to solve misunderstandings and soothe hurt feelings for them; thus, kids don't know how to cope with and resolve conflicts without our intervention.

6. A graduate should be able to cope with ups and downs. Courses and workloads, college-level work, competition, tough teachers, bosses, and others. We step in when things get hard, finish the task, extend the deadline, and talk to the adults; thus, kids don't know that in the normal course of life things won't always go their way, and that they'll be okay regardless.

7. A graduate should be able to earn and manage money. They don't hold part-time jobs; they receive money from us for whatever they want or need; thus, kids don't develop a sense of responsibility for completing job tasks, accountability to a boss who doesn't inherently love them, or an appreciation for the cost of things and how to manage money.

8. A graduate should be able to take risks. We've laid out their entire path for them and have avoided all pitfalls or prevented all stumbles for them; thus, kids don't develop the wise understanding that success comes only after trying and failing and trying again (a.k.a. “grit”) or the thick skin (a.k.a. “resilience”) that comes from coping when things have gone wrong.

9. A graduate should be able to write a proper Thank You note. Our kids have grown up thinking that saying thank you is not necessary. When someone does something for us we should acknowledge that act or gift. A short note of thanks is a really nice way to show appreciation.

10. A graduate should know that life is not always fair. From an early age we as parents are trying to make sure our kids are treated fairly. This is done with love in our hearts. However, as adults we know that life is not always fair. Sometimes we just have to live with it.

11. The graduate should know that the world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself. Period!

12. The graduate should know that flipping burgers or hauling a wheel barrow is not beneath your dignity. It is called an opportunity. Good things will happen if you make the most of these opportunities.

13. If you make a mistake, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, own them and learn from them. People will respect you for this trait and you will grow from the knowledge gained from these mistakes.

14. The graduate should realize that it's a big world out there, with an abundance of challenges and prospects for growth. Sometimes the world will seem like a lonely place. Our kids need to keep pushing forward... the person who refuses to quit is the one who experiences continued success.

Life is going to present our graduates with trial and tribulations, it is my hope that they have learned that within them is the ability to learn and grow... to overcome. Our kids are not born with a fixed amount of resilience. Like a muscle they can build it up and draw on it when needed. In this process they can figure out who they want to be- and may just become the best version they can be.

## What Teachers Really Do in the Summer?

By Dennis Paquette, Superintendent

It is often said that teachers get the “summer off.” While it is true that teachers may not have students in the summer (unless they teach summer school or tutor!) it is a bit of a stretch to say that from the last day of school to the first day of school teachers are “off.” So, what then, are teachers really doing in the summer?

Well... people may imagine them laying on a blanket, tanning at the beach after the last bell rings..... (Wouldn't we like to!!) They do get to experience a few perks that non-teaching friends take for granted... They get to use the bathroom without waiting for the bell to ring. They have the opportunity to take more than twenty-five minutes to eat their lunch. They can exercise in the middle of the day. While they do perhaps go on a vacation or spend time outside, this isn't exactly what teachers spend the majority of our time doing! (Although it would be really nice)

Here are some things you may find teachers engaged in over the summer:

**Classes and Trainings**  
 Teachers often attend workshops and conferences over the summer to gather new ideas, learn new research, or practice new strategies to take back to the classroom with them in the fall.

**Out-of-Season Workouts for Athletes**  
 Teachers and coaches are in the schools all summer long providing opportunities for our student-athletes to improve their skills and get physically stronger by using the weight room.

**Curriculum Work and Lesson Plans**  
 Teachers really never stop planning. They are always thinking of new ideas and how to implement them, and that doesn't stop in the summer! Often, teachers work solo or get together in small groups over summer to work on lesson plans or curriculum ideas.

**Professional Reading**  
 There are some amazing books out there to help us grow and learn as teachers. Summer is a great time for us to catch up on that learning and get new ideas for the following school year.

This summer I am rereading the book Hacking Education. This is a powerful book for teachers and administrators. – It's amazing! I am also rereading the book Schools Cannot Do It Alone.

**Classroom Cleaning and Design**  
 Well, to put it bluntly – the classroom doesn't pack itself! Many teachers are required to pack up a ton of their classroom after each school year so that summer cleaning can be done. This is often a good time to do some summer cleaning of our own and (ahem) throw things away that we swore we needed but haven't used (guilty!)

Teachers also go back weeks before students-some of us even sooner than that – to set the room up again and prepare for our next year in the classroom.

So, the truth is, teachers don't get three months off like is often assumed. Even if they ran out the door screaming on the last day, abandoned any responsibilities, and strolled in the first day of school (I really don't recommend this approach) it would still not be as long as is often perceived.

Even though teachers often do school related things in the summer – that doesn't mean they don't enjoy some well-deserved time off! Teachers spend time with friends and family, take some time themselves, and perhaps get some things done around the house or explore hobbies and maybe even travel a bit!

So the next time someone may be wondering what a teacher really does this summer, you can tell them you DO have some fun, but that a teacher's job really never ends! It's a good thing they love what they do.

## South Walnut Elementary



### Students of the Month

**Kindergarten:** Jonas Slazek, Roman Booth, Vianet Hernandez, Bryatt Johnson.  
**First Grade:** Ismael Gutierrez- Rodriquez, Marlen Popoca, Quinn Dykstra, Grace Armendariz. **Second Grade:** Mallory Saffel-Haberland, Ashley Schneider, Trap Abbott. **Third Grade:** Carley McCoy, Kyra Pirch, Cesar Palacios. **Fourth Grade:** Abygail Bulley, Drea Shaw, Eliana Vargas Corona.

## Bangor Middle School

Dear Viking Families,

The end of the school year is fast approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to genuinely thank the parents, staff, students, and community members who helped welcome me and my family to BMS this school year. We're extremely proud to be Vikings.

But the school year isn't over yet! In addition to the academic work and learning we have left to accomplish, the next few weeks are filled with many opportunities and experiences for our students. Over the next three to four weeks BMS will be concluding with field trips, M-Step celebration party, awards and honors, and final exams. I would like to take this opportunity to notify parents the last day of school will be Monday, June 13th. BMS will have final exams on Thursday, June 9th, 10th, and 13th. June 10th and 13th will be ½ days of school with dismissal at 11:40 am. If your child should miss a final exam for any reason, it will be their responsibility to make up that exam. If you know that your child will miss one of these dates, please set up a date in advance with their teachers to have them complete their exams. All incomplete exams will turn into zero on Friday, June 17th.

As always, we encourage you to take an active role in building relationships with your child, our staff, and community. We thank you for your continued support of our efforts as we work together to provide the best middle school experience for your child. As we move towards the end of the school year it's important we stress to our students the importance of a strong finish. In addition, please feel free to discuss your student's goals for next school year and connect how the finish to this year can lead to a great start for next fall. The choices we make today have a large impact on the options that we have available to us tomorrow.

Have a great summer with family and friends.

Michael Dandron,  
Principal.



### Upcoming Events:

May 24	Band Concert	7:00 PM
May 27	M-Step Celebration Party	
May 30	No School - Memorial Day	
June 1	7th Grade Field Trip to Kalamazoo Growlers	
June 1	6th Grade Awards	9:00 AM
June 2	6th Grade Field Trip to Full Blast Water Park	
June 2	7th Grade Awards	9:00 AM
June 3	Student of the Week Breakfast	8:30 AM
June 6	8th Grade Field Trip to Van Buren State Park	
June 6	5th Grade Awards	9:00 AM
June 7	5th Grade Field Trip to Warner Camp Ground	
June 7	8th Grade Awards	9:00 AM
June 9	Exams	
June 10	Exams, ½ Day of School	11:40 AM Release.
June 13	Exams, LAST Day of School	11:40 AM Release.

### Bangor Public Schools

**2016 Summer School Program**  
 GRADES K-8 July 5th – 29th 7:30 – 12:00

Schedule:	
7:30	Student Drop OFF/Breakfast
8:15	Session 1
9:50	Session 2
10:35	Break (Grades K-4)
11:00	Lunch
11:25	Break (Grades 5-8)
11:45	Session 2 (Continued)
12:00	Dismissal to Buses

During this session, we will focus on students with academic needs in Math and English. This is a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in finding out more information please inquire within your child's building.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**K-4 Students:**  
 Alisa Clark  
 Summer School Secretary  
 427-6839 • Aclark@bangorvikings.org

**5-8 Students:**  
 Mike Dandron  
 Summer School Administrator  
 427-6824 • mdandron@bangorvikings.org

## Bangor Middle School

### BMS Volunteers at the Al-Van Humane Society

The Bangor Middle School Student Council traveled to the Al-Van Humane Society on Tuesday, April 26, to participate in community service. Students at the middle school brought in donations of cat and dog food, cat treats, toys, leashes, cat litter, and other items needed by the humane society. Shown in the picture are some of the donated items.

At the humane society some students got to work with the dogs while others cared for the cats. Those caring for the dogs helped bathe and feed them, and took some for walks. Others helped make sure the cats had enough water, brushed them, and gave them attention by playing with them. The cats proved to be very active and playful. The student council enjoyed this experience and the humane society thanks Bangor Middle School students and staff for their donations.



## Bangor High School

### Class of 2016's Top Seniors Honored

The high school celebrated our senior student's accomplishments at the 2016 Academic and Athletic Award Ceremony on May 10th. The award ceremony recognized numerous scholarships and achievements. Most notable for the night were:



**Valedictorian:**  
Emily Ford



**Salutatorian:**  
Mikayla Lake

**Rounding out Top Ten:** Edwin Hernandez-Alvarado, Allison Weber, Kyrstie Burrows, Madissen Kozel, Michael Harrell, Israel Llerena, William Bray, Jr., Adan Hernandez

**Male Athlete of the Year:** Juan Rodriguez Amaya

**Female Athlete of the Year:** Maggie Ring

We also awarded over \$42,000 in scholarships.

This night was possible from numerous donors and foundations including: WalMart, Bangor Community Foundation, Bangor Alumni Foundation, The National Blueberry Festival, Bangor Lions Club, Bangor Arts Council, and the American Red Cross.

## Still Fighting to be Positive

By Stephen Smith

For those who may not know me, I'm the new guy at Bangor High School. I started back in November. So, I don't feel so new at the moment as I struggle to see the light at the end of the tunnel of my first year of teaching. With that said, I think it's important to find that “second wind” or renewed dedication to teaching. But, how is that even possible when the struggle is real? It's so easy to go down the path to negative town. Sadly, I often fall full speed down this road. Is it avoidable? Yes. There is an answer! It's certainly not perfect, but I think it helps a bit to reflect on the positive things that have made my time here at Bangor special. So, let's get on to that already...

I'll always remember two shy, nervous students approaching me about being the Quiz Bowl coach. I honestly didn't know what to say at first. I was probably just as scared as they were at the time. I think I had only been around a couple of weeks, and barely knew my students. But, I said, why not? Dive in, get involved. And, it all turned out to be awesome. Everyone on the Quiz Bowl Team is beyond amazing. Practices were great, and everything always seemed to work out. It was extra, super fun simply seeing them get excited every week for the meets and tournaments. But most of all, I enjoyed the van rides, and we still need to get that pizza party in somehow.

Things like Quiz Bowl don't go well without assistance. In addition to the students being incredibly helpful, I'm eternally thankful for Mr. Phil Devers' expertise and showing me

the ropes about Quiz Bowl along with countless other things. I would be lost without him. Ms. Wendy Tremblay helped out with funding, and Ms. Mary Spade put together the best food spread in the whole wide world for our meet. It honestly was fantastic and other coaches complimented the assortment of tasty treats. Mr. Devers, Ms. Spade, and Ms. Simpson also participated as readers for the meet. And with the help of student volunteers, it all went really well. I am so thankful for everyone's help. I was a tad stressed about the meet, but everyone came through!

With that mentioned, there is something that truly makes Bangor unique: everyone, and I mean everyone, helps each other out here. This sense of communal obligation is Bangor's greatest strength. Administrators, teachers, staff, and most importantly students are highly involved in so many activities. I am amazed at how many people and how often everyone freely volunteers their time to help out and support athletics, band, dances, and other extracurricular activities. This willingness to participate and be engaged is just outstanding. There is an obvious sense of pride here at Bangor, and I am truly glad to be a part of it.

So, if you're feeling down toward the end of this school year. Find a way to focus on something positive. Writing this certainly has provided me with perspective. So here's my un-solicited advice: hang in there, reflect on your positive experiences. Dwelling on the negative never really helps you. The power of positivity is pervasive, and I hope you make time for some necessary reflection. It might just work.

## 59+ Reasons to Celebrate South Walnut!!

It has certainly been a busy year at South Walnut! As the school year winds down, it's a good time to help your child look back, look forward, give thanks and celebrate!! Here is a snap –shot of our 2015-2016 school year!

Open House	Pre-School Halloween Parade	Lego Night	Puppet Assembly	Olympics	Pennies for Patients	Magician
YDC Program	Count Day-Fun Day	Little Viking Christmas Shop	Kindness Week	NED Assembly	Mileage Walking Club	Field Trips
Credit Union	Ronald McDonald	Christmas Concert	Father-Daughter Dance	Mix-it up @ Lunch Day	Girls Running Club	
After School Movie Nights	Art Show	Shop with a Cop	Math Game Night	Friendship Activities	Jump Rope for Heart	
Safety Patrol	Student of the Month	Christmas Parties	Valentine Parties	Bangor Creates	Kindergarten Round- Up	
Fun Fridays	Title I Parent Night	Christmas Parade	March Reading Month	Technology Night	School Picnic	
Homecoming Parade	Grandparents Day	Craft Night	Authors, Guest Readers,	Mother-Son Bowling	Walk-A-thon	

## South Walnut Elementary

### Little Viking Credit Union



Congratulations to all of our students that opened and maintained a savings account this year in our school bank, The Little Viking Credit Union. Each Wednesday a member from Honor Credit Union is here to work with our Credit Union. We are open from 7:30-8:00 a.m. During this time students are able to deposit money into their account. Each time a student deposits money they have a chance to win a monthly gift bag. Each deposit made also gives the students the opportunity to win an iPad-mini that will be given away at the end of the month. We have been so excited about having the bank in our school and love the real world experience our students are getting.



Our last three lucky winners are; Maxwell Cowles, Eddie Rico and Keily Soriano. Congratulations!!

