



Gunning Bedford
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome to Middle School!
GBMS 6th Grade Orientation
2025-2026



Dr. Thomas-Brown - Assistant Principal (6th)





Meet the Building Administrators



Admin Team



Principal:
Mr. Johnston



**6th Grade
Administrator:**
Dr. Thomas-Brown



**7th Grade
Administrator:**
Ms. Parker-Ward



**8th Grade
Administrator:**
Mrs. Nowell



**ILC
Administrator:**
Mrs. Eger



All About GBMS

Panther PRIDE

***P**erseverance

***R**espect

***I**ntegrity

***D**iscipline

***E**xcellence



“You can’t hide that Panther pride!”



Demographics

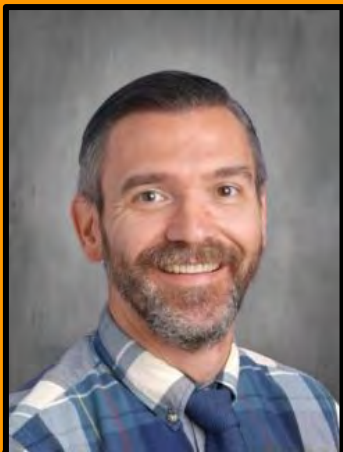
- Serving 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students
- About 900 students
- Students are from Bear, Delaware City, Middletown, & New Castle
- Students also choice in from other parts of DE
- Special Programs
 - **Communication and Social Learning (CASL)** - Special program serving students with communication & social learning needs.
 - **Intensive Learning Center (ILC)** - Special program serving students with behavioral support needs.
 - **Chinese & Spanish Immersion** - An educational approach in which students are taught the Social Studies curriculum in Chinese or Spanish.



Meet the Support Staff



Main Office Staff

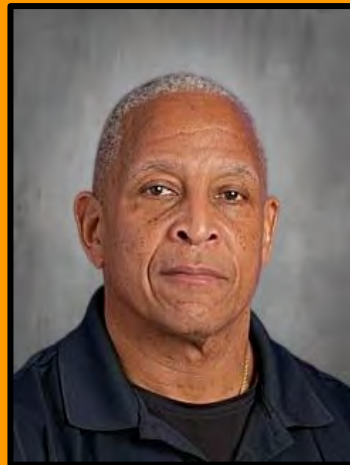


Mr. Johnston:
Principal



Ms. Gilbert:
Secretary

- Attendance,
- Passes: late & early dismissal
- Registration
- Change of information



Mr. Bond:
Constable



South Staff Center



Dr. Thomas-Brown
Assistant Principal: 6th



Ms. Sheppard, Counselor: 6th

- Counseling, mediations, scheduling



Ms. White, Secretary

- Attendance, bus passes, registration, change of information



Meet the 6th Grade Teachers



ELA Teachers - 6th



Ms. Miller



Ms. Senessie



Ms. Crilley



Ms. Fleck (CASL)



Ms. Zuniga (MLL)



Math Teachers - 6th



Mr. Wesley



Dr. Sharp



Ms. Reamer (CASL)



Ms. Sturkey



Science Teachers - 6th



Ms. Bilinsky



Mr. Liapis



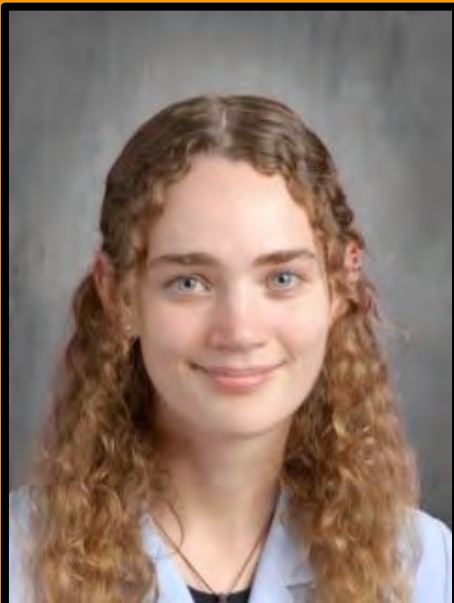
Ms. O'Connor



Social Studies Teachers - 6th



Mr. Davis



Ms. Baer



Mr. Keegan

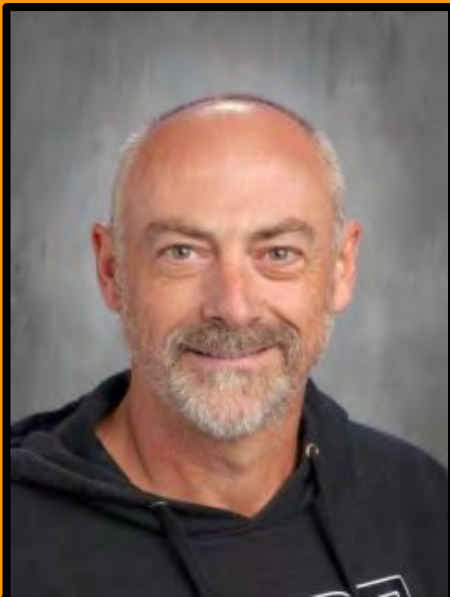


Immersion Teachers - 6th

ILC Teacher - 6th



Ms. Huang
Chinese



Mr. Tortosa
Spanish



Ms. Hayden
ELA, Math,
Science, Soc. St.



Exploratory Teachers

Mr. Brelick	Band/ Piano/ Athletic Director
Ms. Lierenz	Chorus
Mr. Easterday	Exploring Business (Intro, I, & II)
Ms. Clark	Digital Media/Intro to Technology
Ms. Diarra	Agriscience
Ms. Audet	Visual Arts & Ceramics
Ms. Martin	Physical Education
Mr. McDermott	Physical Education
Mr. Bey	Health
Ms. Tippens	Health
Ms. Waters	Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG)





Middle School Tips!



Parents, What's New in Middle School?

- Increased **communication** with 5 teachers instead of 1 regarding progress and behavior.
- Increased **independence** on the part of students (traveling between 5 classrooms instead of 1).
- Increased desire to portray new personality traits, attitudes, friend groups.
- Increased potential for peer conflict.
- Increased difficulty in navigating conflict (peer and adult).
- Regular communication on the part of administration.
- Hierarchy of consequences.



Middle School Parents...

- Use Schoology to monitor academic progress.
- Take the initiative to express any concerns to teachers/administrators (schedule meetings/conferences).
- Monitor social media use.
- Partner with teachers and administrators to create conditions for success.
- Assume best intentions on all sides.
- Volunteer if schedule permits.



Students, What's New in Middle School?

- New expectations (from teachers, friends, and parents)
- New responsibilities
- New pressures
- New opportunities
- New friendships
- New conflicts
- Lockers - Practice how to use your lock!
- NO Recess





Schedule, Arrival, Dismissal



6th Grade Schedule

School Day

7:55-2:40

Late Bell - 8:15

Period	6th	
HRM	8:00-8:30	HR & ADV
1	8:33-9:28	CORE 1
2	9:31-10:26	CORE 2
3	10:29-11:24	6 EXP
4	11:27-11:42	CORE 3
	11:42-11:47	walk to lunch
LNCH	11:47-12:17	6 lunch
	12:17-12:22	walk to class
4	12:22-1:02	CORE 3
5	1:05-1:35	ENRICHMENT
6	1:38-2:33	CORE 4
HRM	2:33-2:40	PACK UP



Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival

Bus Riders & Car Riders

- 6th graders will enter through the South Staff Center doors.

Late Students

- Students will enter through the main entrance and will be documented as late after 8:15am.

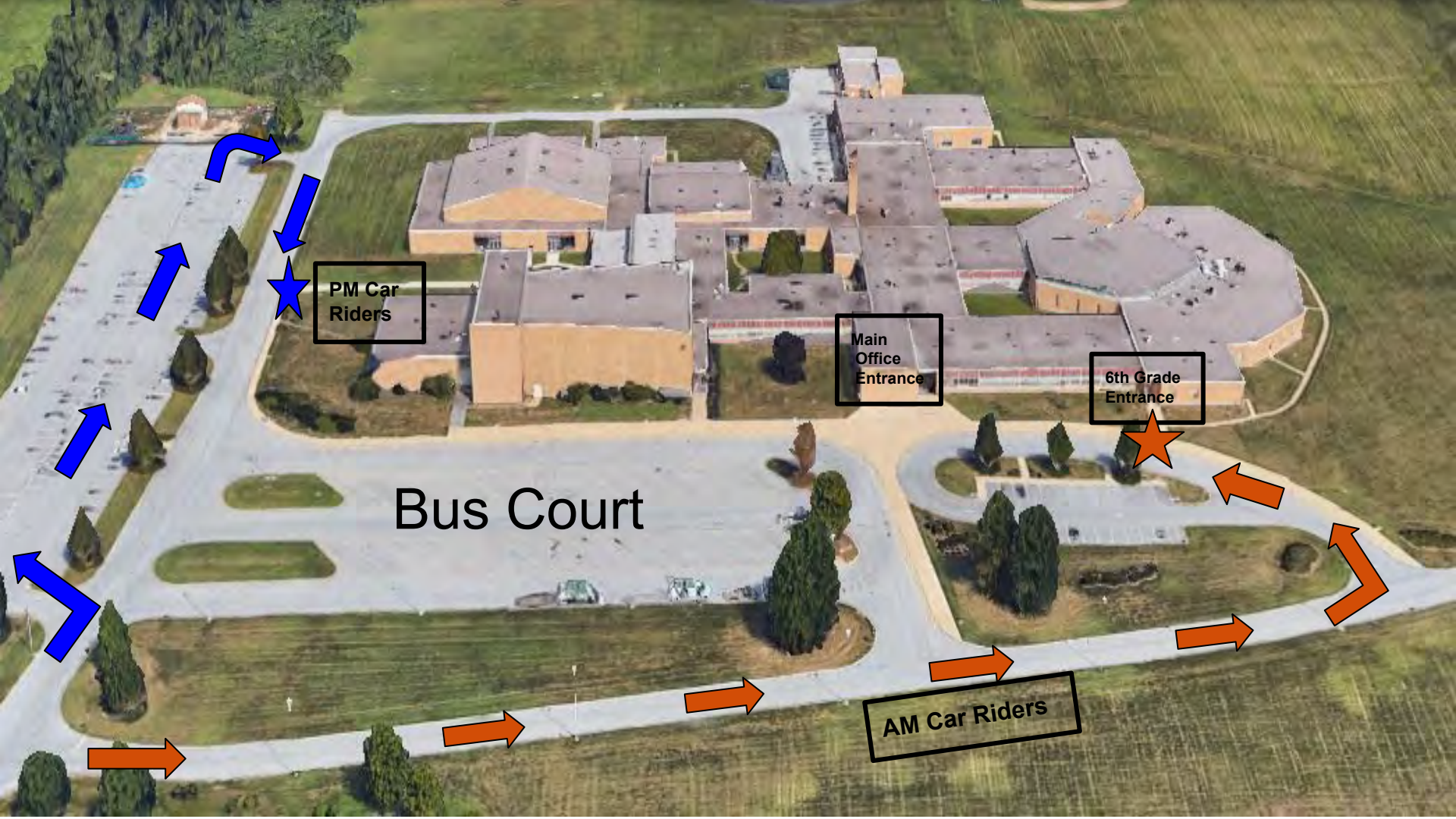
Dismissal

Car Riders

- Will be dismissed FIRST and will exit through the gymnasium doors.

Bus Riders

- 6th graders will exit through the South Staff Center doors.



PM Car
Riders

Main
Office
Entrance

6th Grade
Entrance

Bus Court

AM Car Riders



**Students, Get
Involved!**



Panther Athletes

Fall

Soccer &
Field
Hockey



Winter

Cheerleading,
Wrestling &
Boys & Girls
Basketball



Spring

Baseball,
Softball, &
Track





Extracurricular Activities

Jazz Band
Choir
Yearbook
Student Council
Chess Club
Spelling Bee

Creativity Lab
Adventure Club
Math Club
Math 24
GB Theater Company
Black Student Union



Grading Communication



Grading in Middle School

ELA
Science
Social Studies
Exploratories

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	50 - 59
I	Incomplete
Failure- Automatically calculates grade to a 50%	



Grading in Middle School

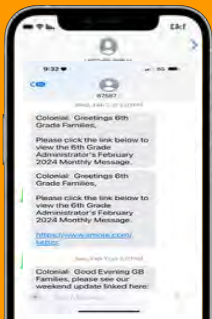
Math

Standards Based Grading

- Math is taught with mastery based learning and is scored by standards based grading. The purpose of mastery based learning is to inform stakeholders about a student's progress towards proficiency in the standards and to drive instruction to ensure student learning.
- The math grading scale will be shared with families at the beginning of the school year.



Staying Informed



smore

Newsletters



SCHOOLMESSENGER®



- **Principal Johnston:**
 - Weekend Update, every Sunday @ 5PM
- **6th Grade Teachers:**
 - Weekly Grade Level Update
- **AP Thomas-Brown:**
 - 6th Grade Administrator Monthly Newsletter



School Rules!



Hallway Travel & Passes

SmartPass>>

Digital Hall Pass Solution



- digital hall pass system
- manage student movement
- replaces traditional paper hall passes
- students request and receive digital passes for various locations like the restroom, nurse, or counselor
- provides real-time data on student locations.
- improves safety, reduce disruptions, and enhances accountability for students.



Dress Code Policy

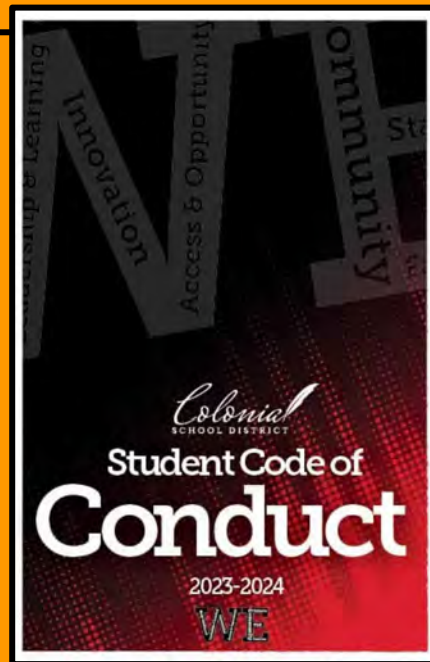
Colonial Expectations for Student Dress

- **NO** see through/sheer shirts, tank top shirts, tube tops, crop tops, bare backs, or short shorts.
- **NO** “spaghetti strap” shirts. Cleavage should be covered.
- **NO** hats, hoods, bonnets, do-rags.
- **NO** sunglasses.
- **NO** decals, slogans or sayings on clothing that contain reference to illegal or immoral behaviors or any type of profanity and/or racial slurs.
- Appropriate safe shoes are to be worn at all times for appropriate school activities. **NO** slippers.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses are to be of fingertip length.
- Pants are to be worn around the waist.



Code of Conduct Violations

- Parent Contact
- Reprimand/Warning
- Restorative Conversations
- Lunch Detention at Time Out table or in ISS
- Removal From Class (Buddy Teacher/Time-Out)
- After School Detention
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Violations of the code of conduct may result in student being denied access to school activities.





Chromebooks
Social Media
Cell Phones



Chromebooks




6th Graders 1:1 Chromebooks

Home: 302-523-2700 • Transportation: 302-689-3864 [f](#) [x](#) [@](#) [Employees](#) [Calendar](#) [Newsroom](#) [Wellness](#) [ClassLink](#)


[About Us](#) [Curriculum and Instruction](#) [Schools](#) [Contact Us](#) [Columbus Public Schools](#) [Registration](#) [Parents & Students](#) [Community](#) [Careers](#) [?](#)

Technology Help


I need to




Pickup a device for my student.
If your CSD student doesn't have a district issued device, click here to request one.



Replace a non working device for my student.
Click here to submit a request to replace a non working device for your CSD student.



Ask another tech related question?
Don't see the answer to your question? Click here to ask a question.



Get help with Schoology or other remote learning technology. Need help with Schoology or another remote learning technology? Click here.





Social Media & Mental Health

- 11-15 year olds in the United States that spent more than 3 hours a day on social media might be at an increased risk for mental health problems like anxiety and depression.
- Time spent with peers has been on a consistent decline since 2011.
- Time spent alone has drastically increased since 2011.
- Adolescents who spend more time on screen activities are 47% more likely to be unhappy (highest risk is in MS students).
- Teens who spend 3+ hours on electronic devices are 35% more likely to have at least one suicide risk factor.
- Nonscreen activities (exercise, clubs, sports, music groups, etc.) lower suicide risk factors.
- These risks increase as screen time increases.

Source: iGen, Dr. Jean Twenge, PhD

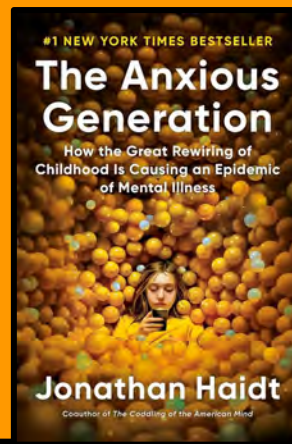


Cell Phones

GB is a Cell Phone Use-Free School

- Our **expectation** is that there is no student cell phone use while at school.
- All student devices will remain out of sight (backpack, locker, at home).
- While in school, students will be provided a tool to help keep devices safe while out of sight.

**“Out of sight,
out of trouble.”**





GB is a cell phone use-free school

- Commitment to a cell phone use-free learning environment.
- Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school but are not permitted to use them or have them out during the school day.
- Fosters a more focused, engaging, and enriching educational experience for all students.
- Headphones or earbuds should not be worn during the school day unless they are being used in the classroom for instructional purposes. (They cannot be worn outside of the classroom.)
- Here's what the data tells us. Students have...
 - Improved Academic Performance
 - Enhanced Focus and Engagement
 - Better Mental Health and Well-being
 - Stronger Social Interactions
 - Reduced Disruptive Behavior



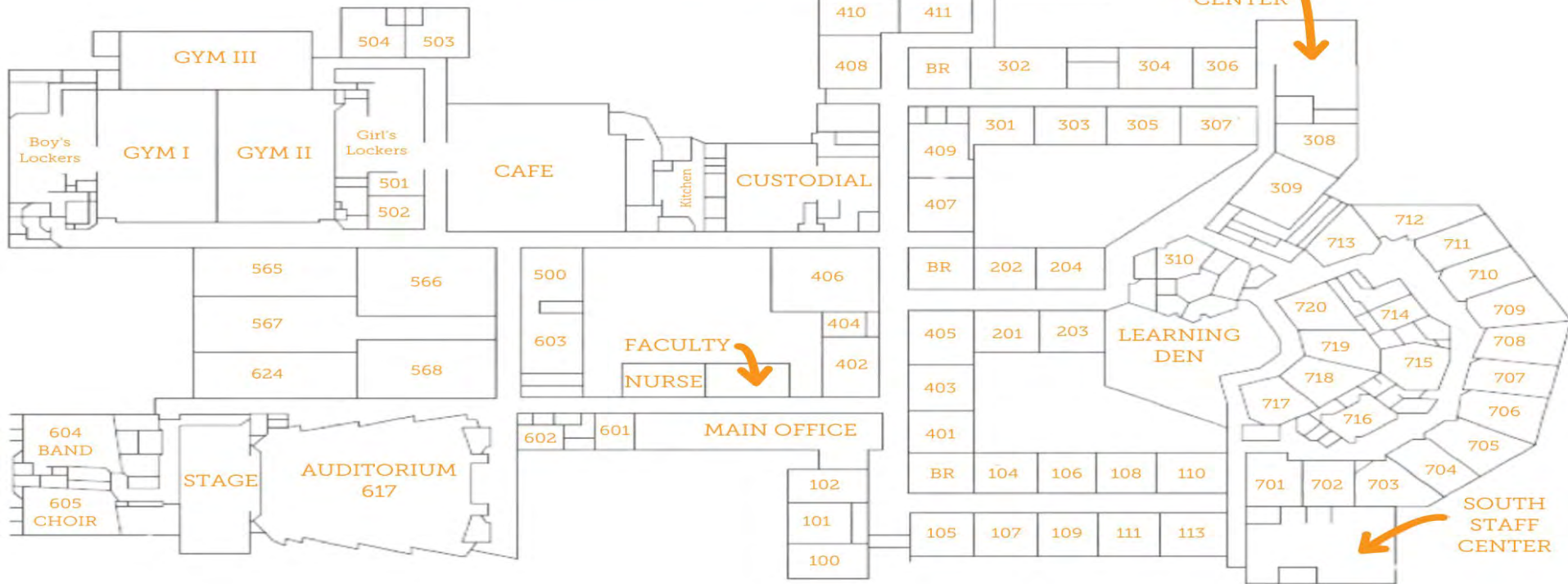
Building Map



Gunning Bedford

Middle School

Since 1960





Thank You!!!

Dr. Thomas-Brown's contact information:
erika.thomas-brown@colonial.k12.de.us
302-832-6280

What's Next?

- **Back to School Walk Through:**
August 21, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
- **First Day of School - 6th Grade:**
August 25, 7:55 AM to 2:40 PM
- **Open House:**
September 18, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM





Sign-In Form



SCAN ME