

Welcome to Bernice Ayer Middle School

**A California Distinguished School
A California School to Watch
A PLC Model School
Home of the Breakers**



Bernice Ayer Middle School

1. Welcome
2. Introductions

✓ **Principal: Nick Stever**



✓ **Assistant Principal: Amanda Soboleski**



✓ **Assistant Principal: Desirae Brucato**



Bernice Ayer Middle School



HISTORY OF BAMS:

- Bernice Ayer Middle School opened in 1998. The school is named after Bernice Ayer, the first teacher in San Clemente.
- BAMS opened with an enthusiastic staff committed to delivering a rigorous curriculum for all students. They were dedicated to creating a school that could provide not only strong academics, but also a supportive community for students. It was because of their vision and willingness to think outside of the box that these teachers were selected. Many of those teachers are still here today.



Bernice Ayer Middle School



California Distinguished School

(2000, 2008, 2011, 2019, 2024)

National School to Watch

(2005, 2011, 2014, 2018, 2024)

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Platinum Designation (2020, 2025)

Model PLC School (2021, 2024)

CA Pivotal Practice Award (2020)

Golden Bell Award (2023)

Bernice Ayer Middle School

Mission Statement



*It is the mission of BAMS to establish a collaborative academic environment where best teaching practices are shared and used, creativity is valued, instruction is data driven, and **ALL students achieve at high levels**. As a staff, it is **our responsibility** to ensure the academic, social, and emotional growth of **ALL students**.*

Bernice Ayer Middle School

Bell Schedule

- School begins at 8:45am (except Monday)
- Late Start Mondays begin at 9:45am
- No “0” period on Mondays
- School Ends daily at 3:25pm



Bernice Ayer Middle School

The 6th Grade Core Academic Team



Mr. Kim



Ms. Harmon



Mrs. Morrison



Mr. Peralta



Mrs. Ramirez



Ms. Sturich



Mr. Rothchild



Ms. Gaia



Mr. Rusinkovich



Mr. Jerome



Ms. Peng



Ms. Woods

Bernice Ayer Middle School

6th Grade Program

1	Math	CORE
2	Science	
3	Language Arts	CORE
4	Social Science	
5	Elective – <i>Band, Orchestra, Wheel, or TWI Spanish</i>	
6	Physical Education	

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Math & Science

Math Curriculum

- Math 6 (Middle School Math)

Science Curriculum

- Engineering Practices and
NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards)

Preparation for Success in Math and Science

- Know multiplication/division facts
- Know long division, operations w/fractions
- Know how to add and subtract decimals
- Science everyday
- Inquiry based learning with hands on experiments. Learning by doing



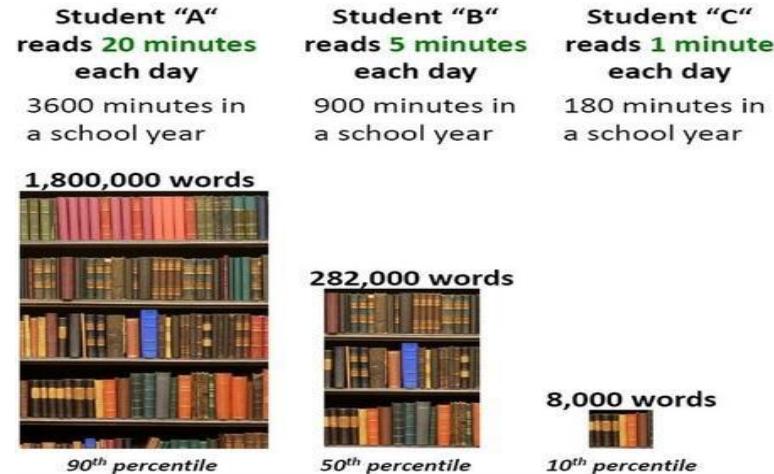
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Language Arts & Social Science

Language Arts Curriculum

- Literature
- Composition
- Informational Text
- Language Skills

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Social Science Curriculum

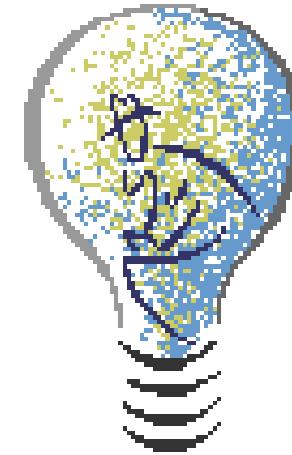
- Ancient Civilizations
- Integration of Technology



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Accelerated Classes

- Language Arts and Social Science
- Differentiated lessons
- Curriculum follows State Standards
- Higher order thinking skills
- Collaborative learning groups



** All fifth grade students who are GATE identified will be placed into accelerated classes.*

** Standardized district criteria **alone** determines the placement of additional students in accelerated classes.*

6th Grade
2026/2027
Score TBD

All GATE students are automatically placed. Additional students will be placed into Accelerated Classes if they meet the requirement noted below for 5th grade:
Smarter Balanced Score 2687 for 2025/2026
Subject to change for 2026/2027.



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Dual Immersion

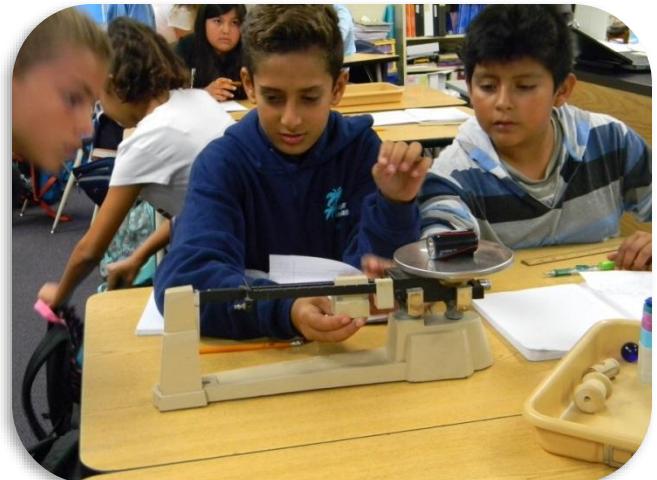
6th Grade Classes in Spanish:

- Social Studies
- Spanish
- Science
- Follows CA CC State Standards



Middle School Classes in Spanish:

- 6th: Science, Social Science, Spanish
- 7th: Social Science, Spanish
- 8th: Spanish



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ELECTIVE PROGRAM

Elective Options for 6th Grade:

- **Exploratory Wheel**
 - *Combination of introductory classes that change quarterly, semester or both (drama, computers, art etc. class subjects are dependent on staffing).*
- **Instrumental Music**
 - Band or Orchestra
- **TWI Spanish**



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Physical Education

- PE Uniform
- Locker-Room
- Curriculum
- Teaching Lifelong Fitness



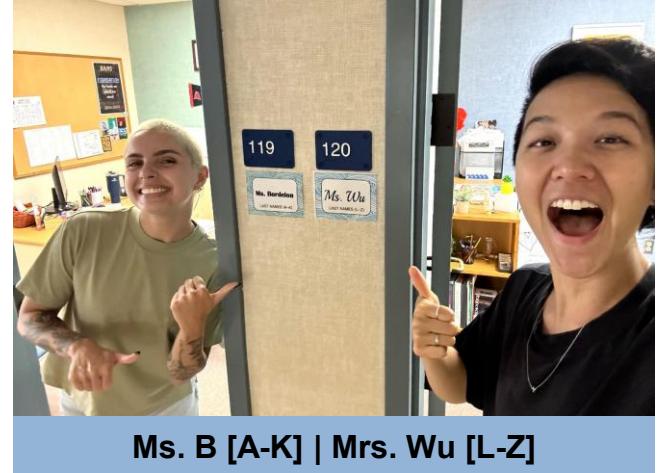
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Student Support Services



School Counselors

- 2 Full Time Counselors
- Academic, College & Career, and Social Emotional
- School-wide Activities
 - Cultural Heritage Months, PBIS
- Classroom Lessons
 - Positive Self Talk, Managing Stress/Emotions, Cultural Proficiency
- Group Counseling
 - Study Skills, Time-management, Coping Strategies
- Individual Counseling
- Resources for students and families
- **Bilingual Translator** to support non-English speaking families



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Special Education Services

- Directed, co-taught, and co-lab classes for student support
- Resource class per grade level
- Speech services
- Special Education Coordinator



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ASB (Associated student body) 7th/8th grade

- Lunchtime Activities
- Fall & Winter Dance for all grades
- Cultural Diversity Events (HHM, BHM, AANHPI)
- Intramural Sports
- Dress up Days
- *Canned Food Drive*
- *Toy Drive*
- **Breaker Teams:** Rewards
- 8th grade dance
- 8th grade Activities



PAL

Peer Assistance & Leadership

- PAL helps with BAMS and Truman students' social and emotional well-being
 - **Little Buddies at Truman Elementary:** PAL students get to help elementary students with their work / engage in fun activities
 - **Red Ribbon Week/Blue Ribbon Week:** activities and assemblies that promote anti-drug and anti-bullying awareness and prevention at BAMS
 - **New Student Orientation** - PAL students meet with new students, show them around campus and practice leadership skills.

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What makes BAMS Different?



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WEB Orientation

***Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026
9:00am – 12:00pm***

WEB stands for "Where Everyone Belongs"

- This program is designed to both welcome and support sixth graders by assigning them to an 8th grade WEB Leader as a mentor during their first year of middle school.
- The WEB Leader is a responsible older student who was hand selected and has met the qualifications of being a solid role model and positive presence on our campus.
- WEB leaders will guide the sixth graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success.



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WEB Orientation *(continued)*



ALL 6th grade students are HIGHLY encouraged to attend!

Students do not need to bring anything, but be sure your student wears comfortable clothing!



8th Grade WEB leaders will be making phone calls to their 6th grade students - so make sure that your information in Parent Portal is current and correct!

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WEB Orientation Preview



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WEB Orientation Preview



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A Systematic school-wide response to students not learning

Students who struggle academically, typically fall into one of two categories:

- Students that “can’t” do the work due to a lack of skills.
- Students that have the skills, yet “won’t” do the work due to internal/external circumstances.

BAMS is committed to regularly analyzing site achievement data to provide a **systematic approach** for identifying and supporting at-risk students. A “Tiered System of Interventions” purposes to help meet the needs of academic, social-emotional, and behaviorally at-risk students on our campus.

- *Parent Teacher Conferences*
- *Student Study Team Conferences*
- *Math Intervention Classes*
- *Mandatory Lunch Intervention*



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SWELL

(School Wide Educational Learning Lab)

- What is SWELL Time?
- SWELL is an opportunity for students to receive extra help if they need it (ex. Re-teaching, re-take a test, make-up missed assignments, bring up a low grade, etc.)
- SWELL is also an opportunity for students to participate in an activity of their choice if they don't need extra help
 - Students needing help will be mandated to attend a class to get support
- Students not needing help will get to choose among many different classes to attend
- During the week, teachers will stamp student planners for required SWELL classes
- Every day of the week has a PRIORITY subject
- Students with stamps must report to the class that has PRIORITY on that day. Students without stamps, can choose an Open class to attend.

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SWELL

(School Wide Educational Learning Lab)

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Open/Closed</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Rusinkovich	306	Math Support	Closed	6
Hine	311	Math Help	Open	6
Davis	508	Creative Writing	Open	6
LeDuc	Field	Flag Football	Open	6
Woods	309	S.S. Support	Closed	6
Masri	308	Silent Reading	Open	6
Burke	205	Sci. Support	Closed	6
Stever	Library	Study Hall	Open	6,7,8
Calhoun	109	Drama for Beg.	Open	6

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School Expectations



- Be Ready
- Act Respectfully
- Make Good Decisions
- Show Integrity

At BAMS we treat others as we want to be treated!

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Wave Week

- Clearly communicate schoolwide and classroom expectations
- Review rules, routines, and procedures
- Model correct behaviors
- Provide information about key resources on campus
- Positive reinforcements

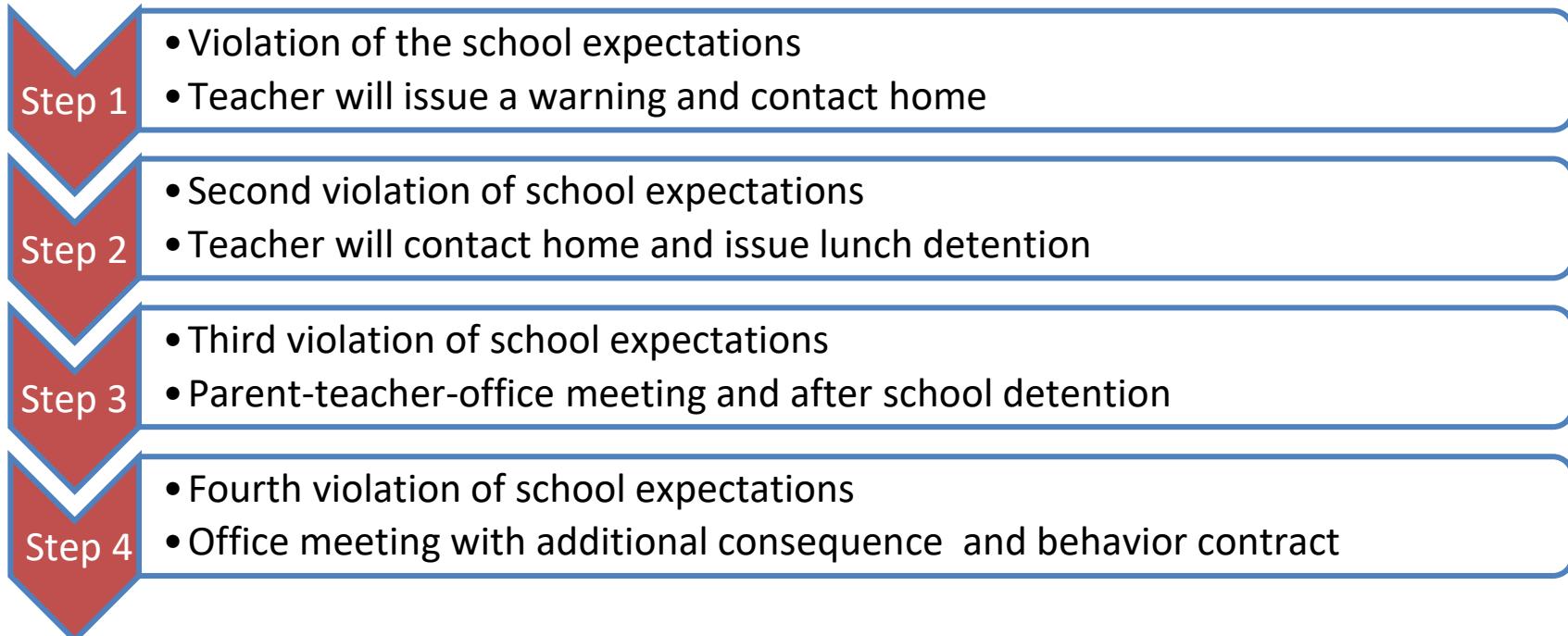


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Discipline – **STEP** system

- BAMS uses a step system for violations of school expectations.
- Major violations result in immediate consequences and referral to office.

STEP SYSTEM



Celebration



School Climate Index

Provides a state normed, school-level description of several factors that are known to influence learning success in schools.

98%

Students Reporting No Substance Use at School

100

75

50

25

0

98%

Six-year average



6-Year Averages of Student Surveys



97% Report 0 times:

Offered or exposed to illegal drugs



97% Report 0 times:

Used alcohol



98% Report 0 times:

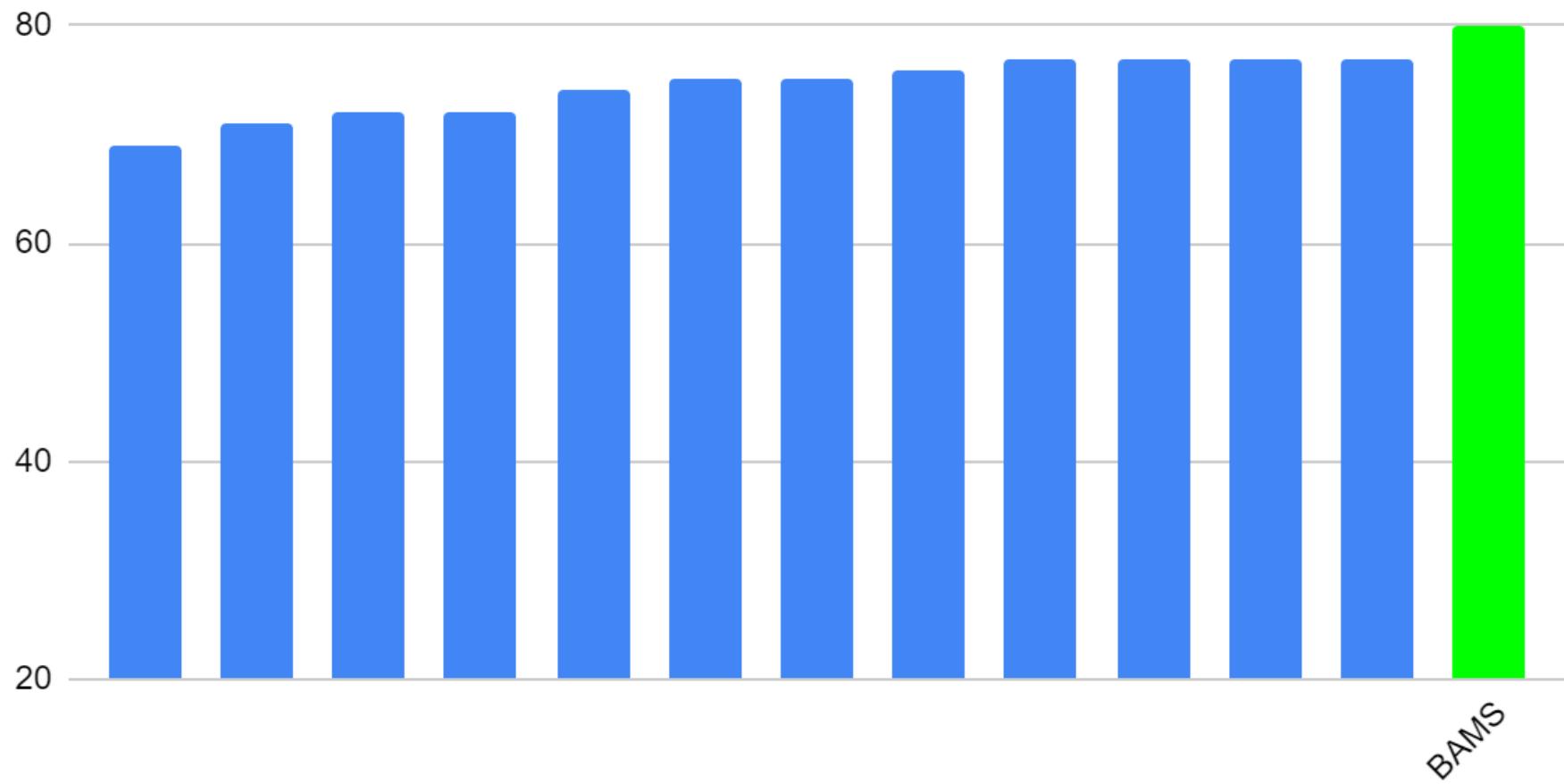
Threatened with harm or injury



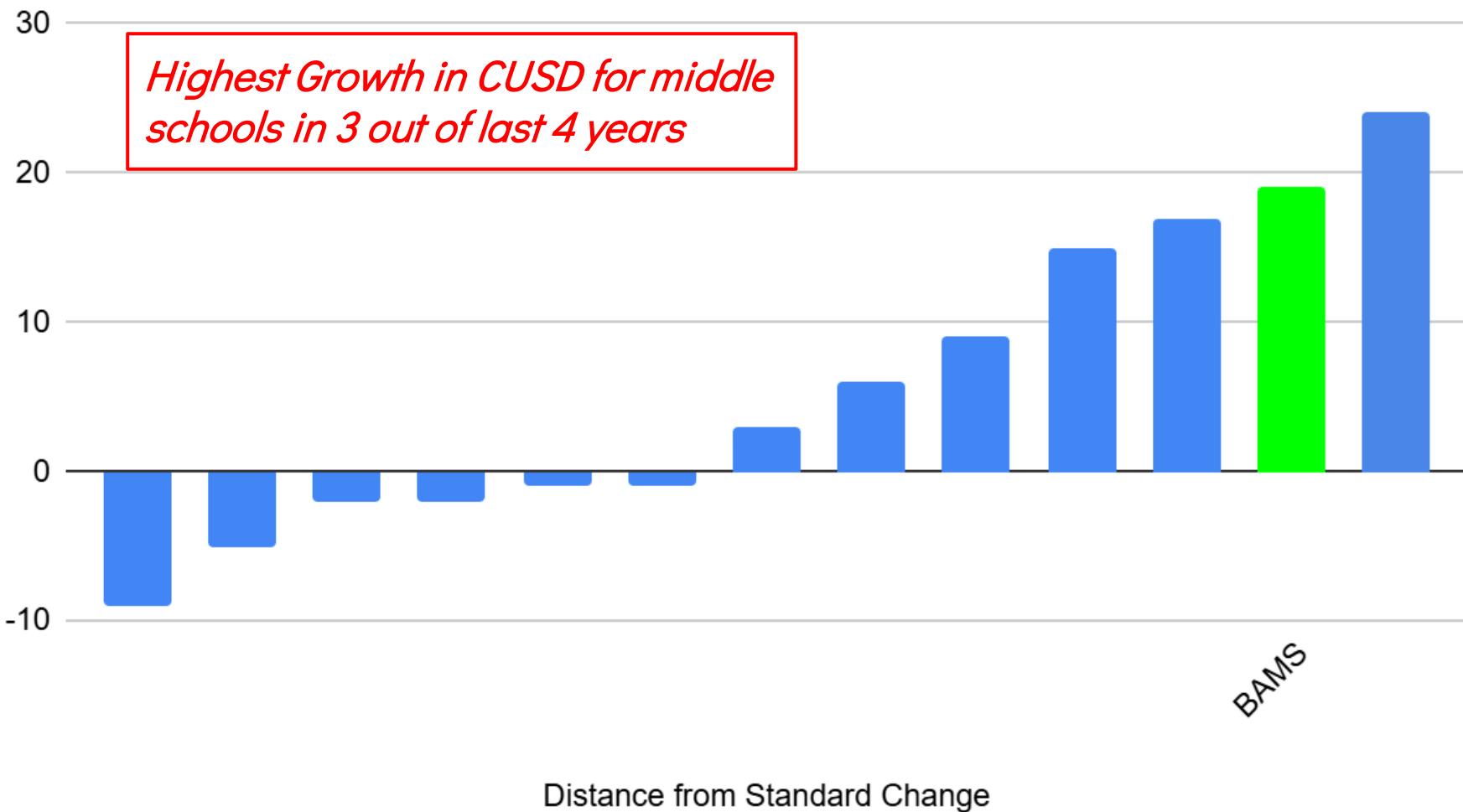
100% Report 0 times:

Used marijuana, inhalants, or other drugs

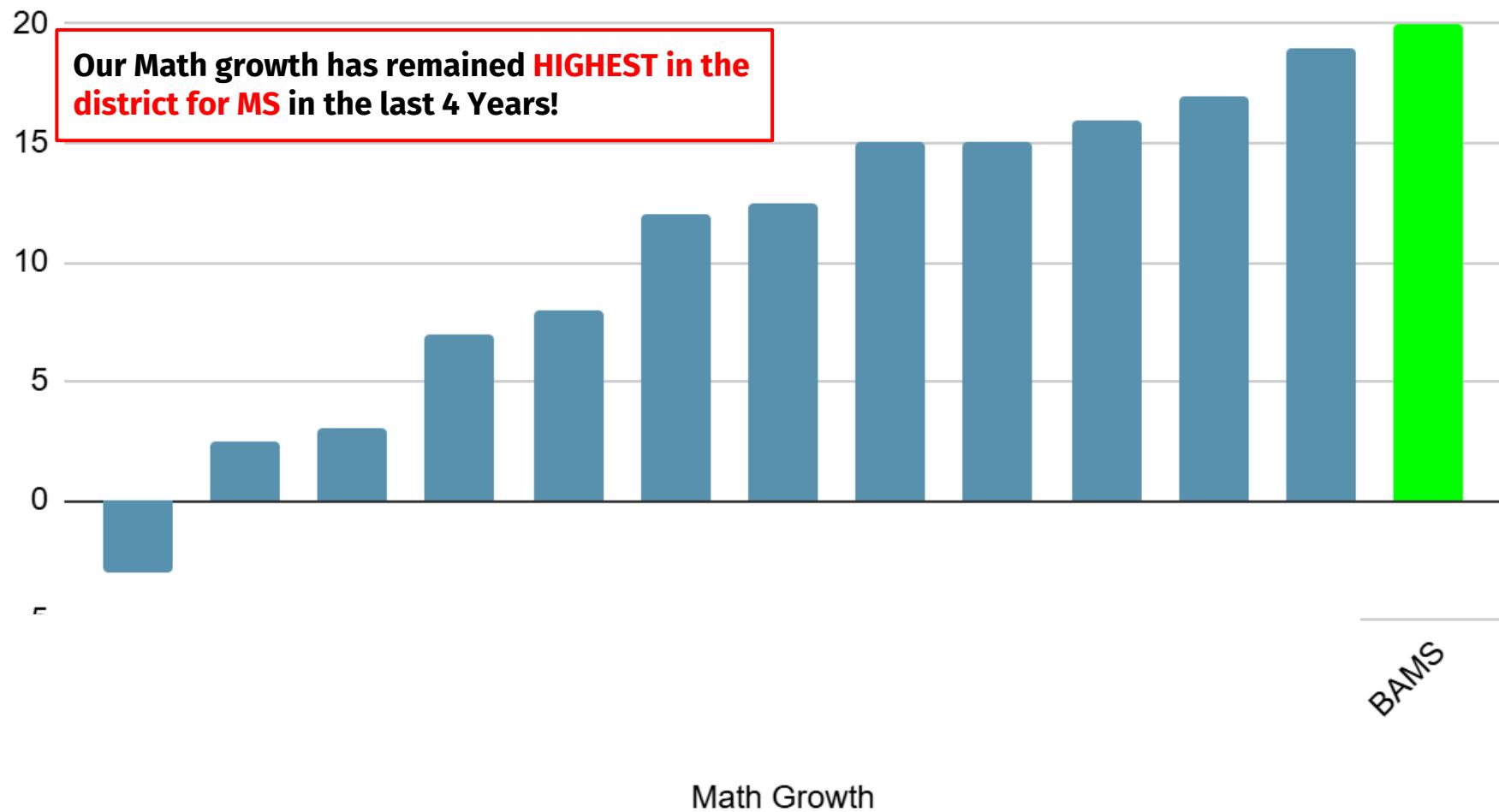
High Expectations



ELA Distance from Standard Change



Math Distance From Standard GROWTH '25



BAMS PTSA

BAMS ENCOURAGES parent involvement IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
Your children still need you!

The PTSA at BAMS provides support school-wide. The PTSA funds education department expenses, the SWELL program, WEB “Where Everyone Belongs” orientation training, technology initiatives, safety projects, and financial support to all departments on campus.

- Main PTSA fundraiser is the Breaker Backer Program, which kicks off during Registration.
- Monthly PTSA meetings are always very informative with an update from Mr. Stever.
- On-campus parent volunteer opportunities available throughout the school year.

Follow us on Instagram @bamspta

Visit us at www.bamspta.net

Visit: FREF.org

Instagram:
@FREF_SanClemente



\$54,586
Awarded in Grants
2024-2025

FREF Funds Educational Excellence at BAMS

PE Equipment - Math Support - Dual Immersion Field Trips - Art Supplies - Library Books

Quarterly PBIS Breaker Breakfasts

- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)
- Wave Ticket Prizes
- Counselors' Newsletters

BAMS Teaching Academy

- Support for New Teachers
- Collaborative Learning Strategies for Teachers
- Creating a Strong BAMS School Community

Continuing Education Support

- CADA Training for ASB Leadership
- UCI Writing Conference for our English Department

BAMS WEB Program

- Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)
- Ease Transition into Middle School
- Foster a Compassionate Community of Learners



Ways You Can Be a Friend of FREF

FREF is a 501(c)3 NonProfit



Pledge Your Support!



Bernice Ayer Middle School

Canvas



Dashboard

Mr. Jerome's Physical Education Class
jerome@capusd.org

PE 6 - Jerome
PE 6 - Jerome
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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Welcome!

English 6-Harmon

3872-P1-Harmon
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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Dual Imm Span 6-P3-Gaia

TWIS62-P3-Gaia
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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Math 6-Rothchild

1864-P2-Rothchild
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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DualImmSci6Sp-P1-Peralta

TWIS61-P1-Peralta
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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DualImmSci6Sp-Ancient History

TWIS60-P5-Sturich
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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6th Grade Advisement

0005-P9-Broadhead
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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TWIS Student-P7-Furlong Burton

TWIS00-P7-Furlong Burton
2025-2026 Bernice Ayer Middle School ...

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To Do

[Exit Ticket - Wednesday](#) X

English 6-Harmon
10 points |
Jan 7 at 11:59pm

[Preguntas de comprensión: creencias sobre la vida](#) X

DualImmSci6Sp-Ancient History
10 points |
Jan 8 at 3:25pm

[Guía de Estudio: Hinduismo - CFU](#) X

DualImmSci6Sp-Ancient History
6 points |
Jan 8 at 11:59pm

[Lectura y preguntas de era védica de la India](#) X

DualImmSci6Sp-Ancient History

6 points |

Jan 8 at 11:59pm

[January Counseling Newsletter](#) X

6th Grade Advisement

Jan 9 at 10:47am

[CFU - el antiguo Hinduismo](#) X

DualImmSci6Sp-Ancient History



Account



Admin



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



History



Mastery

ExplorQtrWheel6-P3-LaFollette **100%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

6th Grade Advisement **no grade** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

English 6 - Kim **86.67%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

Science 6 - Morrison **83.78%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

Math 6-Rusinkovich **91.39%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

Soc Sci 6-P2-Ramirez **84.5%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

PE 6 - Jerome **88%** 2025-2026 3rd Quarter ▾

Grading Period

Arrange By

2025-2026 3rd Quarter

Due Date

Apply

Assignments

Learning Mastery

Assignments are weighted by group:

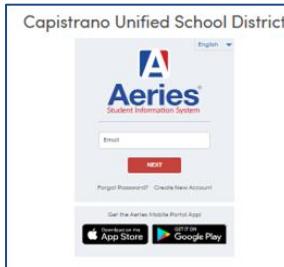
Group	Weight
Assignments	20%
Assessments	80%
Total	100%

Calculate based only on graded assignments

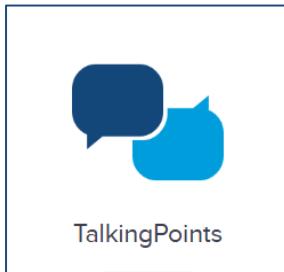
Name	Due	Submitted	Status	Score	
India's Vedic Age Reading and Note-Taking Guide Assignments	Jan 7 by 3:25pm	Jan 7 at 10:02am		5 / 7	☒
Comp. Questions - Beliefs About Life Assignments	Jan 8 by 3:25pm	Jan 7 at 8:46pm		10 / 10	☒
CFU - Ancient Hinduism Assessments	Jan 12 by 12:38pm	Jan 12 at 12:22pm	Absent	9 / 10	☒
Pamphlet - Ancient Hinduism Assignments	Jan 12 by 3:25pm			8 / 10	☒
Create a Journey Map - Buddhism Assignments	Jan 14 by 11:59pm			10 / 10	☒
CFU - Ancient Buddhism Assessments	Jan 15 by 10:30am	Jan 15 at 9:51am		6 / 8	☒
CFA 5 - Part 1 - Plan your writing Assessments	Jan 21 by 11:59pm			- / 5	
Assignments				89.19%	33.00 / 37.00
Assessments				83.33%	15.00 / 18.00
Total				84.5%	

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Parent Portal & School Communication



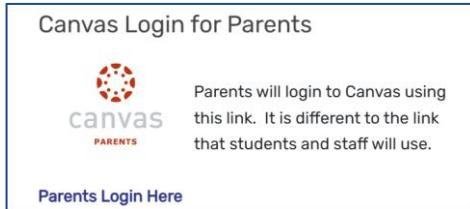
Parent Portal - You MUST update the portal before school registration. Contact information needs to be current in order to receive school communication via email or phone messages. Current contact information allows those designated to pick up your student without issue.



Talking Points - The Talking Points App can be downloaded from the App store. This messaging system will translate messages from English into any language that a family uses on their phone. It also messages in English. You will still receive a message whether or not you have the app.



The **Breaker Blast** is put out every Friday evening with the next weeks calendar and upcoming events.



Canvas is the platform in which teachers can email parents regarding classwork, tests, projects, behavior, missing assignments, view grades, ... If you do not have a Canvas account, you are highly encouraged to download the app and become an observer for your student. To create an account you will need to wait until after the first day of school.

Bernice Ayer Middle School

Approximate Dates

***Dates Subject to Change**

School of Choice Window

January 5 through February 1, 2026

Elective Selection Form:

January 21 through February 17, 2026

Packet Pick-up Dates:

July 21, 22, & 23, 2026

6th grade Registration:

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 Time TBD

WEB 6th grade orientation:

Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:00am -12:00pm



Bernice Ayer Middle School

REGISTRATION

**Dates subject to change*

6th Grade Registration date:

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Dates and times will be sent via School Messenger and they will be listed in your Registration Packet and on the BAMS website: <https://bams.capousd.org>

At Registration:

- Join PTSA & FREF , receive locker assignment, purchase PE clothes, Yearbooks, Lunches and much more!



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Bernice Ayer Middle School Webpage

<https://bams.capousd.org>

2026 -2027 School Year Begins:
Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Minimum Day

School begins at 8:45- 12:50

(Zero period 8:04)

@Bernice Ayer MS

Bernice Ayer Middle School

Berniceayerms



**All Dates Subject to Change*

