

Principal Focus:

BMS will continue to work on trauma informed practices to help create a safe welcoming environment for all students. This is an ongoing priority, with a focus on psychological safety being a point of focus for 2026-27. This means BMS will be a space where students and staff feel safe to speak up, ask questions, make mistakes, and share ideas without fear of being teased, judged, or punished. As part of our Montana Literacy Grant goals, we will have a main focus of oral fluency, but will continue to work on our content area focused writing weeks. Our classroom walkthroughs will center on literacy, the Science of Reading, and student engagement/instructional framework implementation.

During our SBE week we are working on attendance incentives, planning professional development for the year, school climate and culture, and student behavior. In addition, we are continuing to providing support and an atmosphere that will help students overcome academic deficiencies through the use of intervention programs, an advisory/power block, and parent involvement.

New staff for this year will be BreeAnna Polk in 8th grade math, Calvin Lang in 6th Grade PE/Health, and an additional Special Services teacher to help with the large caseload at BMS. We also had Verna Owl Child transferring in as a counselor. We currently have a vacancy in our Shop/Ag Mechanics, Instructional Coach and Dean of Students positions. We will be interviewing Dean of Students candidates this week, and have a request to transfer for the instructional coach position from a current employee.

Sheila Hall:

I am very excited for the upcoming 2026-27 school year. I look forward to my second year as assistant principal supporting students and staff at Browning Middle School by building meaningful relationships. Being new to the school last year, I focused on learning and understanding the systems that contribute to school culture. With that in mind I worked with the school leadership team and the SBE team this summer to collaborate on refining our positive behavior intervention and supports also known as PBIS to improve the culture of the building for this school year. As a team we are excited to roll out these positive interventions to reduce the number of behavior infractions and to acknowledge students who are meeting the behavior expectations of "Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Safe."

Instructional Coach:

This year, our focus will once again be on implementing our literacy intervention and progress monitoring program for Tier 3 students and Tier 2 "bubble" students who need additional support. During the first two quarters, interventions will target the two major components of Scarborough's Reading Rope: word recognition and language comprehension. We will then continue our emphasis on writing through Advisory classes and, once again, offer a Writing Enrichment class during the third and fourth quarters to further strengthen students' writing skills.

EVENTS:

We made a few changes at BMS last year which we will continue with this school year. The first day of school, Thursday August 20, 2026, will be for 6th grade only and all students will attend beginning Friday August 21, 2026. This will allow students the opportunity to become oriented to their new school, learn expectations, and meet staff in a less stressful way (without upper classmen). Our Open House will be August 27, 2026 from 3-5. We will provide school tours, information on the student/parent handbook, opportunities to meet teachers, and assistance with setting up Infinite Campus access.