



BWS General Overview of the School Year

AUGUST

- **Work Days:** Usually the Thursday and/or Friday before the first day of school. Invitation by class teachers. Tasks around the classroom and school for students and/or adults.

SEPTEMBER

- **First Days of School**
 - Grades 1-8: First Wednesday after Labor Day (half day with picnic)
 - EC Visiting Days: Wed, Thurs, or Fri of that week (see classroom, cubby, etc.)
 - EC First day: The Monday after Labor Day (short day w/picnic)
- **Grades 1-8 Friday Assemblies:** In-school on Friday mornings. Approx. 15 minutes. All grades gather to sing and celebrate various festivals together as a school.
- **Back to School Family Orientation:** All families new & returning are invited. Overview of the BWS school year. Held around the 3rd week of Sept.
- **Parent Class Meetings:** Scheduled within the first few weeks of school. Overview of the year & curriculum for your child's specific class. Held approx. 3-4 times per year. At least 1 parent/caregiver per family requested to attend each one.
- **Class Reps & Fair Reps:** should be identified by mid-end September.
- **Fair Crafting** begins: Once or twice per week in the mornings after drop-off with Mrs. Palmer in the handwork room. All adults are welcome.
- **Thursday Soup Days** begin: Each class takes a turn providing lunch for faculty/staff on Thursdays. One class per building.
- **Michaelmas:** Sept. 29 / In-house festival (parents do not attend)
 - Grades 1-8: all-school projects & pageant. Some grades need to wear special types of clothing or a certain color shirt or pants, etc.
 - EC: bake special 'dragon bread' or hold other celebration (by class)

NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah (in September or October)

NO SCHOOL - Yom Kippur (in September or October)

OCTOBER

- **Fair Prep:** Begins in earnest
- **Scrip Program** begins: First week of October. Ongoing, monthly all year.
- **School Photos:** Usually around mid-October
- **First PA Meeting:** Held the first Wednesday of each month. Alternate times between morning and evening each month.

- **Berkshire Harvest Fest at Berk. Botanical Gardens:** First Nation's Day weekend. BWS has a booth and puppetshow, sometimes crafts. Sat. & Sun.
- **NO SCHOOL** - First Nation's Day (Monday)
- **First Nations Day celebration:** In-house. Usually the Tuesday after the day off.
- **Clothing Swap (Potlach):** Usually around First Nations Day or at Homecoming. PA sponsored event. Gather gently used clothing & outdoor gear from families. Organize and have available for free once ready. Happens in Spring also.
- **Homecoming Event:** Middle school soccer game. Alumni & parents invited to watch the game & participate in a game after with students. BBQ fundraiser for Athletic Program.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences (evening):** Usually the Thursday before Halloween. Adults only. PA sometimes sponsors childcare.
- **Halloween:** In-school celebration.
 - **EC:** No costumes at school. Simple celebration per class.
 - **Grades 1-8:**
 - Pumpkin carving contest...bring pumpkins into school Halloween morning. Prizes for different categories.
 - Bring costumes to change into in the afternoon for an in-school parade. Simple, homemade costumes. No face painting or media driven costumes.

NOVEMBER

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences (daytime) - NO SCHOOL:** Usually the day after Halloween if it falls during the week (Nov. 1). Adults only. PA sometimes sponsors childcare.
- **EC Lantern Walk:** 5:00pm. Usually around Veteran's Day. Parents come with children to hear a story with their class and walk and sing through a candle lit route with their lanterns. Volunteers needed to set up.
- **Grades 1-3 Lantern Walk:** Some years younger grades also do their own version of the lantern walk on the grades side of the street.
- **NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day / Nov. 11** (Fair Set-up Day sometimes falls on this day)
- **NO SCHOOL - Holiday Handcraft Set-up Day:** The Friday before the Fair. All hands on deck to set up for the fair the next day. (This sometimes falls on Veteran's Day) Childcare usually available for adults who are setting up. PA to help organize childcare.
- **Holiday Handcraft Fair:** Saturday 10-4. Usually two weeks prior to Thanksgiving with set-up day the day before. All hands on deck for this one too!
- **Thanksgiving Assembly:** Tuesday before break (after lunch). Families are invited to see a short presentation by each grade class.
- **8th Grade Bake & Wreath Sale:** After the Thanksgiving assembly
- **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break:** Wednesday-Friday off
- **Ski Program Sign-up:** Due at end of November or early December

DECEMBER

- **Financial Aid opens** for the following year in Dec. or latest by Jan. 1 (after tuition is set by board)
- **Spiral of Light:** EC & early grades (EC on Sunday: family invited, Grades on Monday: in-house only)



- **Holiday Teacher Gifting:** Class Reps organize. No obligation to give.
- **Holiday Assembly:** Half day before Holiday Break. Festive sing along for families & students starting at 11:00am.
- **Holiday Bake Sale** following assembly (7th or 8th grade)

JANUARY

- **Financial Aid reminders sent - FA apps. Due Feb. 1**
- **School Resumes** from Holiday break
- **Ski Program begins:** Runs for 6 weeks on Fridays
- **NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **Mid-Term Reports go out:** usually end of Jan/early Feb.

FEBRUARY

- **Financial Aid applications DUE - Feb. 1** (for the following year)
- **Winter Break:** Week of President's Day

MARCH

- **Tuition Agreements DUE - March 1** (for the following year)
- **Cafe Night:** Usually in March. PA sponsored, Adults Only event. Talent/variety show open to all. Fun adult night out! Suggested donation at the door to support the PA.
- **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences**

NO SCHOOL: Good Friday (March or April)

APRIL

- **Spring Assembly:** Day before spring break. After lunch.
- **Spring Break:** Week of Patriot's Day

Spring Clothing Swap (Potlach): (April or May)

MAY

- **May Day Festival:** Always on **May 1** no matter what day it falls on...even on weekends. All grades, family members, alumni, and community welcome. Grades 4-8 participate in the dancing.
- **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:** First week in May
- **Gala or Spring Event:** usually in May
- **5th Grade Olympiad:** usually in May
- **NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day**

Class Musical Recitals: late May & early June

JUNE

- **Last week of school:** is usually the first full week of June
- **End of Year Teacher Gifting:** Class Reps organize. No obligation to give.
- **Field Day (grades):** the Thursday before the last day of school.
- **EC Dolly Ceremony:** (Rising 1st graders) usually on last day of EC
- **Last Day of EC:** is on Thursday of that week (½ day with picnic)
- **Last Day of Grades:** is Friday (½ day with picnic)
- **8th Grade Graduation:** is Saturday (7th Grade hosts)
- **12th Grade Graduation:** is Sunday
- **Final Reports** go out by end of June
- **Summer Program:** usually starts last week of June

Ongoing Meetings & Happenings:

- **Board Meetings:** Usually the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Occasionally they need to be rescheduled. Open to all. RSVP requested. Striving for mostly in-person meetings this year.
 - If by zoom, link will be provided upon request from Administrative Coordinator Jenna John (jjohn@berkshirewaldorfschool.org). Agenda usually available the day before a meeting by request to Jenna John.
- **PA Meetings:** First Wednesday of the month.
 - Alternate between morning and evening times.
 - Morning time is 8:30 am
 - Evening time is 6:00 pm
- **Scrip Orders:** Usually due by the first Friday of the month. May vary.
- **Thursday Soup Days:** Every Thursday afternoon
 - Rotate by class
- **Wednesday Coffee Hour:** Every Wednesday at 8:15am - 9:00am
 - Outside on the front lawn of the Grades building or in the library
- **In-Service Days:** No school for students. Vary by year & need. Half or full days. Gives time for faculty & staff to work on collaborative projects or professional development.
- **Class Plays:** Throughout the year. Eighth grade play is usually at the end of May.

