



# Birch Team

*Welcome to grade 6th Birch Island team. At the junior high there are over 500 students and over 80 teachers and staff members. Our teams allow us to break into smaller groups so*

*that we get to know each other better. Students on our team mix together in classes with the same english language arts, math, science, and social studies teachers. Our advisor program allows more teachers the opportunity to know a small group of our kids. Your child's advisor is one of the core teachers or one of the other teachers who are also a part of the Birch Island Team. Students meet with their advisor in the morning during a homeroom period, and for extended periods of time throughout the year (early release days, for example). If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact your child's advisor first. We are here to help! Teachers in our team meet weekly to plan interdisciplinary programs, activities, field trips, and special events. We make sure that big projects don't overlap. We assess student's overall progress and help students who may be struggling.*

**Wendy Arzate,  
Social Studies.  
Team Leader.  
Advisor**

**Jayne Seheult,  
Science. Advisor**

**Kelly Dorr,  
Math. Advisor.**

**Carrie Sullivan,  
Language Arts.  
Advisor**

**Angela Jordan,  
Language Arts.  
Advisor.**

**Pete Stevens &  
Andrew Kosak,  
Gifted and  
Talented. Advisors**

**Tatiana Lera, World  
Languages.  
Advisor**

**Anne Horey. Math  
Strategist.  
Advisor.**

## Math

Supplies, calculators, spiral notebooks....oh my! After reviewing some concepts in math such as place value, exponents, rounding and order of operations, the most important question is, "What do I need for supplies?" First of all, I would like your child to have a one subject notebook. That's it! Calculators are optional. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade the only type of calculator that we will be using are the simple ones that can add, subtract, multiply and divide. Once your child enters 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> he/she will need a scientific calculator. So, if you would like to purchase a calculator just one time over the next three years, I recommend buying a scientific calculator that only costs between \$10-\$15. Otherwise, as far as calculators are concerned for this year, I have what your child will need in the classroom. An important wish list item for math class would be Expo dry erase markers. We use white boards daily in math class. Any contribution would be appreciated.

Another exciting bit of information for you to know about math is our Morning Math Homework Help that is offered here at BJHS. Have you ever looked at your child's math homework and not known how to help? Have no fear. Mrs. Slotnick will be starting on September 17<sup>th</sup> with our Morning Math Homework Help. It will be held daily starting at 7:15am in room 401. Have your child use it once or use it quite often. It will be available soon.

Feel free to email me with any questions, I look forward to a great year.



**Kelly Dorr**  
room 306  
kdorr@brunswick.k12.me.us  
207-319 1930

I am a 6th grade math support teacher. I work in Mrs. Dorr's classroom Period 2 and Period 3 as a support teacher, and have small group pullouts the rest of the day. My role is to help students who are having temporary difficulty with specific math skills. It might be a quick fix for a specific skill, or ongoing, small group help with homework and basic math skills throughout the year. Parents are always notified if we feel their child might benefit from this service, and you are given an option as to whether you want your child to participate or not. Usually parents (and students) are thrilled that BJHS offers this extra math support!



**Anne Horey**  
room 307B  
ahorey@brunswick.k12.me.us  
207-319 1930

## Science

I am Jayme Seheult, your child's science teacher. I love Science, and the hands-on learning and investigation it allows for. For your information, we will be studying the following concepts this year (in roughly this order):

The Metric System	Cells and the Microscope
Classifying	Ecology- Weather and Climate
The Animal Kingdom	The Maine Ecosystem
The Plant Kingdom	Forensic Science
Atoms and Elements	Scientific Inquiry/Science Fair

Lastly, there might be times during the year that we require activity judges, chaperones, etc. If you are able to help in any way, please take a moment out of your busy schedule to fill out the attached "Parent Survey," I would really appreciate it. It is my hope to have as many

of you as possible involved with our classes this year and we have many different ways you can help us.

Thanks for your time, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question or a concern or a celebration, and I will do the same. Let's work together for your child's success in 6th grade.



Jayme Seheult  
room 310  
jseheult@brunswick.k12.me.us  
207-319 1930

## Language Arts

Our year began with a "Bio Poem" – a really cool way for students to introduce themselves. We have been fully engaged in the writing process -- brainstorming, drafting, revising, peer editing and polishing our final drafts. All year long, we will discuss taking C.A.R.E of our writing (Change. Add. Rearrange. Eliminate.) A bright-green sheet in their LA binders describes this in a little more detail. They're off to a great start! I love getting to know my students through their writing.

This week in LA, students received training on their BJHS Google Docs accounts. Student accounts can be accessed through the BJHS website by selecting Google Drive on the left-hand menu. Here, students login with their school username and password. We will be using Google Docs on our classroom laptops throughout the year. Writing/ projects/homework that students begin at school can be continued anywhere they find internet access (school, home, study halls, Curtis Library) just by entering the BJHS website! Any questions, please feel free to contact me at: csullivan1@brunswick.k12.me.us



Carrie Sullivan  
room 313  
csullivan1@brunswick.k12.me.us  
207-319 1930



Angela Jordan  
room 307  
ajordan@brunswick.k12.me.us  
207-319 1930

Ms. Jordan is the literacy strategist for the Birch team as well as ELA teacher.. She has been teaching middle school language arts for 10 years now. Ms.Jordan lives in Auburn and enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She is also a runner who participated in three races in Lewiston/ Auburn called the Triple Crown. She was able to improve her goals and time from these races last year. Ms. Jordan is excited about being here at BJHS! In Language Arts, we've already put together our ELA binders and we've started a biopoem about ourselves. These poems will be displayed for open house so be sure to check them out! We are also working on taking C.A.R.E. (Change. Add. Rearrange. Eliminate)of our writing. And finally, we've discussed the steps of the writing process and have put them into action with our biopoems.

## Social Studies

Hello from 6th grade social studies. I am Mrs. Arzate and this is my 16th year teaching at the BJHS. We're off to a good start with our review of map skills. Our first assignment, a continents and oceans map was due on Tuesday and we took our first quiz on Thursday. Ask your child how they did.

Weekly Geography #2 was due on Friday and Weekly Geography #3 will be handed out on Monday. This geography assignment is an assignment students should expect each week and is handed out at the beginning of the week and due on Fridays. Your child's first grades will begin appearing in Family Link very shortly. Please check in frequently and email me with any questions or concerns.

In the days ahead we'll be moving on to latitude and longitude review, prepping for NECAP testing by brushing up on our informational text reading skills and studying geographic land and water features.

We are working daily on time management and organizational skills as well. This is a big change for many students and juggling social studies with all their other classes can be a challenge. Enjoy the weekend.



Wendy Arzate

room 312

warzate@brunswick.k12.me.us

207-319 1930

## VIP's

Mr. Walter Wallace, Principal  
 Ms. Lisa Cushman, Vice Principal  
 Mrs. Catherine Nein, Birch Island Counselor  
 Mrs. Helen Tetu, School Nurse  
 Mrs. Ethel Granholm, Administrative Secretary  
 Mrs. Anita Duffy, Main Office Secretary  
 Mr. Mike Andreotti, School Resource Officer

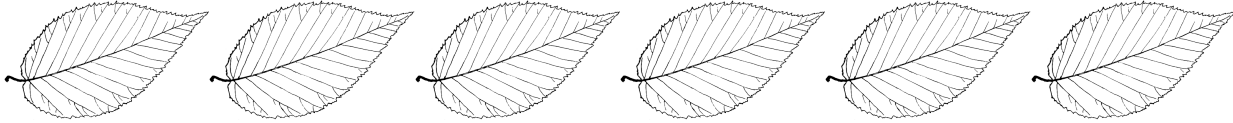


Brunswick Junior High School  
 65 Columbia Avenue, Brunswick, ME 04011  
 207-319-1930  
[www.brunswick.k12.me.us/bjh/](http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/bjh/)

## Class Schedule

7:50-8:05	period	ADVISOR
8:08-8:57	1	DST : PE, art, foreign lang., music
9:00-9:49	2	CORE class
9:52-10:41	3	CORE class
10:44-11:33	4	Study Hall/ band/ chorus
11:36-11:56	5	Lunch
11:59-12:48	6	CORE class
12:51-1:40	7	CORE class
1:43-2:25	8	SSR - Math class

***From the desk of Mr. Seheult***



September 13, 2013

**Science Class  
Parent Survey**

If your schedule permits, would you occasionally be able to come to our science classroom and assist with a lab or help out at a class event (judging, chaperoning, etc.)? Or in some other capacity that you can think of and name here.

Do you work in a job or have a hobby where you must use science-related knowledge, scientific inquiry, or problem-solving skills? Would you be willing to present to the class? If yes, please tell me about the job or skill.

Would you be willing to collect and donate household items (2-liter bottles, tissue paper, Kleenex, newspaper, yarn, uncooked pasta, etc.) for use in our classroom lab?

Looking at our concepts we will be studying this year, are you familiar with any of them where you would be willing to present your knowledge or experience to the class? Please share the concept you would be willing to discuss, and I can tell you approximately when.

Your name and best way to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's name and Science period: \_\_\_\_\_

*Use the back of this sheet for any other comments and/or concerns you might have.*

Exciting news from the Art Department!

We are proud to announce the third year of the Gifted and Talented Art Program here at the Junior High.

Like last year, the 2013-2014 GT Art Program will consist of several day-long art-based events throughout the year. Art teacher Cory Bucknam will coordinate and lead these events, ensuring that the participating students receive high quality, challenging educational experiences.

GT Art is open to all grade levels, but room in the program is extremely limited, and is intended for those students who show significant talent and potential in the visual arts. The application process involves the creation of an art portfolio and an artist statement – this year the Art Department will offer optional after-school help sessions for these requirements on Tuesday 9/24 and Thursday 9/26. The help sessions are intended to answer questions students may have about what to include in the art portfolio and how to write an artist statement.

Students interested in applying to the program can get an application packet from an art teacher or their advisor. Applications will also be available for download on the Art Department's page on the BJHS website.

Applications are due by Friday 10/11, and can be returned to advisors or art teachers. Applications will then be objectively reviewed by a committee of art teachers, gifted and talented educators, and administrators.

We are very excited about this opportunity for our students, and we appreciate your support! Let us know if you have any questions!

Cory Bucknam [cbucknam@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto:cbucknam@brunswick.k12.me.us)

Barb Berry-Palm [bberry-palm@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto:bberry-palm@brunswick.k12.me.us)



**From: Mrs. Arzate**

**Shop Online: [scholastic.com/readingclub](http://scholastic.com/readingclub)**

**One-Time Class Activation Code: **JYMRB****

**September orders due: Friday September 20th**

Dear Families,

Encouraging reading is one of the most important things we can do to help your child succeed. It can be tough finding the right books to keep them interested, which is why I am so excited that our class will be participating in Scholastic Reading Club this school year.

With Scholastic Reading Club:

- Every book you buy earns FREE Books for our classroom library
- You can choose from handpicked, grade- and reading-level-specific books for your child
- You'll find the best values on a variety of formats, including eBooks

Several times this year your child will bring home Reading Club flyers. Together you can choose from books hand-selected by teachers and experts, and then order online or by returning your order form and payment to me.

Thank you for your support,  
Mrs. Arzate

**If This Is Your First Time Ordering Online:**

- **REGISTER** at [scholastic.com/readingclub](http://scholastic.com/readingclub)
- **ENTER** the Class Activation Code at the top of this letter
- **CHOOSE** from thousands of print titles, value packs, and Storia eBooks
- **SUBMIT** the order to me by the due date

**EARN FREE Books for our classroom too!**