

Buford Middle

Yellow Jackets

Our demographics

School principal: Sheri Wells **Began at school:** 2004 **In district:** 1984 **In education:** 1984
Grades served: 6 – 8 **Enrollment:** 450 **Economic status:** 55% free & reduced lunch
Diversity: 97% White, 1% African-American, 1% Hispanic, 1% Asian
Number of teachers: 26 **Classified:** 10 **Administrators:** 2 **Counselors:** 1 **Media specialists:** 1
Other: Full-time nurse
Teachers with advanced degrees: 81% **Teacher attendance:** 94% **Student attendance:** 95.7%

Our mission

Educating the whole child.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 1956 **Date of renovations:** 1998, 2001, 2006, 2013
Square feet: 59,193 **Number of computers:** 196 **Number of classrooms:** 39
Specialty areas: 2 computer labs, 1 mobile iPad lab, 1 mobile laptop lab

Our school programs

- **Exploratory Opportunities** – We offer courses to foster the arts and interests of our middle school students outside the classroom. We have a very strong arts program which includes choral music, drama, piano, band and all art mediums.
- **Student recognition** – We focus on recognizing students for both academic and character excellence. Rewards are given weekly, monthly, and each grading period.
- **Uniform Dress Code** – The uniform dress code outlines basic colors and styles that may be worn.
- **Service Learning** – Each year, our students log many hours in service learning.
- **Character Education** – This program supports academic achievement and improves discipline for our school. We believe a strong character promotes excellence in all walks of life.
- **Literacy Program** – We have a strong reading program that encourages students to become life-long readers. This includes a summer reading program with many incentives for our readers.
- **MMGW** – Buford Middle School is a Making Middle Grades Work site. This program focuses on building a strong academic core with student success a focal point.
- **NetScope** – Buford Middle School is a part of the NetScope program. This allows us to partner with Winthrop University to foster teacher growth and effectiveness.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Athletics:**

Football	Middle School Soccer	Golf
Volleyball	Basketball	Track
	Cheerleading	

- **Clubs:**

Jr. Beta Club	First Priority	Book Clubs
Band	Student Council	National Art Honor Society
Academic Challenge	Yearbook Staff	Girls on the Run
Chorus	Drama	iLead

- **Service/Community Organizations**

Mentoring	Annual American Red Cross	Seth’s Hope
Families and Schools	Community Food Bank (HOPE)	March of Dimes
Together (FAST)	Shamrocks for Muscular	Hoops-for-Hearts
Math-a-thon	Dystrophy	Relay for Life Team

Our parents/parent support programs

- **PTO** – Our Parent Teacher Organization is a strong supporter of our school. This group of dedicated individuals helps raise money to support our school in all areas and helps promote the many positive things that are happening in our school.
- **SIC** – Our School Improvement Council meets quarterly to discuss school-related issues and concerns.
- **eChalk** – Our web-based site allows parents to stay informed of school activities, classroom deadlines, and students’ progress.
- **Powerschool** – This web-based program allows parents to access their child’s grades daily.
- **Progress Reports & Report Cards** – Our grade reporting system allows parents to receive hard copies of grades every four and one-half weeks.
- **PowerSchool** – This web-based program has a parent portal that allows parents to access grades immediately. It also has a mobile app for phones.
- **P-University** – Parent University classes are offered to parents each semester to help them become more knowledgeable about student activities.

Our school strengths

- **Strong, dedicated faculty and staff** – Most of the teaching staff at BMS has advanced educational degrees and many years of experience. Many hold National Board Certification. They are a group of caring individuals who are willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure student success.
- **Community service focus** – Our student body and faculty participate in programs designed to make the world a better place. From adopting highways to collecting food for Hope, our students have shown their willingness to give of themselves.
- **Student-centered school** – BMS is a student-centered school. All decisions are based around what is best for students.
- **Small, rural school** – Buford Middle School is a small school, free of many of the troubles that plague larger facilities. The Buford Schools are located in close proximity, which allows students easy transition from one school to another.
- **PTO/SIC Involvement** – These organizations are very strong and are willing to work diligently toward goals set. They raise large amounts of money each year to be used for the improvement of the school. This group also provides invaluable insight into the direction they feel will benefit the school.
- **Literacy Program** – Our literacy program has won local and state honors.

Our honors & awards

- **Awards for Community service from Relay for Life, The MDA Society, March of Dimes Math-a-Thon and The American Red Cross**
- **Athletic Awards - Football, Basketball and Cheerleading**
- **EIA Grant Recipients**
- **Mini Service Grant Recipients**
- **Junior Scholars**
- **Duke TIP Recipients**
- **Lancaster County Youth Art Show Winners**
- **Young Writers Conference Winners**
- **Marching Band Upper-State and State Awards**
- **National Board Certified Teachers**
- **Many Teacher of the Year winners**
- **State-wide Winner “No Book Left Unread”**
- **Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards 2011-12, 2012-13**
- **Winthrop Student Leaders**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest winner**
- **Lancaster County Spelling Bee winner**
- **Academic Challenge Team OEC Awards (7th and 8th grades)**
- **Springs Grant Recipients**
- **Exxon Mobile Grant for Math and Science (2009-2014)**
- **2015 Banner Book Award Winner**