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3 March 2025

RE: End of Year 8th Grade Activities

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe the end of the school year is quickly approaching and it's time to begin preparing for our end-of-the-year activities. The Bell Intermediate faculty congratulates all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who successfully met all the requirements to participate in Commencement. The administration and teachers are very proud of all our students who took their education seriously and demonstrated a commitment to do their very best. We wish them the best as they move on to high school.

Included in this letter is important information specific to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents relating to the end of the year calendar and instructions; please carefully review all items.

**Calendar Items**

April 10	All Day	Commencement Pictures via PE
April 10	6:00 PM	Dance Show at Pacifica
April 21 – May 2	All Day	ELA-Math-Science-CAASPP/CAST Testing
May 7	6:00-7:45 PM	Choir/Instrumental Spring Concert
May 8	All Day	Science Benchmark
May 12-16	All Day	Textbook & Chromebook Collection
May 15	5:30-7:30PM	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dance (Only eligible 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students may participate)
May 19	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	Yearbook Distribution/Signing Party
May 20	PE classes	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly/Commencement Preview
May 21-22	All Day	Benchmark Schedule
May 26	No School	Memorial Day Holiday
May 27-28	All Day	Minimum Day Schedule (students released at 12:17 PM)
May 27	10:30 AM	Commencement Practice
May 27	2:00 PM	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Program (By Invitation) - Bell Soccer Field
May 28	9:00 AM	8th Grade Commencement - Bell soccer field

**Detailed Information is listed on the following pages**

### **8th Grade Dance – Thursday, May 15th, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm, held in Bell Intermediate's MPR**

- **All eligible 8<sup>th</sup> grade students** are invited to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Note: Students may start lining up at 5:15 PM for entrance.
- The dance will be held at Bell Intermediate School's MPR & small quad area.
- Dress is to be nice, but kept within the school dress code as outlined in the school agenda. Those who are not compliant with the school's dress code will not be allowed into the dance.
- Students **MUST** have their Student ID for admission to the dance, along with the permission slip that will come with the invitation. Students **MUST** have a signed permission slip to be admitted.
- **NOTE: Students who are on the No Activities List (academic/behavior restriction) will not be permitted to participate in this activity; if your student is on this list, you have been notified via ParentSquare.**

### **8th Grade Awards Program Tuesday, May 27th, 2:00pm, MPR (by invite)**

- A number of 8th grade students will be recognized for outstanding achievement at the 8th Grade Awards program. Due to limited space, only students who will be recognized and their families are invited to attend. Invitations will be sent home to parents via their student the week of May 19th.

### **8th Grade Commencement Practice – Tuesday, May 27th**

- Classes are in reverse order, starting with 6<sup>th</sup> period. Students are to report to their 6<sup>th</sup> period class at 8:12 AM on May 27th. At 10:27 AM, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will participate in Commencement will report to the MPR and line up according to their assigned rows. Seating assignments will be posted in the quad and on their name cards they will receive in 2<sup>nd</sup> period.
- All students will be released from school on May 27th at 12:17 PM. Students may eat lunch in the small quad or go directly home when they are released.

### **8th Grade Commencement – Wednesday, May 28th, 9:00 AM**

- Students are to report to their assigned teacher in the quad area no later than 8:45 AM.
- Commencement will begin promptly at 9:00 AM
- **Students are to leave purses and all other items with their parents or family members. They will not be permitted to carry anything with them into the Commencement ceremony.**
- Students must observe the school's dress code. Students not observing the dress code will not be able to participate in the commencement ceremony.
- **GIRLS:** No spaghetti strapped dresses or tops, **or** such tops must be covered by a jacket or sweater. Dresses must extend beyond the tips of their fingers when their arms are extended down at their side. Closed or open-toed shoes will be permitted – No Flip Flops, sandals or Crocs will be allowed. Do not wear high heels or wedges, as Commencement will be held on the fields making it unstable for high heels.
- **BOYS:** Dress pants and collared dress shirts are to be worn. Ties are optional. Jeans and t-shirts will not be permitted. Dress shoes or nice tennis shoes are permitted – No Flip Flops, sandals or Crocs will be allowed.
- Students with less than a 1.0 GPA or who have discipline / behavior problems may lose Commencement privileges.
- Students with outstanding textbook or library fines will not receive their Certificate of Promotion until all fines are cleared with the front office.

**Please see back side of this page for additional information.**

**Parents and Guests:**

- Due to a limited number of chairs, students will receive 5 (five) tickets for seating (any additional guests will need to stand). Tickets will be distributed through your student's English class once received from printer.
- Seating will be opened to the public at 8:15 AM; no one will be admitted prior to this time.
- **Umbrellas and balloons are not permitted in the seating area.**
- **Easy-up Shades will not be permitted.**
- Handicapped seating will be provided. Only one guest will be permitted to sit with those requiring handicapped seating.
- **PLEASE REMAIN SEATED THROUGHOUT THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.** Once the students have left the venue, parents can meet their student near the shade structure by the PE building.
- **Picture areas have been established at the right and left of the stage.** Please use these areas to avoid blocking the view of other spectators.
- Students may leave with their parents immediately following commencement. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will remain in class until 12:17 PM.

**Parking:**

- Please remember that traffic will be very heavy so please plan ahead. If possible, walking to Bell is recommended.
- Parking will be provided on campus. Entrance to the parking area will be through the north parking lot near the tennis courts. Please follow the directions of the parking attendants who will direct you to specific parking areas on the grass and black top area behind the school buildings. Parking at Enders Elementary school (across the street from Bell) is not permitted.
- Handicapped parking is available in front of school and in a designated area located on the fields near the venue.
- When exiting campus, follow the directions of the parking attendants. **Please be patient and follow all traffic laws.** We want this to be an enjoyable day for all without any accidents or incidents. Your cooperation is very much appreciated. There will only be one exit and it will take a considerable amount of time to exit the campus.

Should you have any questions relating to these items please contact the school at 714-663-6466.