

**RSU #16 School Board
Administrative Report
Shawn Vincent
Principal, Bruce M. Whittier Middle School
November 2021**

Staff

- Teachers completed Student Led Conferences during the week of October 25th. These conferences are very valuable in building relationships and opening up communication. It was great to see parents in the building, and I am appreciative of the work the teachers did to secure meetings and prepare students. I also recognize the sacrifice of the staff giving up family time to be at school late in the evening. It gave me a great sense of pride to see the positive connections amongst staff, students, and families.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- The teaching staff is auditing a course called "Making Student Thinking Visible". We are using professional development time and workshop days to move through the curriculum. Many teachers have developed their professional goals around the content we are learning together. Teachers are immediately applying concepts in their classrooms and bringing their experiences back to the group to discuss their progress. It has been a very positive way to start the year.
- Seventh grade science students have been studying how precipitation infiltrates the ground. Some water runs off the surface, but some water sinks into the ground. They have been doing percolation testing in a variety of soils, including the soccer field, woods, sand, gravel and a grass area. Percolation testing helps us understand the rate at which water sinks into the ground.
- Students in grade 7 social studies classes conducted a Mock Legislature. The class was split between the Senate and House of Representatives. They went through the process of putting forward potential bills, debating them, then voting on whether to approve them or not. Then, they finished the process by passing the bills to the opposite chamber of Congress for a vote. The bills that pass both chambers go to the teacher, the President, to sign or veto. Any bills that are vetoed by the President go back to Congress to see if they want to override the veto.
- Throughout this school year, students have been earning Valor Points as recognition for their good behavior and positive choices. Every day we talk about taking care of ourselves, taking care of each other, and taking care of this place. When a teacher catches a student doing this, a teacher can give the student a Valor Point in recognition of their positive behavior. Students can then redeem these Valor Points at our Valor Point Cart for a variety of items.

Events

- Whittier Middle School's Tri-Town Family 5K will return to Minot's beautiful trails and fields on Sunday, November 7th at 10:00am. Join us as we celebrate 10 YEARS! Our event is open to everyone: students, their families, and the community. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we have always offered free registration! This event is about getting people outside and moving. No experience is necessary. Many people choose to walk the course as a way to support our students.
- We had a very successful fall sports program with over 100 students participating in soccer, field hockey, and cross-country running. Registration is open for winter sports.