



Picking Up STEAM in Montrose

At Montrose Elementary School of Innovation (MESI), one minute, students could be learning about theater or learning to play world drums and the next they could be immersed into coding, programming or producing their own news program.

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, MESI will be a STEAM magnet school as designated by the Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD). NWSISD was awarded a federal magnet school assistance grant that will benefit MESI for the next five years (through 2023), and will be used to support professional development, curriculum additions, musical instruments, theatre staging, flexible learning spaces, and other Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) related programming.

Principal Tony Steffes shares that some components of STEAM are already incorporated into the school and that the philosophy and beliefs of the school will not change. "Programming at MESI is centered around the genuine care and

support each student receives from our dedicated staff. The funding from this grant will give us the financial means to implement new programs, resources, and professional development that most schools would otherwise not be able to offer. The families of Buffalo, Hanover and Montrose (and the surrounding area) should be very excited about this opportunity that is now available to them."

The "arts" will focus more on the performing arts. In addition to vocal performance, students will have more opportunities with instruments such as world drums, piano and ukulele. They will also have exposure to more theatrical experiences. Students will learn about the components of what goes into a theater production from acting to staging to lighting.

Steffes says that they are considering more in-depth options for older students during their "specialist" time such as music and innovation class. For example, during music, students could have the option to choose from three different offerings such as theater, piano or vocal performance. The same would apply for

their innovation time in that students could choose from three different options such as 3D graphic design and printing, robotics or TV broadcasting.

They also plan to implement Project Lead the Way throughout the school. This program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. As students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge.

"We will have a curriculum integration specialist who will help with staff development and curriculum planning," continues Steffes. "We have already started to train staff for next school year and more work will happen over the summer to be sure we are ready for students on the first day of school. With the work we are doing now, our goal is to make this sustainable beyond the five years of the grant."

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The Five Ss--Snow, State Funding, Savings, STEAM and Say "Hello"

The winter of 2018-19 will be talked about for years to come. Hopefully, we are getting back to normal and can enjoy our favorite winter activities. Winter will eventually fade into spring, but our funding issues will remain.



Scott Thielman

February Review

We are excited to hear, as reported through the media, that our locally elected legislators and the newly elected governor have stated that K-12 education should be fully funded and residents should not have to pass operating levies to meet budget needs. The encouraging sign is that the November budget forecast for the state of Minnesota projected a \$1.5 billion budget surplus. Currently, the BHM school district is underfunded in the special education cross subsidy by \$5.9 million on an annual basis. It is with that concern in mind that we continue to encourage our state elected officials to meet their funding obligations and meet the needs of school districts throughout the state.

Continued Programming

While the district's budget continues to be a focus for the school board, we are very proud of the programming opportunities the district provides for its students. In the past eight years,

the district has been able to offer new programs to ensure students have access to career and college level classes while also ensuring students will be ready for their next milestone after high school. Work and college environments have changed dramatically and now require students to have skills that continue to evolve. The additional courses offered at the high school allow students to earn technical college, community college and traditional college credits while attending Buffalo High School. The last estimate calculated a tuition credit savings for parents equaling \$1.8 million. These courses have been offered at no additional cost to parents and have been paid for with existing budget funds.

Additionally, Montrose Elementary School of Innovation has been awarded a \$2 million federal grant to become a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) magnet school. Our teachers, administrators and support staff continually research and implement best practice methodologies and instructional practices to ensure students are being taught effectively and are exposed to the most challenging curriculum. That commitment to rigor, relevance and positive relationships with students ensures that our students will be prepared for their future.

Bounce Back Project

The importance of positive relationships is also being addressed through our involvement in the community-wide Bounce Back Project (BBP). BHM

Schools has been partnering with the BBP from the inception of the initiative. The latest initiative is for community members to commit to "Just Say Hello" to people in our community. The intent is to better connect with one another in order to break down barriers that exist as we are typically focused on our daily tasks. The BBP is asking our community to say hello to one another throughout the day whether at the store, at the gas station or at an activity or event. To help remind us of our commitment, the BBP is handing out purple "Just Say Hello" wrist bands.

Many Buffalo High School students got involved by reaching out to younger students during the month of February during "I love to read" activities. Students read stories about making connections to all elementary students in grades kindergarten through five. The donated books remained in the classrooms. This activity, as well as the concerted effort to connect with our community, will have a lasting positive effect on individual resilience. See the story on p. 3.

The ways in which all of our staff develop strong positive relationships with our students sets the BHM School District apart from others. The mission of BHM Schools is *making a difference by preparing all students for a successful future in a changing world* and our staff live up to our mission each and every day, making *BHM Schools the place for students to dream, believe and achieve.*

The place to dream, believe and achieve.



Proud Of....

Those listed below were submitted by district staff and recognized by the BHM School Board for their special contributions and accomplishments.

Minnesota's Assistant Principal of the Year

John Hayden has been named the 2018-19 Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP). Hayden is now



eligible to be considered for the National Assistant Principal of the Year honors. He has been at Buffalo Community Middle School (BCMS) for 16 years and led many innovative programs such as the WEB program (Where Everyone Belongs) that creates student leaders who guide new sixth graders every fall. Many staff members speak of Hayden's commitment to them as a real strength, including supporting innovative programs and schedules and providing active support for Professional Learning Communities across all disciplines.

BCMS Principal Matt Lubben shares, "John has been instrumental in our continued push towards excellence at BCMS. He positively promotes the success of all students by ensuring the physical school and its operations create a safe, efficient and effective learning environment. Being the most tenured staff on our administrative team, he knows where the building was, is currently, and where it needs to be in the future. John has strong relationship skills that he uses to create a positive environment for the staff and students he works with. He truly works with the concept of, "Doing What's Best for Kids."

Wilson Remains BHM School Board Chair

Each January the board conducts a reorganization of positions of the board. The positions were elected as follows for the 2019 calendar year (there was no change in positions from the previous year):



- Chair—Dave Wilson
- Vice Chair—Sue Lee
- Clerk—Melissa Brings
- Acting Clerk/Treasurer—Ken Ogden
- Treasurer—Laurie Raymond

Bob Sansevere and Amanda Reineck serve as directors.



Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

Snow mounds are piling up around the district, and elementary students are taking full advantage of the fun they provide. Students tackle the giant snow hill at Tatanka Elementary STEM School (above left), and you can see how high the snow is getting at Northwinds (above right).

As of February 26, the district has had six snow days, one late start and one early dismissal. The last time the district had this many weather related closings was during the 2013-14 school year. There are extra days in the BHM calendar, and at this point, students will not need to make up the missed days. However, if more days are missed the district will need to determine if the dates need to be made up. Messages will be sent out to parents if this happens.



Buffalo High School (BHS) students greeted Hanover Elementary students as they arrived at school as part of their RAVE Week (Respect and Value Everyone) activities to make connections with others. BHS students read books in classrooms and handed out wristbands to students that said, "Just Say Hello."

Just Say "Hello"—Students Making Connections with Students

Has a total stranger ever smiled at you and said, "Hello!" Do you remember how you responded and how that made you feel?

According to Buffalo family physician, Corey Martin, MD, he says that we are equipped with mirror neurons that automatically imitate what is being expressed to us. You likely responded to the stranger in the same manner and it maybe gave you a little boost for your day. He shares that on average kids smile up to 400 times per day but that as we get older, that decreases to an average of 20 times per day. There is a 45 percent chance of early death in people who are lonely (that is equivalent to smoking 15

cigarettes per day). So, loneliness can be hazardous to your health.

Dr. Martin is one of the founders of the Bounce Back project. BHM Schools is a partner with the program which helps to promote health through happiness. Buffalo High School (BHS) students have partnered to promote many of the Bounce Back initiatives including: Three Good Things, Random Acts of Kindness and Gratitude Letters. This year, the theme of their annual February RAVE Week (Respect and Value Everyone) was "Courage to Connect" and aligned closely with the Bounce Back's new initiative, "Just Say Hello."

As part of the BHS RAVE Week efforts, students were encouraged to break social isolation, connect with others and get to know them. One of the activities they paired with February's "I Love to Read" month. Students signed up to visit an elementary school (many chose the elementary school they attended and even a former teacher they had). During their visit, BHS students greeted kids as they entered the building, read a book about ways to connect with others (classes kept the books that were read to them) and gave students purple wrist bands with the simple Bounce Back message, "Just Say Hello."

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Night Out for Music

The Buffalo High School (BHS) Music Department invites you to attend their annual Night Out For Music Jazz Concert and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 23. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the silent auction items on display. Entertainment will begin at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center and will be provided by Jazz Ensemble I, BHS Singers, Chamber Strings and Treble Singers. During intermission, guests will enjoy a variety of decadent, gourmet desserts while finalizing bids at the silent auction.

This year's theme is "Stompin' at the Savoy" and is a fundraiser that directly benefits BHS music students. Last year, the BHS Music Department was able to purchase a bass amplifier, garment bags, music for each of the concert ensembles, commission a piece for Concert Orchestra, have a clinician/composer work with the bands, as well



as helping offset the cost of last year's spring music trip.

You can purchase tickets and bid on silent auction items online through Bid

Partner, <https://bidpartner.net/nofm/>. Ticket prices are \$12/adult, \$10/senior and \$8/student and may be purchased through Bid Partner or by contacting Jill Starr at jstarr@bhmschools.org or 763.682.8129.

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MESI STEAM Magnet joins the two other NWSISD magnet schools in the district: Tatanka Elementary STEM School (TESS)—offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as a part of their curriculum, with the primary focus on engineering, and Buffalo High School (BHS) Arts Magnet—a school within the school focusing on visual, performing, literary, media and applied arts.

Students who live in the BHM School District, but not the attendance boundary of MESI, must open enroll through NWSISD. Open enrollment has begun from within the BHM School District (along with the six other member districts in NWSISD: Anoka-Hennepin, Brooklyn Center, Elk River, Fridley, Osseo and Rockford). Enrollment also includes FREE transportation to and from school.

Application into MESI and all NWSISD magnet schools for the 2019-20 school year is open through March 8 and can be submitted at www.nws.k12.mn.us. The application process will reopen March 18 through April 19. The application is available on the homepage of the BHM website at www.bhmschools.org. If you would like more information about MESI or would like to schedule a tour, contact the MESI office at 763-682-8345.



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Hanover Elementary Principal Brad Koltes said the message from the BHS students really aligned with the work they have been doing in the school to build relationships and being kind to one another. Koltes shared, "The cool thing was that the BHS students were former Hanover students and got to reconnect with the school and some of their teachers. It was a way for them to give back. Our elementary students look at the BHS students as role models. The message they shared and their actions will certainly stick in their minds."

Buffalo High School sophomore Madelyn Hackett reads *The Lonely Mailman* to Hanover Elementary students.

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District Calendar 2019-20

Please note that this calendar is for **NEXT** school year.

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Important Dates

Aug. 26-29	Teacher Workshop Days	January 20	Teacher Workshop
September 2	Labor Day - No School K-12		No School K-12
September 3	1 st Day of School		Martin L. King Jr. Day
October 16	Teacher Workshop		End of 2 nd Term
	No School K-12	February 17	President's Day - No School K-12
October 17-18	Fall Break - No School K-12	March 27	Teacher Workshop
November 4	Teacher Workshop		No School K-12
	No School K-12		End of 3 rd Term
	End of 1 st Term	Mar. 30-April 3	Spring Break - No School K-12
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break - No School K-12	May 25	Memorial Day - No School K-12
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Winter Break - No School K-12	June 4	Last Day of School
		June 5	Commencement
			Teacher Workshop
			End of 4 th Term



Buffalo High School students connect with Hanover Elementary students during "I Love to Read" month. See p. 3 for the story.

*****ECRWSS**
RESIDENT DISTRICT 877

Announcing the Class of 2032

Welcome BHM Kindergartners!

Let's get ready for kindergarten! If your child will be 5 by September 1, 2019 you can enroll your child for the 2019-20 school year in BHM Schools. All incoming kindergarten students need to complete ECFE screening— call 763.682.8408 for more information. Don't miss the following registration nights for your neighborhood school:

- February 19 | 6:30 p.m. Montrose Elementary School of Innovation
(Accepting open enrollment.)
- February 21 | 6:00 p.m. Northwinds Elementary
- February 25 | 6:30 p.m. Tatanka Elementary STEM School
(Accepting open enrollment.)
- March 4 | 6:00 p.m. Hanover Elementary
- March 5 | 6:30 p.m. Parkside Elementary
- March 12 | 6:30 p.m. Discovery Elementary
(Entrance is based on a lottery system.)

If you missed a registration night, please contact your child's neighborhood school to register.



The place to dream,
believe and achieve.

School Board

- Dave Wilson Chairperson
- Sue Lee Vice Chairperson
- Melissa Brings Clerk
- Laurie Raymond Treasurer
- Ken Ogden Acting Clerk/Treasurer
- Amanda Reineck Director
- Bob Sansevere Director
- Jack Leipholtz Student Representative
- Scott Thielman Superintendent

INSider Editor:

Laura (Barta) Lindquist, Communications Coordinator
763-682-8783 | lbarta@bhmschools.org

Reader comments or questions welcome!

Early Childhood Screening

Calling all parents of a future kindergartener! Screening is a requirement for entry into all Minnesota public schools. Children ages three to five years old will have their overall development checked in a one-hour appointment. The district provides this FREE service to all district residents. To make an appointment, please call 763.682.8408.

2019-20 Preschool Registration

Register NOW for Early Childhood Family Education's (ECFE) Ready Set Grow preschool program for children ages 3 to 5 years old. This 9-month, 30-week preschool experience is offered two to five days per week. The teachers will help nurture your child's social emotional development and use research-based curriculum to focus on language, literacy, math, scientific thinking, and building academic skills to prepare your child for kindergarten.

Ready Set Grow Preschool Features:

- Licensed preschool teachers
- Maximum class size of 14 to 18
- Academic learning that prepares children for kindergarten
- 4-Star Parent Aware Quality Rating
- Integrated classes serving children of all abilities
- Financial assistance and scholarships available for those who qualify

Questions? Call ECFE at 763-682-8780 or go to www.bhmschools.org and click on the Community Ed tab to find the ECFE page.