

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

Thank you, families of BHS students, for choosing to be a part of Buffalo High School. We are grateful to share our BHS community with talented and caring students, staff, and families. As we prepare for this upcoming year, we are continuing on our journey to create the best high school in the state of Minnesota. We've found, on this journey, that our studies and our work indicated that we can continue to do better for our kids. The last year was spent planning and taking action to create a new schedule, along with new programs, to best serve the needs of every member of our school community. Serving most of our students most of the time simply isn't good enough; our new programming intentionally focuses on reaching every student in our school, both in relational and academic capacities.

The new schedule incorporates both Advisory and BASE (Bison Academic Support and Enrichment) time into the BHS schedule. Advisory, held on Mondays and Fridays, will focus on ensuring every student at BHS has a staff member with whom they can connect, while experiencing personal and academic growth. BASE time involves identifying and supporting, in a timely yet flexible fashion, students in need of academic course support as well as those wanting enrichment. We're excited to offer all students this opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays to sign up to see teachers for extra help. This approach will promote equity, rapport, and accountability for all of us at BHS to be doing our very best work as a community of learners.

To build upon our commitment to ALL students, we know our work starts on the first day of school. This year we'll again be providing our incoming freshmen students with an amazing "Freshman First Day" opportunity, with new activities, tours, and experiences.

#### **BHS First Days of School**

- **Tuesday, September 3** - Welcome Class of 2023. Required 1st day of school for **Freshmen only**.
- **Wednesday, September 4** - Classes in session for **ALL students grades 9-12**, regular schedule.

Connected to this, we remain committed to a school where every student and staff member feels safe. School safety has always been, and always will be, a top priority as we continue to review and reflect on the best practices in safety and security. This is supported both by the physical structures and procedures of our building, as well as the intentional building of authentic relationships between staff and students.

Please take time to enjoy the last weeks of summer; we encourage you to talk with your student about the start of the school year and what their goals are for this upcoming year. We have included an outline of important dates to review with them on the second page of this mailing. A copy of our new schedule is included. Note that we have different schedule scenarios on the enclosed page, so please be sure to reference this throughout the school year as needed.

We are eager to see you at our Open House on Wednesday, August 28, 2019!

Sincerely,



Mark Mischke  
Principal, Buffalo High School

**Important dates to remember for BHS students:**

- **Monday, August 12**
  - Student schedules available on the parent/student portal
  - Fall Sports begin, all proper paperwork must be in before students can practice
  - Students are welcome to claim lockers in their designated locker bays. **All students are expected to have a locker.** Locks may be re-used from BCMS/BHS. Locks are also available for purchase at BHS in the main office and activity office. (\$5/new and \$3/used - cash/checks only)
- **Wednesday & Thursday, August 14 and 15**
  - \*Student Walk-in Schedule days from 7a.m.-3p.m. (Student Services office)
- **Monday, August 19**
  - You may purchase locks, parking permits & turn in forms noted on our Open House agenda
  - \*Student Walk-in Schedule day from 11a.m.-7p.m. (Student Services office)
  - **\*BHS Picture Day** - Pictures will take place in the LLC from 1-7p.m. and is intended for:
    - **All students in grades 10 and 11**
    - New senior students to the district
    - Seniors that wish to use their Lifetouch photo as their official senior yearbook photo
  - All students are expected to have a locker, this is another day for students to claim their lockers in their designated locker bays.
- **Wednesday, August 28**
  - BHS Open House from 5-8 p.m. Additional information is included in this mailing.
- **Thursday, August 29**
  - All District 877 employees will be attending a district-wide training and program. Our building will be closed and staff will not be available.
- **Tuesday, September 3**
  - Class begins for incoming 9th graders at 8:50 a.m.
  - **\*Picture Day for 9th grade students during the school day**
- **Friday, October 4**
  - BHS Picture Retake and Make-up day during the morning hours (last opportunity). This is meant for any student that wasn't able to have their photo taken and/or for those that wish to have a retake. Retake forms will be available as this date gets closer.

**\*BHS Picture days, additional information:**

Picture forms are included in this mailing, and online ordering forms are available on our BHS website. We ask that all students in grades 9-11 have their photo taken for student ID reasons - there's no obligation to purchase photos. Students in grade 12 that are new to our building will also be asked to have their photo taken, again for a student ID. Senior students that would like to have their Lifetouch photo be used as their senior photo in the yearbook must attend one of the photo sessions stated.

**\*BHS Counselor walk-in dates, additional information:**

In the event that a student needs to make a schedule change due to an 'empty' block on their schedule, they may attend one of the walk-in dates noted. **Appointments will not be made - they will be on a first come-first-serve basis.** For those unable to attend a walk-in date, you may email your counselor or stop in the Student Services office on the first day of school for any Term 1 changes. Counselor contact information may be found on our BHS website as you click on the Student Services page. **New Student Registration** (this is for those new to our district this upcoming school year) appointments should be made through Emily Burrell at eburrell@bhmschools.org.

Please feel free to contact the BHS main office with any further questions you may have at 763-682-8100.