



PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY

**A neighborhood
school that cares
about every student**



Parkside Elementary has been an integral part of Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose-Schools for decades. The building originally served as the first elementary school in the district, becoming Parkside Elementary in the late 1980s. A lot has changed since then, but Parkside is a place that continues to adapt and excel while staying focused on its students and community in a safe, positive and encouraging environment.

Strong roots with an eye on the future

Principal Jeanna Miller is in her second year as principal of Parkside and has 29 years of education experience. She has spearheaded initiatives at the school including invigorating staff committees, increasing school spirit, and making the building a welcoming and positive environment for all students. A recent beautification process resulted in new paint and updated carpeting throughout the school, perennial gardens in the front of the building thanks to help from the high school FFA, plans to create outdoor learning spaces in an existing courtyard, and an updated larger music room that was created in part because students requested a new music space.

"This is the first year of using our new music room and students were a big part of this change," said music teacher Anna Grewe. "Our previous space was not very inviting and was very small. The new space combined two classrooms and has so much to offer our students. They really love it!"

Parkside's comprehensive school experience allows students to explore content beyond the core subjects. In the morning, students are able to use the music room as part of Mindful Melodies, a special program that allows students to participate in musical and artistic activities before the school day begins. Similarly, students can move their bodies and get prepared for the school day in the gym by participating in Morning Movers. A new dedicated art specialist is also in the building, giving every grade level even more opportunities for a broad spectrum of learning experiences.

Staff who really care

"Our staff is so passionate and dedicated to what they do. I have seen first hand how every staff member from teachers and paras, to clerical, Nutrition Services and custodial staff just bond together and work so hard to benefit

students and families," Miller said.

"They came together over these last two challenging years all with the focus on our kids."

Fifth grade teacher Susie Anundson has taught in the building for 33 years and agreed that what makes Parkside truly special is the dedicated staff that instills a passion and excitement for learning in every student, no matter what their situation is.

"We are so lucky that we have a really cohesive staff and a strong leadership with a vision that is focused on being proactive and as innovative as possible, always doing what is best for kids," she said. "We use AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and WICOR (Learning through Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading) models throughout our school and that really gets the students excited about the different aspects of learning."

Something for every student

In addition to being a neighborhood school serving residents in Buffalo, Parkside is also home to the district's

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The year and place to *dream, believe and achieve*

Ensuring that BHM Schools is the place to **dream, believe and achieve** is more than just a marketing tagline. It is our call to action. At Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, we are all charged every day with educating and supporting our students so they can use their gifts and talents to reach their full potential. We strive to ensure that each and every student can discover and follow their passions. And, we are committed to creating experiences and opportunities in which all students feel that they belong to and see themselves as part of a larger community.

Despite a year that tested all

of us, I say confidently that nothing will stand in the way of this charge. We started 2021 with COVID-19 raging across our nation and globe. And while we are still dealing with the COVID-19 virus, we hope that the vaccines, new treatments and ongoing mitigation efforts help us to cope and live better in these uncertain times.

Locally, we were dealt another challenge in February when our community was shocked and horrified to learn of a shooting at the Allina Health Clinic. And yet, as we approach the one year anniversary of that tragic day, we have come together

as a community through #BuffaloStrong to support one another.

As we turn the page to 2022, we do so with an eye on the future and our ongoing commitment to the 5,300 students and 750 staff that call BHM home. I am fortunate as superintendent to be witness to acts of this tagline — both big and small — happening throughout our district every day. Whether on our buses or inside our classrooms, on stage or in the gym, in the hallways or in the community, our young people and staff are working in collaboration for a better tomorrow.



Scott Thielman

I invite each one of us to seek out opportunities in our own lives to find our own passions, take an active part in our larger community, and reach our fullest potentials. I encourage us to commit to making this year better than the last. My hope is that we can work together to make 2022 the year in which we all create opportunities to **dream, believe and achieve**.

Announcing the Class of 2035

Welcome BHM Kindergartners!

The time is almost here BHM parents! If your child will be five years old by September 1, 2022, you can enroll them for the 2022-23 school year in BHM Schools. All incoming kindergarten students will need to complete ECCE Screening.

Don't miss the following registration nights for your neighborhood school:

- **February 15, 6:30 p.m.**
Montrose Elementary
School of Innovation
(MESI)*
- **February 22, 6:30 p.m.**
Parkside Elementary
- **February 24, 6 p.m.**
Northwinds Elementary
- **February 28, 6:30 p.m.**
Tatanka Elementary STEM
School (TESS)*



- **March 7, 6 p.m.**
Hanover Elementary

*MESI and TESS are both accepting Open Enrollment Applications.

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

BHM Quest Program applications due January 27

The BHM Quest program provides specialized classroom instruction for highly gifted students (top two to three percent in their class) in grades 2-9. The program combines enrichment and acceleration of district curriculum. Students can expect to learn at a faster pace, apply what is being learned to the world, and make connections to the community. While other districts discontinued their gifted services during the pandemic, BHM remains dedicated to providing this important programming.

The Quest program for students in grades 2-5 is located in Parkside Elementary in Buffalo. Transportation to Parkside Elementary is available for all qualifying, in-district students. Middle school and high school students attend programming in their regular building.

Families of students currently in grades 1-8 who feel their child may benefit from this type of environment are invited to apply for the program for the 2022-2023 school year. All materials are due by Thursday, January 27. Siblings of Quest students may also choose to make Parkside Elementary their family school by open enrolling to Parkside.

For more information about the Quest program visit bhmschools.org/quest-program. Contact Rob Nosbush, high potential services coordinator, at rnosbush@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8766 with additional questions.

District decreases property tax levy for coming year

On December 13, the BHM School Board approved the tax levy for 2021 payable 2022. The approved tax levy represents a 2.21% decrease from the previous year. This means that assuming no change in property value, the average residential homeowner in BHM will see a reduction in the school portion of their property taxes of \$63 for the 2022 tax year.

"Our decrease this year is largely due to lower enrollment-based revenue, changes in aid, and increases in debt service," said Ryan Tangen, director of finance and operations. "As a result, most individual taxpayers will see some form of decrease in the school portion of their property taxes unless their property value increased more than the average property value increase within the district."

As Tangen said, the decreased levy is primarily the result of increases in local property values — as assessed by Hennepin and Wright counties — and fewer students enrolled in the district. With regard to the former, residential

property values increased with the district last year. As for enrollment, BHM, like most Minnesota school districts, saw declining enrollment in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 and related factors.

The district's total levy of \$19.7 million is assigned in different amounts to three funds: general fund, community education and debt services. Local property taxes contribute approximately 17% of BHM's revenue annually. About 77% of annual funding comes from state sources, with three percent each coming from Federal and other sources. School districts are required to set their annual tax levies in December. However, unlike cities and counties, school district budgets operate from July 1 to June 30, and therefore the district's annual budget for 2022-2023 will not be approved until June.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 17 & 28

No School

January 25

Northwinds Family Fitness Night

February

Black History Month

I Love to Read Month

February 8

One-Act Public Performance

February 12

Winter Drumline Home Show

More:

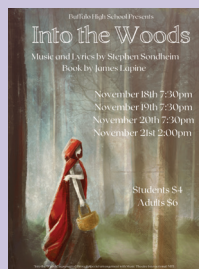
bhmschools.org/district-calendar

Early Childhood Screening

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 763-682-8780.

Proud Of....

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



BHS Cast and Crew of *Into the Woods* who received an "Outstanding" rating from the Hennepin Theatre Trust. With this rating, they have earned the opportunity to participate in various theater workshops and will perform a five minute medley of the show in the June Showcase at the State Theater in Minneapolis.

Educational Support Staff Honorees. Pictured left to right:

- Supt. Scott Thielman
- Anais Bersie (PES KidKare)
- Char VenBergen (BCMS ESP)
- Dana Brainerd (HES Secretary)
- Betty LaRouque (District Print Shop Operator)



Char VanBergen
Education
Minnesota 2021-
ESP of the Year
nominee



Rachel Lawrence
National Merit
Commended Scholar

Ready Set Grow and Spring Into Preschool 2022-23 registration opens online February 15



ECFE Preschool (Ready Set Grow and Spring Into Preschool classes) is a 9 month/28-30 week preschool experience for children ages 2.5-5 years to nurture social and skill development. Classes meet 1-5 days/week and include circle time, music, art, large and fine motor experiences, and free choice time. Our teachers use research-based curriculum to prepare and assess the growth and development of students. Children will participate in experiences that focus on language development, math and science skills, and social emotional learning.

Ready Set Grow Preschool features:

- Taught by MN Licensed Teachers with an assistant in each classroom.

- Low class ratios:
 - 1:9 for 3-5 year old groups of 19 children
 - 1:7 for 3-4 year old groups of 18 children
 - 1:9 for 3.5-5 year old or 4-5 year old groups of 20 children
- Our preschool classes are integrated with Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Community Education staff, partnering to create an age-appropriate experience for children of all abilities.
- Teachers use Creative Curriculum and assess children with the Teaching Strategies Gold system.
- Teachers use the Pyramid Model

strategies to support social emotional skills in our preschool classrooms.

- Parent involvement is both encouraged and supported, as parents and children prepare for the formal school experience.
- Pathway I & II scholarships or School Readiness assistance provided for low income families.
- Ready Set Grow and Spring Into Preschool are Parent Aware 4 Star rated by the Minnesota Department of Education.

Questions? Call Barbara Eckberg at 763.682.8753 or visit bhmschools.org/preschool-classes.

Parkside Elementary

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Elementary Quest Program. Quest serves highly gifted students who are identified by teachers and parents in grades 2-5. Students participate in accelerated math, engineering, problem solving and more while still participating in school-wide activities.

The building is also home to a substantial site-based special education program with a classroom dedicated to students from across the district who have significant autism spectrum needs, providing them with the additional support they need. These students are welcomed into the broader Parkside community, participating in building programs like art and music in an environment that allows them to thrive.

"We are incredibly proud of our school and really want every student to be able to succeed, starting right away in kindergarten with tools that



they will need for middle school and beyond," said Miller.

What is next for Parkside?

Miller is excited that there is more to come at Parkside, with even more improvements happening as a result of the beautification process. The hallways will get an upgrade with new "Parkside Blue" lockers set to be installed in the spring along with the completion of the outdoor learning space.

In addition, staff have been working together to create a school-wide

vision statement to guide their work for years to come. Staff have been working through a process to decide what Parkside wants to be known for while getting inspiration from other vision statements. Through an inclusive process, the team has identified two possible vision statements, one of which will become the guiding principle of Parkside Elementary for decades to come.

The two options currently being considered are:

- Parkside Elementary: Inclusive to all. Engaged in learning. Inspiring future success.
- Parkside Elementary: Inspire. Connect. Grow.

"We want to be a school where everybody belongs, where kids are excited to come here and learn, and to incorporate fun so they really want to be here," she said. "Our district-wide elementary program is so strong and we all work really well together. This is really a fantastic place to be."

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District Calendar 2022-23

| S M T W T F S | S M T W T F S | S M T W T F S |
|--|---|--|
| August/September 28 (29) (30) (31) (1) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | October 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 (19) 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | November 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (11) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |
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| June 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (9) 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | () = Teacher Workshop/No School 174 Student Days Terms 45-43-43-43 = No School/Holiday | |

Important Dates

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Aug. 29-Sept. 1 | Teacher Workshop Days | February 20 | President's Day - No School K-12 |
| September 5 | Labor Day - No School K-12 | March 31 | Teacher Workshop |
| September 6 | 1 st Day of School | | No School K-12 |
| October 19 | Teacher Workshop - No School K-12 | | End of 3 rd Term |
| October 20-21 | Fall Break - No School K-12 | April 3-7 | Spring Break - No School K-12 |
| November 11 | Teacher Workshop | May 29 | Memorial Day - No School K-12 |
| | No School K-12 | June 8 | Last Day of School |
| | End of 1 st Term | June 9 | Commencement |
| November 23-25 | Thanksgiving Break - No School K-12 | | Teacher Workshop |
| Dec. 23-Jan. 2 | Winter Break - No School K-12 | | End of 4 th Term |
| January 16 | Martin L. King Jr. Day - No School K-12 | | |
| January 27 | Teacher Workshop | | |
| | No School K-12 | | |
| | End of 2 nd Term | | |

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District Calendar 2023-24

| S M T W T F S | S M T W T F S | S M T W T F S |
|--|---|---|
| August/September 27 (28) (29) (30) (31) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | October 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 (18) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | November 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (10) 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |
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| June 1 2 3 4 5 6 (7) 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | () = Teacher Workshop/No School = No School/Holiday | |

174 Student Days
 Quarters 45-44-43-43
 Trimesters 58-59-57

Important Dates

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aug. 28-31 | Teacher Workshop Days | January 26 | Teacher Workshop - No School K-8 |
| September 4 | Labor Day - No School K-12 | | End of 2nd Quarter |
| September 5 | 1 st Day of School | February 19 | President's Day - No School K-12 |
| October 18 | Teacher Workshop | March 8 | Teacher Workshop - No School 9-12 |
| | No School K-12 | | End of 2nd Trimester |
| October 19-20 | Fall Break - No School K-12 | March 29 | Teacher Workshop |
| November 10 | Teacher Workshop | | No School K-12 |
| | No School K-8 | | End of 3 rd Term |
| | End of 1 st Quarter | April 1-5 | Spring Break - No School K-12 |
| November 22-24 | Thanksgiving Break - No School K-12 | May 27 | Memorial Day - No School K-12 |
| December 4 | Teacher Workshop - No School 9-12 | June 6 | Last Day of School |
| | End of 1st Trimester | June 7 | Commencement |
| Dec. 22-Jan. 1 | Winter Break - No School K-12 | | Teacher Workshop |
| January 15 | Martin L. King Jr. Day | | End of 4 th Quarter |
| | No School K-12 | | End of 3rd Trimester |

Schedule change approved for Buffalo High School beginning Fall 2023



Following comprehensive research and work by the BHS Scheduling Task Force and staff, the BHM School Board has officially approved moving forward with the recommendation of changing the high school schedule to a Five Block/ Three Trimester schedule that will be implemented in the fall of 2023. The new schedule will increase teacher time in the classroom resulting in smaller class sizes and more opportunities for interventions for students who need extra support while continuing to provide opportunities for electives and student choice.

"While the block schedule served us well for the past 25 years, we found several areas where some students were not getting the most of what we could offer," says Director of Teaching and Learning Pam Miller. "If we want all of our students to be college and career ready, the schedule itself was an area that we needed to take a look at."

In February 2021, a BHS Scheduling Task Force of 18 staff members began working with administration to establish the top priorities for the high school and the best schedule option to address those priorities. The top three priorities were class size, intervention and teacher efficiency, and students having more opportunities for electives and student choice.

The Task Force reviewed several different schedule options and ultimately recommended a trimester schedule with five blocks of 62 minutes each during the day. Core courses will occur in at least two trimester terms, with the option for some courses to be offered over all three trimesters. This option had the best combination for teacher efficiency, teachers available, and lowest class size.

"We looked at this from a lot of different angles and it is ultimately an exercise in mathematics," said BHS Principal Mark Mischke. "Teachers are currently teaching for 75% of their day. With this new schedule they will now be able to spend around 80% of their day teaching while still having adequate prep time and being available for scheduled and intentional interventions with students who are struggling. The schedule allows us to make great improvements for our students without additional funding."

The new schedule will allow BHS to continue to provide enrichments, student choice and acceleration opportunities for students at all levels. Other key benefits of the trimester schedule option are the ability to slow the pacing of courses, and guaranteeing teacher one-on-one time with students as needed. Additionally, there is more consistency from day-to-day for classes, allowing teachers to be able to better prepare lessons and support students.

"Ultimately, we want more time where teachers are in front of students where they are continuing to focus on what they do best, which is to teach and build relationships in their classrooms."

- Mark Mischke, principal

In order to allow for course modifications, preparation and curriculum updating, the schedule will not be implemented until the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers will audit their courses over the next year to adjust the pacing of instruction and prepare for the new schedule.

"Ultimately, we want more time where teachers are in front of students where they are continuing to focus on what they do best, which is to teach and build relationships in their classrooms," Mischke said. "We always tell students when they start at BHS that our goal is to have the school be a better place when they graduate than when they started. This change will help our school continue to take the next steps in being the best high school in the state."



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2022-23 Discovery Elementary lottery is February 8



Applications are now being accepted for Discovery Elementary, an exciting lottery-based school option in BHM where students build character and find meaningful learning opportunities that help them consistently perform above state averages. Multi-age instruction at Discovery emphasizes personalized learning, creativity and critical thinking, while instructional looping (having teachers move with students to additional grade levels) allows students to form long-term, positive relationships with teachers.

Discovery Elementary serves 250 students in

a welcoming, small-school environment, and is a validated Minnesota School of Excellence.

Letters and application forms for Discovery Elementary School enrollment will be mailed out in January to all families who are registered with the district as having a child eligible for kindergarten next fall. If you did not receive this information, you may contact the Discovery office at 763-682-8400.

Discovery Elementary does not have an attendance area and therefore uses a lottery process for student enrollment. Any family in the BHM School District may apply to Discovery Elementary. See important dates for application at right for more information, including an informational presentation that will feature an overview of the school as well as more on the school's curriculum, philosophy and instructional techniques.

If you have any questions about Discovery Elementary or would like a tour of the school, please contact Dr. Nelson, principal, at 763-682-8426.

Important Dates



Applications mailed to all registered incoming kindergarten families



Informational Presentation at Discovery Elementary by Principal Dr. Mathew Nelson



Application deadline by 3:00 p.m.



Lottery held

All families who applied will receive a notification of the lottery results via postal mail, whether they were selected in the lottery or not.