



## It's a New School Year!



The 2022-23 school year is here and students have been hard at work in every grade level truly showing what it means to dream, believe and achieve in all aspects of their school day! Here's a look at what the first days of school looked like across our district.



## Welcome New Teachers to BHM Schools



### Row 1 (L to R):

Teague Shaw, NES/MES; Pat Milani, BHS; Amanda Bicknell, BHS; Kinsey Mens, BHS; Abbi Brown, BCMS; Amber Sedbrook, BHS; Leslie Anderson, BHS; Lindsay Wurm; Justine Lee, DES and Joanne Jarvis, PES.

### Row 2 (L to R):

Jacob Wilts, BHS; Cassandra Olson, TESS; Jocelyn Woytcke, BHS; Megan Martin, BCMS; Celest Trosvig, BHS; Greg Amundson, BHS; Cameron Brunsvold, MESI; Erin Megna, NES/TESS and Sarah LaPointe, ECFE.

### Row 3 (L to R):

Kara Radke, BHS/PLC; Hanna Ollhoff, MESI; Emma Maas, MESI; Samantha Telega, DW; Kendra Hartigan, DW; Nancy Jo Aldrich, BCMS; Rachel Johnson, MESI; Kelli Barth, BHS and Sarah Haas, PES.

### Row 4 (L to R):

Hannah Braasch, MESI; Ryan Petersen, NES; Chris McCurry, TESS; Erin Dickie, TESS; Erin Gaffaney, BCMS; Emily Lindstrom, TESS; Anna Todd, TESS and Noelle Neubauer, TESS.

### Row 5 (L to R):

Nicole Tuchscherer, ECFE; Allison Brown, TESS; Jennifer Schachenmeyer, TESS; Tandrell Foster Jr., BHS; Kylee Zumach, BHS; Emily Natrop, DW; Danielle Stein, ECFE; and Ashley Feehan-Kapsner, TESS.

### Not pictured:

Kristin Peterson, TESS; Breanna Thompson, NES





## Starting the 2022-23 School Year Focused on Student Success

The school year is off to a great start in BHM schools! We are excited to be building on a strong foundation of providing students with a safe and supportive learning environment full of unique opportunities to connect with

them and allow them to dream, believe and achieve in and out of the classroom.

Our district continues to explore a variety of ways to provide students and their families with a 21st century learning experience that challenges, adapts, and constantly improves. There are excellent choices here including STEM and STEAM magnet schools, programs for gifted students, support for special education, career-focused programming, college credits in the high school classrooms and much more. Not every student learns the same way, and BHM Schools is a leader in providing individualized instruction and personalized learning with small class sizes.

## Establishing an Encouraging Environment

We are thrilled to welcome a wonderful group of new teachers to the district this year who have excellent backgrounds and a passion to help students achieve their goals. Continued professional development is important to us, which is why we have implemented early release Fridays monthly throughout the school year. This time will allow our staff to dive deeper and expand their abilities and will benefit our veteran staff and new teachers alike.



Additionally, our buildings received some updates over the summer as part of our commitment to maintaining our facilities. Updates included wall repairs, flooring and casework, asphalt and concrete projects, painting and more. One of the larger projects took place at Montrose Elementary School of Innovation where existing spaces were transformed into a new classroom and some special education spaces, allowing teachers to have individual classrooms and new ways to best serve students. Each one of our schools provides a welcoming environment for our students and sets the tone for being ready to learn.

## Providing Impactful Opportunities

It is always our goal to provide meaningful learning experiences for our students. A great example of this took place this summer where our summer programs went above and beyond the usual structure, using funding provided by the federal and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) program. Funds were used to provide credit recovery options that were paired with field trips and making connections with the community. A history class focused on conflicts and heroes and visited Fort Snelling and the Minnesota Military Museum, while a science course focused on food science, visited local farms and used locally grown food products in the classroom.

Funds were also used to add additional Community Education programming, classroom support, smaller class sizes in remedial reading and math classes, and an onsite behavior specialist. As outlined in our ESSER plans, we found ways to increase support for social and emotional learning including a course at BHS focused on increasing self-awareness, academic achievement, career exploration, and positive behavior with field trips and team building built into the curriculum. Sixth graders got to take part in a three-day trip to see historic sites around the state including the Hinckley Fire Museum, Split Rock Lighthouse, Wolf Ridge Environmental Center and more. These experiences opened our students up to new experiences that connected them to their community.

Teachers will continue to find ways to use hands-on learning in the classroom and create connections for our students using technology, problem solving and social and emotional support. As we become further removed from the pandemic, we continue to see a need to support our students as they deal with a variety of challenges. We know that one way we can help is by continuing our priority to keep class sizes low to increase time with teachers and support professionals.

## Making Meaningful Connections

We have the building blocks in place for a memorable and meaningful school year. Our first days of school were designed to give students a little extra time to settle in, and we saw some amazing things with our elementary students and teachers as they had time to connect with one another and learn daily routines. A secondary highlight was the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) assembly at Buffalo Community Middle School where incoming sixth graders are welcomed by older students and staff through an exciting program. The smiles on the faces of students and the participation of everyone being so determined to kick off the year right was inspiring and set a strong tone for the year. We will keep that momentum going in all that we do to make sure that our district continues to be the place where we can all **dream, believe and achieve**.

# VOTE NOVEMBER 8



**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
to visit the full candidate  
feature with additional  
questions!

The 2022 General Election takes place on November 8 with many important representatives being decided by voters. There are three open seats on the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School Board with seven candidates including one incumbent member running for re-election. The top three candidates will serve a four-year term guiding the direction of our school district.

In order to allow all voters to make educated decisions at the polls, the district has provided the following overview of the candidates below where each candidate was asked to answer several questions. Candidates are featured in alphabetical order and you can find the full interviews at [bhmschools.org/2022-school-board-candidates](https://bhmschools.org/2022-school-board-candidates).

(\* Denotes Incumbent)



**BARRETT CHRISSIS**

Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Police Detective and  
Substitute Teacher

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

Service to others has been my life and I love our school district. I was lucky to have been adopted from a Duluth orphanage by a combat-wounded WWII veteran who taught me a lot about public service. On my days off from police work, I've had the privilege these past five years to substitute teach K-12 for our district and it's been a total joy. I also taught percussion for BHM Schools' Community Education Program for 10 years. I believe my unique background of experience and education will ensure that I support, promote and enhance our district's mission.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

I will bring decades of various board experience including the MN Children's Justice Act Task Force and the MN Police & Peace Officers Association. Also, evidence-based public policy analysis and leadership from a Master's of Public Affairs Degree awarded by the University of Minnesota. Also, I will bring listening, communication and relationship building skills from over three decades of law enforcement experience. Finally, a background in education, having developed curriculum and trained law enforcement and other disciplines statewide plus five years of substitute teaching for our district.



**ANGIE GREIG**

Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Physical Therapist Assistant

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

I want to represent the parents of this community. I want transparency and accountability for academics.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

I am a think outside the box type of person and I feel I can step back and assess a policy from several different angles. This is how I work and why I am one of the best at what I do. Thinking outside the box allows a person to assess an entire situation in all aspects.



**BRAD ELO**  
Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Executive for a large software company

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

It's about our community's kids, first, foremost, and always. I am a product of the school system I seek to serve. I am a member of our community. I am running to serve, support, and strengthen our school community - for ALL. There are people who seek to use school board membership as a platform to advance a radical agenda – my manifesto is to ensure that our children's schools are the best they can be. Partisan tomfoolery has no place in our schools.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

My strengths are creativity, energy and passion for innovation, and creating partnerships of goodwill and respectful engagement. I believe these attributes will serve our children, the school, and the team of people it takes to be successful. I bring practical real-world experience, the capability to thoughtfully navigate change, and to deliberate on all points of view to make the best possible decision.



**MATT HOFFMAN**  
Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Pediatrician at Stellis Health Buffalo

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

I think that our schools and teachers are doing a great job and I want to do what I can to support them to continue that work. Moving a child from a Kindergarten to a responsible, respectful, successful adult is a huge task, requiring the cooperation of many people. The most important thing most of us will do in our lives is help the next generations make this world a better place than it is. In my career, my goal has always been to help my patients and their parents achieve this. Being on the BHM school board would provide an opportunity to do this in a different way.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

Being a pediatrician, I have learned how to attentively listen and cooperatively solve problems and issues. I believe that also gives me a unique and useful perspective on students and the problems they face, along with the needs they have for success in life. I am a level-headed person who believes respect, common sense and hard work are important attributes for us to have as board members and to instill in our children.



**BOB SANSEVERE\***  
Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Broadcaster

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

I joined the board in 2016, replacing someone who moved out of the district. It has been a wonderful experience. I spent eight years on the Orono City Council and have found my six years on the school board even more rewarding. As a city council member, you often make decisions about whether someone's fence is too high or if they can build an out building. As a school board member, everything, every decision, is about what is best for our children.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

Experience, as the lone incumbent, and a passion to serve my community. When I was younger, like many other idealistic young people, I wanted to do something to change the world. As I got older, I realized the importance of having an impact in your own little corner of the world. That is the reason my wife and I did foster care for 16 years, the reason I spent eight years on the Orono City Council, the reason I have been on the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose school board since 2016, the reason I joined the Buffalo Rodeo board of directors, and the reason my wife and I started Enchanted Hollow Foundation, whose mission is to support and care for vulnerable horses as well as offer camp and riding scholarships to children and people of all ages with special needs. I care about community. I care about kids.



**SHEILA SMUDE**

Buffalo

**Occupation:**

Educator

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

I am an educator, mom and citizen who is passionate about her community and taking an active role in making it flourish. I have always been a fierce public school advocate and believe strong schools make a strong community. My passion for education and love for this district made running for school board an obvious choice. With my own children having many more years of schooling at BHM and hopefully my grandchildren too, I knew now was the right time to run to help ensure District #877 is strong now and into the future. My goal as a school board member is to be a positive voice for ALL students and make sure they have every opportunity to get a well-rounded, high-quality education so they are ready to take on the world!

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

As an educator, I have a unique perspective to bring to the school board. Along with full-time classroom teaching experience, I have also been a District #877 Summer School teacher and served on the district's Community Teaching and Learning Council. I have held numerous leadership roles throughout my lifetime that have shaped me into a creative collaborator and clear communicator. I am a genuine team-player, life-long learner, active listener, and detail-oriented go-getter. I am committed to serving with integrity, diligence and transparency so our staff and students can excel!



**TIM ZBARACKI**

Hanover

**Occupation:**

Veterans Service Representative

**Why do you want to serve on the BHM School Board?**

I want to serve on the BHM School Board because I care about the quality of education for our children.

**What qualities will you bring to the school board if elected?**

I led diverse groups of professionals while serving my country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Through compassion, loyalty, integrity and dedication, I was able to produce results and foster relationships that ensured troops made it safely back home. I learned the true meaning of service while overseas and I will continue to provide that level of leadership while serving on the BHM School Board.

**Proud Of...**

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



BHS Boys 4x800 Relay Team of Owen Herbst, Jadon Boots, Wesley Wistrom and Jared Gregoire who placed 1st in the Class AAA State Track and Field Meet.



Jared Gregoire who placed 1st in the 800-meter Class AAA State Championship.



214 1st Ave NE | Buffalo, MN 55313  
 www.bhmschools.org  
 763-682-8700

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Twin Cities, MN  
 Permit No. 32324

# INSIDER

Oct/Nov 2022

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Vol. 49 No. 1



## SCHOOL BOARD

- Melissa Brings.....Chairperson
- Sue Lee.....Vice Chairperson
- Bob Sansevere.....Clerk
- Ken Ogden.....Treasurer
- Adam Bjorklund.....Director
- Amanda Lawrence.....Director
- Amanda Reineck.....Director
- Scott Thielman.....Superintendent
- Erica Kyllonen.....Student Representative



## Upcoming Events



**BHS Tri-M Talent Show**  
 7:30 p.m.



**Early Release Day**  
 12:25 p.m. Elementary  
 1:25 p.m. BCMS/BHS/PRIDE



**BHS Veterans Day Swing Dance featuring BHS Jazz I Band**  
 7-8:30 p.m.



**BHS Fall Musical - "Footloose"**  
 November 17-19 at 7:30 p.m.  
 November 20 at 2 p.m.



## WE ARE HIRING!

Join our team to help our students dream, believe and achieve!

We currently have openings for:

- Support staff
- Custodians
- Substitutes

Visit [bhmschools.org/job-opportunities](http://bhmschools.org/job-opportunities) to apply.

Vision Transportation is hiring bus drivers. Call 763-682-3232 to apply!

