



**Buffalo  
High School**

**BHM SCHOOLS**

**Buffalo High School**

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



# Welcome to Buffalo High School!

Buffalo High School is one of Minnesota's top schools, with more than 1,850 students in grades 9–12 who outpace state averages in every way. BHS inspires tomorrow's leaders through challenging academics, abundant extracurricular choices and a caring atmosphere.

## 93%

of students say  
BHS has prepared  
them well  
for the future.

At BHS, we understand the power of big *dreams*, the importance of *believing* in yourself and the support it takes to *achieve* challenging goals. BHS students learn early that the motto to “be nice, be proud, work hard and model behavior” is genuinely ingrained throughout the school.

### We Work Hard.

BHS students dedicate themselves to excellence in and out of the classroom. High expectations and supportive relationships with teachers promote achievement and success for life after high school. In fact, 93% of students say BHS has prepared them well for the future (compared to 51% of high school students nationally) through programs such as the Arts Magnet, AVID (college and career readiness), Advanced Placement and College in the Schools classes, and the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, which offers students nearly 40 tuition-free, college-level classes at BHS.

### We are Nice.

Students must feel safe, respected and included to learn. At BHS, 91% of our students say the school is friendly and welcoming (compared to 61% nationally). Not only do students feel supported by staff, but 84% of our students say that they feel supported by other students (compared to 38% nationally). A culture of collaboration is infused throughout the school. One of our recent graduating classes said it best when they chose this African proverb as their class motto: “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together!”

### We are Proud.

Our school pride is on display everywhere, from our outstanding academic success to our state-of-the-art athletic facilities to our award-winning music and theater performances. Our students are proud to attend BHS: 90% of them say if they had a choice, they would continue to attend BHS (compared to 64% nationally).

### We Model Positive Behavior.

Modeling positive behavior is an important skill for our students and staff. Nearly all (92%) of BHS students say they have a positive staff role model. Our students build positive relationships in many ways, including mentoring students with special needs in and outside of school and assisting with the annual Impact Retreat to help incoming freshmen make a smooth transition to BHS.





# Buffalo High School Stands Out from the Herd

## Abundant Choices that Promote a Personalized Educational Experience

An amazing array of classes at BHS distinguishes us from other districts in the area. Is English your passion? You can choose from many literature classes, journalism, short story writing, college prep writing, playwriting and more. Is science up your alley? We offer a variety of classes in biology, anatomy, wildlife, astronomy, physics, chemistry and biotechnology. Do you like to work with your hands? You can check out metalworking, woodworking, computer aided drafting, robotics, jewelry making, ceramics and numerous other hands-on classes. In world languages, BHS students can choose to study French, German or Spanish and earn college credit in levels 4 or 5 through a concurrent enrollment partnership with the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

## Experienced, Engaged and Caring Staff

Our dedicated staff build personal relationships with students and take pride in helping them achieve their educational goals and realize their dreams. That's why 92% of our students say they have a teacher they can go to with a problem (compared to only 51% nationally.) Our BHS staff is highly qualified in their subject areas, with more than 65% of them holding a master's degree.

## A Caring Culture

BHS is an active participant in the **Bounce Back Project**, a community-wide initiative that promotes health through happiness. Annually, students and staff are encouraged to write down three good things daily, perform random acts



of kindness, and write gratitude letters. Recently, students, staff and community leaders had the opportunity to jointly read and discuss Brené Brown's book *Daring Greatly*. Participants are taking the conversation to the next level by taking part in discussions and training on how to create a more resilient, courageous school and community culture.

## A Daily Schedule that Benefits Students

BHS uses a daily block schedule that builds a more effective learning environment and the opportunity to form deeper relationships between students and teachers. Students take four 80-minute classes per day that can change each term. This allows for students to take more classes over the course of the year and to make the most of their high school experience. Each day ends with a structured 20-minute period where students can get individual help from a teacher, work on homework, make up tests or participate in an enriched class.

## A Later School Start Time

To create a better learning environment for teens, we have changed our school start time to 8:50 a.m. This decision was made after several years of research by district and school administration. Studies from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and from around the country showed that later school start times for secondary students had a significant, positive impact on attendance, behavior and overall academic success.

View a full list of our course offerings at [bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high](http://bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high) under Student Services. You'll be amazed and inspired!



## The BHS Arts Magnet Program

This unique program promotes academic excellence through artistic inquiry and motivates students who are interested in visual, performing, literary, media and applied arts. Through partnerships in the community, students also interact with professional, working artists and arts organizations to enrich and expand learning. The program is open to any student at BHS and in the Northwest Suburban Integration School District (membership of seven districts). Infusing the arts across the academic disciplines supports academic achievement, creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

Learn more at [bhmschools.org/schools/bhs-magnet](http://bhmschools.org/schools/bhs-magnet)

"I was able to pursue my interest and passion for the arts without sacrificing my high school experience. I share my love of the arts with a love for math and science. I was able to take CIS courses in addition to my arts magnet course work and all my credits are transferring to St. Olaf. The Arts Magnet program has helped me approach math and science from a different point of view, giving me a unique perspective when problem solving."

—Jonah S., 2017 BHS Arts Magnet graduate, attending St. Olaf College (pictured above left)



## A Wealth of Extracurricular Activities

Research shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities have higher grade point averages and do better in college. At BHS, we offer a wealth of opportunities for growth and enrichment through athletics, student government, performance groups, publications, honor societies and special interest groups. Almost 70% of our students are involved in an extracurricular activity annually.

### Activity Highlights

- One-Act Play has made 11 state appearances in the last 20 years including 7 starred performances (highest possible honor).
- The Knowledge Bowl Team was a state participant in 15 of the last 17 years and won a state championship in 2014.
- The Mock Trial Team has won the conference title 6 of the last 10 years.
- The BHS newspaper and yearbook have been national Pacemaker Award winners.
- Our FFA program has advanced 74 teams to state level competitions in the last 10 years.
- Our concert choir and concert band have been selected to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Convention, which is similar to winning a state championship. In addition, we have had 84 all-state musicians over the last 10 years.

### Athletic Highlights

- Our sports teams have won 59 conference titles in the last 10 years and have made 18 state tournament appearances.
- Girls softball made 3 state tournament appearances in 2015-17 and was a state runner-up in 2016.
- Girls golf has won 13 straight conference championships and was a state runner-up in 2015.



Photos above: Calista Susa  
Photo right: Dave Casey



Photo: Calista Susa



Photo: Calista Susa



Photo: Alyssa Pachan



## Extracurricular Clubs & Activities

BHS Singers  
Bowling  
Business Professionals of America  
Chamber Strings  
Class Cabinets (9-12)  
Clay Target (Trapshooting)  
Competitive Cheerleading  
Culinary Team  
Drumline  
Educators Rising  
FFA  
Hoofprint Publications  
Impact Leaders  
International Club  
Jazz Band  
Knowledge Bowl  
Mock Trial  
Music Listening Team  
National Honor Society  
Pegasus Literary Arts Magazine  
Robotics  
Sideline Cheerleading  
Student Care Committee  
Student Council  
Students Stepping Up  
The HERD Marching Band  
Tatanka Yearbook  
Theatre  
– One-Act Play  
– Multi-Act Play  
– Musical  
Weightlifting

## Boys and Girls Athletics

Adapted Athletics  
Baseball  
Basketball—Boys & Girls  
Cross Country—Boys & Girls  
Dance Team  
Football  
Golf—Boys & Girls  
Gymnastics  
Hockey—Boys & Girls  
Lacrosse—Boys & Girls  
Soccer—Boys & Girls  
Softball  
Swimming/Diving—Boys & Girls  
Tennis—Boys & Girls  
Track & Field—Boys & Girls  
Volleyball  
Wrestling





# Our Students Earn College Credit and Prepare for Careers Before They Graduate

BHS is one of the leading high schools in the state when it comes to offering all students a wide variety of college and career options. We outline a path for our students early in their high school career and help them plan for their future through a unique set of concurrent enrollment classes that align with the **Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC)**. This organized approach helps families make wise choices from the moment their student starts high school.

By partnering with both four-year colleges and two-year community and technical colleges, we have greatly expanded the number and variety of classes that align with the MnTC. Currently, more than 75% of BHS students qualify to choose from nearly 40 college-level, tuition-free classes, including career-focused subjects such as agriculture, business and technical education. Without leaving the building, students earn both traditional and technical college credits to help them graduate from BHS both college- and career-ready.

## BHS Partners:

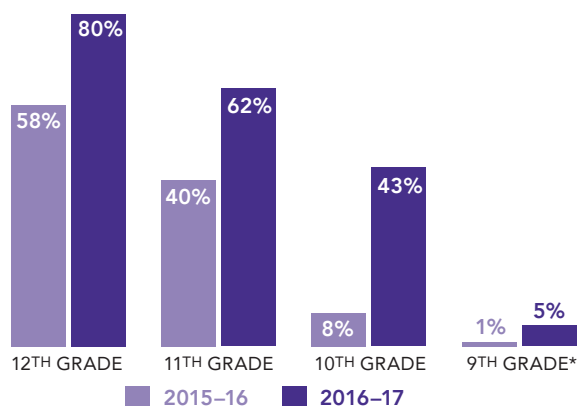
- Hennepin Technical College
- North Hennepin Community College
- St. Cloud State University
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities

The MnTC is a planning tool used to assist students in organizing their general education college credits. The concurrent enrollment options aligned with the MnTC both reduce college debt and promote a college-going climate for all students. BHS teachers are trained and credentialed to teach these college courses, offering our students a supportive environment while they experience the rigor of college. Students can earn from 1 to 5 college credits per course that will transfer to any Minnesota State college or university, and to many other schools in and out of the state. **For more information visit [mntransfer.org](http://mntransfer.org).**

## Advanced Placement

BHS offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes in Calculus A/B, Calculus B/C, Music Theory and Computer Science A. AP classes help students gain the skills and study habits they need to be successful in college. Students can earn college credit, which is nationally recognized and accepted by taking a standardized AP test in the subject area. The test score and the accepting college institution determine the number of credits a student can earn.

More  
BHS students  
are taking  
college-level  
classes



\*Colleges rarely allow 9th grade students in their classes.

In 2016-17,  
students earned  
more than 6,100  
college credits,  
saving families nearly  
**\$1.8 MILLION!**

"CIS classes at BHS really prepared my kids for college. The classes eliminated many of their general education requirements for college and are allowing them to get through college quicker. It's been a great financial savings."

—Leanne Miller, parent  
of 2014 and 2016 BHS graduates

"I earned 36 credits through CIS courses at BHS and because they all transferred, I was able to register for classes earlier than the other freshmen and have a better selection of courses. The extracurricular opportunities along with the CIS courses really prepared me for the demands of college and helped me develop good time management skills."

—Allie P., 2016 BHS graduate,  
attending the University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

# An Alternative High School Experience



## Phoenix Learning Center

Phoenix Learning Center serves students who thrive in an alternative high school setting. Recognizing there are many pathways for a student to succeed, staff offer personalized learning options in a family-like setting. Small class sizes support that individualized focus, where students develop the skills to be responsible for their own learning plan. Phoenix Learning Center instills confidence and reinforces gratitude and joy in daily life as students work to earn their diploma.

**"The teachers at Phoenix really personalized my education and showed me the steps that worked just for me. The staff and students are very supportive. This school has really brought me out of my shell. Phoenix has made my life less stressful, and I'm really glad to be here."**

—Dakota S., PLC student (pictured above right)



Learn more at  
[bhmschools.org/  
schools/phoenix](http://bhmschools.org/schools/phoenix)

800 8th St. NE,  
Buffalo, MN 55313  
763.682.8680

# We're Here to Make High School an Excellent Experience!

## Student Services

We offer many services for students including academic support, exploration and planning for college and careers, and assistance during personal and social challenges. Our BHS counselors are here to help students navigate their educational path and prepare them for life beyond high school. **Connect with one of our counselors by contacting our Student Services Office at 763.682.8067.**

## Visit Us and Enroll

There's no better way to understand all BHS has to offer than coming for a visit. For more information about BHS, to arrange a tour or to obtain enrollment information, contact our Student Services Office at 763.682.8067. **You can find our full listing of course offerings, college and career planning tools and enrollment information online under Student Services at [bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high](http://bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high).**



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877 Bison Boulevard  
Buffalo, MN 55313  
763.682.8100  
[bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high](http://bhmschools.org/schools/buffalo-high)  
Principal: Mark Mischke

## School Start & Dismissal Times

8:50 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

