

Bison Blast – August 2025

Buffalo Community Middle School

1300 Highway 25 North, Buffalo, MN 55313 | Website: www.bhmschools.org/bcms | 📞: 763-682-8200 | Fax: 763-682-8209

General Back-To-School Information:

Important Dates

- **Aug 4** – Schedules mailed home
- **Aug 25** – Open House
- **Sept 2** – First day for 6th graders (Welcome & WEB Day)
- **Sept 3** – First day for 7th and 8th graders
- **Sept 10** – Make-up day for school pictures
- **Oct 9 & 13** – Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

School Hours:

- **Starting August 11**, BCMS will be open Monday–Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for **binder and lock sales only. Please enter through Door 3.**

New Teaching Staff

- Troy Hanson – Technology Education Teacher
- Jessica Jenema – Vocal Music
- Jayleigh Mateuszczuk – Social Studies
- Austin Willey – English









Why School Matters

Middle school prepares you for high school, graduation, and beyond. Assessments show what you're ready to learn. Doing your best now helps prevent unnecessary support classes or extra testing later.

BCMS Activities

- For questions, contact Kelley Jaszewski at 763-682-8201. Activity and athletics info is also available on the BCMS website.
- You can register through the Campus Portal once your sports physical is current; schedules and updates are posted at www.mississippi8.org.

Open House/Before School Checklist:

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|  Parents: Sign up for the Parent Portal |  Purchase a Bison Binder for \$35 |  Add lunch money |  Follow your schedule and find classrooms |
|  Have your photo taken |  Purchase a school issued purple lock for \$10 |  Sign up for activities |  Update emergency contacts & Campus info |

Welcome from the BCMS Admin Team

Greetings to all BCMS students and parents!
We hope you're enjoying the final weeks of summer as you gear up for the new school year. We're excited to welcome your children back into our caring school community. Our custodial, secretarial, and teaching staff have been working hard to make sure everything is ready for your son or daughter.

Sixth graders will start school on September 2, giving them time to get comfortable with the building, meet their eighth-grade WEB mentors, practice their schedules, and learn about BCMS culture and expectations. 7th and 8th graders will return on September 3.

Every student will need a Bison Binder, which can be purchased from BCMS. This zipper binder helps build organizational skills and includes most of the required school supplies, though some classes may require additional items, such as a calculator for math. Families are also welcome to use a similar binder from home.

We look forward to seeing you at Open House on August 25!

Matt Lubben (Principal)
John Hayden (Assistant Principal/Activities Director)
Katie Gohl (Assistant Principal)

School Supplies -Bison Binder

Bison Binder packages, including all necessary supplies, are available for \$35 (cash or check to BCMS). Families may also choose to purchase similar zipper binders and supplies on their own.

School Photos

- School photos will be taken by Zahler Photography during Open House on August 25, from 3:30 to 7:30 PM.
- All students should be photographed for their ID and the yearbook.
- If you miss Open House, another photo day is scheduled for September 10.

BCMS Information to Review with Your Child:

☐ WIN Time

Twice each week, a 28-minute block allows test retakes, questions, help, or enrichment. Students sign up during Prime Time, parents can help students pick a good WIN time.

☐ Student Hours

If arriving before 8:25 AM, wait in the Mall. After school, students must leave, be with a staff member, or wait in the front office after 3:35 PM.

☐ Lockers

Lockers are school property and should be kept clean. All students must have a school locker with a school-issued lock and are expected to keep it locked at all times. Coats, backpacks and snacks should be stored inside. Please remember that the school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Riding the Bus:

- ☐ Be at your stop on time
- ☐ Keep the seats and floors clean
- ☐ Stay seated and keep the aisle open
- ☐ Share the seat and keep your hands and feet to yourself
- ☐ Be friendly and listen to the bus driver
- ☐ Ride only your assigned bus
- ☐ Use an appropriate voice level and language
- ☐ Students who do not follow these rules risk losing their bus privileges

☐ Bikes & Boards

Students may ride bikes and lock them in the racks located on three sides of the building. Skateboards, longboards, and rip sticks are not allowed on buses or in the school.

☐ Food and Beverages

Students may only have water in hallways and classrooms. If you arrive before 8:25 AM, please stay in the Mall area and finish any beverages other than plain water - such as coffee, BUBBL'R, or soda - before leaving. You may keep simple, clean snacks in your locker, but please keep your locker snacks and the floor around your locker clean. Please respect this privilege so we can continue offering it.

☐ Media Center

Students may borrow up to three books (for three weeks) or magazines (for one week). Lost or damaged items may incur a charge.

☐ Tardiness

Be in class when the bell rings. Each tardy triggers an email to parents; after the third tardy, Morning Make-Up time will be scheduled. Continued issues will lead to a follow-up with your family.

☐ Cell Phones & Devices

Helping Your Child Manage Cell Phone Use

- Set clear family rules about when and how your child uses their phone at school.
- Encourage your child to turn off their phone and keep it locked in their locker during the day; limit screen time if possible and remind them to socialize face to face during free periods.
- Talk regularly about school rules - phones aren't allowed in classrooms and students may not record others.
- Check your child's phone periodically to ensure they're using it responsibly, and teach them how to handle negative online interactions by blocking contacts, taking a break from social media, and, if necessary, involving other families or local authorities.

BCMS Cell Phone Guidelines

- Students do not need a phone in school.
- Phones and headphones may be used before 8:50 AM, during passing times and lunch, and after 3:25 PM; they must be stored in lockers during classes.
- Taking pictures or videos of students or staff is not allowed.
- Consequences for phone misuse: 1st time - teacher warning; 2nd time - phone goes to the front desk and can be picked up after school; 3rd time - referral to administration.

☐ Dress Code

Clothing must be appropriate and not disruptive. It may not advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or anything inappropriate; costumes, face paint & flags aren't allowed during the school day.

☐ School Safety

Enter through the main office; don't open locked doors for others. Visitors must check in and wear a badge. Participate seriously in all drills. Report concerns to an adult; security cameras are in use.