

# Bison Blast

Buffalo Community Middle School

BUFFALO COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 2021

## Important Dates

- ☑ August 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedules are mailed home
- ☑ Starting August 16<sup>th</sup>, BCMS Open Mon-Thurs 7 am - 3 pm
- ☑ August 23<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bison Parent Night
- ☑ August 30<sup>th</sup> Open House
- ☑ September 7<sup>th</sup> First Day of School – Welcome & WEB Day for all 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- ☑ September 8<sup>th</sup> First Day of School – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- ☑ September 15<sup>th</sup> Make-up day for School Pictures
- ☑ October 26<sup>th</sup> & November 4<sup>th</sup> Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

## Principal Lubben's Welcome and Updates

Greetings to all BCMS students and parents! We hope you are enjoying your last few weeks of summer and are gearing up for the upcoming school year. There have been so many challenges throughout this pandemic for all of us. The group we often seem to forget about during all of this has been our children. They are longing for social interaction and to get back to a more normal routine during these formative years. With masks not being required for students and staff, and less mandated restrictions on social distancing and collaboration, we are very hopeful we can give your child a better experience filled with academic and social emotional growth.

Similar to our past schedule, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will start school on September 7<sup>th</sup> and our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students start on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This gives our new students a chance to get acclimated to the building in a much smaller environment. Students will meet their 8<sup>th</sup> grade WEB mentors, go through a mock schedule, practice the lunch lines, and be exposed to the culture and expectations of a BCMS student. We are so excited for this day!

Every BCMS student will need a Bison Binder, which can be purchased at BCMS. The zipper Bison Binders are required for students as part of our organizational education, in an effort to prepare them to be college and career ready. It is helpful when we are teaching students how to organize themselves, that they all have the same starting supplies. The Bison Binder and the supplies in it, encompass the majority of our required school supplies. There are a few classes that may require some unique materials, such as calculators in math. Families may choose to purchase a similar zipper binder and the same supplies on their own, or to use a binder purchased from BCMS in the past.

We are excited to meet all of you at **Open House** on Monday evening, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will also be hosting our **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night** on Monday evening, August 23<sup>rd</sup> for the parents of our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Details for all of these events can be found in other articles in this mailing and on our BCMS website.

Thanks for all you do to support our school!



## Electronic Communication & Parent Portal

If you have not already done so, please sign up for Campus Parent Portal before school starts. In middle school, Campus Parent Portal becomes a critical communication tool between school and parents. Parent Portal will give you daily real time access to your child's grades, assignment due dates, attendance, and assessment information. The Campus phone notification system will be used as a way to send messages to families for various reasons. In order for these tools to work efficiently, we need to make sure that all parents are signed up for Parent Portal and that your contact information in the system is correct. To sign up for the Parent Portal, please stop by the Media Center during Open House or the front desk during 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night, you will need a photo ID.



Katie Gohl  
Assistant Principal

John Hayden  
Assistant Principal

Matt Lubben  
Principal

**BCMS is open Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm starting August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students may pick out their locker in the Mall Area during this time**

**Buffalo Community Middle School**

1300 Highway 25 North, Buffalo, MN 55313

<http://bcms.bhmschools.org> Phone: 763-682-8200 Fax: 763-682-8209

Matt Lubben, Principal John Hayden, Asst. Principal/Activities Director Katie Gohl, Asst. Principal

*"Doing What's Best for Kids!"*

## Dress Code for BCMS

As fashion continues to evolve, parents are asked to be observant of what their child wears to school and to assist in selecting appropriate clothing. We ask that students refrain from wearing short shorts or skirts, low cut tops, tops that show midriffs, or outfits that allow undergarments to show. Also, students may not wear clothing or accessories which display words or images advertising directly or indirectly, alcohol, tobacco, drugs or related products or which promote the use of these products or which are profane or obscene. Students whose clothing distracts from the learning environment will be asked to change. **New this year, students will be allowed to wear headwear during the school day, however eyes and ears should be visible so that it is clear students are focused on learning.** Please reference the student handbook in the back of your student's planner for our full Dress Code Policy. Thanks for your support in this area!

## BCMS Activities

Information about our programs can be obtained online through the BCMS website which is updated regularly. All students can register for activities online through the CAMPUS Portal if your child's sports physical is up-to-date. Also, athletic schedules and schedule changes can be obtained at [www.mississippi8.org](http://www.mississippi8.org). To speak to Activities Secretary Jeannie Putnam, parents may call 763-682-8201.

## Electronic Devices

Handheld devices such as cell phones and other electronic devices, along with headphones may be appropriately used before school until 8:50 AM. By 8:50 AM when the school day begins, all devices & headphones must be turned off and properly stowed away in lockers and students need to be in their first period class ready to begin. Personal devices may be used during passing times, as well as, after 3:25 PM. Teachers may allow students the use of electronic devices during instructional time. If students choose to bring a phone to school, the school is not responsible for loss, damage, or theft. If technology misuse is an issue, the student's parent may be asked to pick the item up at school and the student may lose the privilege of bringing their device to school. If students wish to contact a parent during the school day, we have phones in every classroom, so students do not necessarily need a personal device at school. Operation of all electronic devices are prohibited in bathroom and locker room areas.

## School Photos

School photos will be taken by Zahler Photography in the Mall from 3:30-7:30 pm on the night of Open House, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We request that *all* students have their pictures taken (for student ID and yearbook purposes), but there is no obligation to purchase anything. Parents will be able to approve the digital photo at the time the picture is taken. If you are uncomfortable with attending Open House in person, there will videos for you to access to hear from your child's teacher, and an additional photo day scheduled on September 8<sup>th</sup> to have your child take their picture.

## School Supplies

Once again this fall, we will be using a school-wide **Bison Binder**. All students will have the same binder which they will need to purchase through BCMS. Our hope is to teach organizational skills to all students through consistency in their classes with common language and strategies for keeping track of their school assignments and supplies. The binders and all supplies are just \$30! Cash or checks to BCMS accepted.

## Bikes and Skateboards

Students may ride bikes to school and lock them in the bike racks provided on three different sides of the building. Skateboards, longboards and rip sticks will not be allowed on school buses or in the building.

## Online Learning Option

An online learning option is now available through BHM Schools. This is not to be confused with the distance learning model provided last year. You can find more information about this program, which will be offered for K-12, at [swmetro.k12.mn.us/programs/e-learning](http://swmetro.k12.mn.us/programs/e-learning). You will register for this program through the BHM district but it will run through the SW Metro school district.

## Welcome New Staff

Macy Wurm – SPED Teacher



## Before School Checklist

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Follow your schedule         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Put money in your lunch account   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Find your classrooms         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turn in your emergency forms      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have your school photo taken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parents update your email address |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchase your locks          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sign up for the Parent Portal     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sign-up for activities       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchase Bison Binder             |

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