

# Bison Blast

Buffalo Community Middle School

BUFFALO COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 2023

## Important Dates

- ☑ August 1<sup>st</sup> Schedules are mailed home
- ☑ Starting August 14<sup>th</sup>, BCMS Open Mon-Thurs 7 am - 3 pm
- ☑ August 21<sup>st</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bison Parent Night
- ☑ August 28<sup>th</sup> Open House
- ☑ September 5<sup>th</sup> First Day of School – Welcome & WEB Day for all 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- ☑ September 6<sup>th</sup> First Day of School – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- ☑ September 13<sup>th</sup> Make-up day for School Pictures
- ☑ October 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<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 weeks of summer and are gearing up for the upcoming school year. We are so excited to welcome your children back into our loving school environment this year. We have been working alongside our wonderful custodians and secretarial staff to make sure everything is ready for the start of the school year for your son or daughter. Our talented and caring teaching staff members are busy with preparations and planning.

Similar to our past schedule, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will start school on September 5<sup>th</sup> and our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students start on September 6<sup>th</sup>. This gives our new students a chance to get acclimated to the building in a much smaller environment. 6<sup>th</sup> grade 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 28<sup>th</sup>. We will also be hosting our **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night** on Monday evening, August 21<sup>st</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 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Lockers will be assigned for all students grades 6-8 again this school year**

**This year, all students must have a locker with a school issued lock on it**

## **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

Clothing is generally acceptable for school wear as long as it follows health and safety guidelines, does not disrupt the teaching/learning process, does not create school disorder, and does not create a harassing or intimidating environment. Students may not wear clothing or accessories that display words or images directly or indirectly advertising alcohol, tobacco, drugs or related products or which promote the use of these products, or that are profane, obscene, or sexually suggestive.

In addition to clothing, students may NOT display other items or accessories that can cause a safety issue, disrupt the teaching/learning process, create school disorder, or cause a harassing or intimidating environment.

### 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 28<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 be videos for you to access to hear from your child's teacher, and an additional photo day scheduled on September 13<sup>th</sup> to have your child take their picture.

### Electronic Devices

Students do not need a cell phone in school. Students who bring a cell phone to school should note the following information: Cell phones along with headphones may be appropriately used before school until 8:50am. By 8:50am, all devices & headphones must be properly stowed away in lockers during all class periods. Personal devices may be used during passing times, lunchtime, as well as, after 3:25 PM.

**Here is our building-wide process for a student who brings a cellphone to class:**

**1st Incident:** The teacher gives the student a warning.

**2nd Incident:** The teacher gives the phone to the front desk & the student can pick it up at 3:25pm.

**3rd Incident:** If the student continues to bring a cell phone to class, the teacher will refer the student to administration where parents may then be asked to pick up the device.

### Online Learning Option

An online learning option continues to be available through BHM Schools. You can find more info 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 Teaching Staff

Caleb Quernemoen – Special Education  
Ashley Buermann – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
Jennie Lindstrom – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English  
Judy Coley – Special Education  
Mike Knutson – Instrumental Music  
Nadine Two Rivers – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Geography  
Sara Melsness – Speech  
Jamie Peterson – Social Work



### 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"/> Update student emergency contacts |
| <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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### 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 \$45! 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.

### 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.