



Speaking of the Bison...

BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- BHS Parent/Teacher conferences are Monday, February 24, 5-8p.m.
- FREE ACT Testing for BHS Juniors: April 7
- Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8.

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Mr. Mischke's Message

Like all other Minnesota school districts, BHS has important state testing coming up for students this spring, primarily in March and April. We pride ourselves in our strong academic focus, excellent teaching staff, and exceptional students at BHS and want our students to put their best efforts into a positive testing experience this spring; we engage in comprehensive communication with families in order to support this. The test scores earned by our BHS students are important for a number of reasons. Although we know that the scores serve as just one point of data, they help our teaching and administrative staff gauge how our students are learning, how well academic standards are being taught, and where learning gaps can exist. Potential and current families can view the published test scores to determine district interest, as well as gauge their student's progress. The state utilizes the scores to determine how well districts are teaching standards, and when students opt out of the tests, they are considered "not proficient" by the state, thereby negatively impacting the overall school test scores for BHS. Students can access free MCA test prep resources at <http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/> (click on Preparing for Testing and then Item Samplers).

On April 7th, all 10th grade students will take the MCA Reading test, while all 11th graders who choose to opt-in will take the ACT test. **9th grade and 12th grade students will not attend school on April 7th, 2020.** The ACT Opt-In Form was sent to all BHS families earlier this month; the deadline to sign up is February 28, 2020. In order to support our 10th and 11th grade students in achieving higher MCA and ACT scores, we will be offering MCA prep and ACT prep during advisory sessions in March.

Here is a reminder of the dates of upcoming testing at BHS:

- March 3-6: MCA Math, 11th grade
- March 17-19 and May 4-8: MCA Science, all students taking Biology in 2019-2020
- April 7: ACT Test, 11th grade, and MCA Reading, 10th grade

Our 3rd term **Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, February 24th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** in the BHS cafeteria. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to connect in person with your student's teachers and advisors to make sure your student is on the right track.

As a parent, community member, and educator I am so proud of the work we are able to do everyday, and I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve as the Principal at BHS.

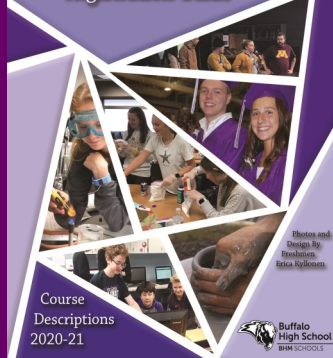
We hope to see you on February 24th.

Sincerely,

Mark Mischke
Buffalo High School Principal
763.682.8101
mmischke@bhmschools.org

Counselor's Corner

Buffalo High School Registration Guide



**BHS portal registration
for 2020-2021 classes
closed on February 14.**

BHS Counselors:

Mark Jones (A-F)

763.682.8107

Kristen Lane (G-K)

763.682.8054

Christina Cox (L-Rn)

763.682.8075

Jennifer Blair (Ro-Z)

763.682.8139

ACT & ACT Test Prep

The ACT Plus Writing college entrance exam will be given during the school day on Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at Buffalo High School to 11th grade students only. There will be **no cost** to students for this exam and scores may be used for college admission testing requirements (at individual college's discretion). Students are able to send their score reports to up to four colleges for free during the pre-registration process that will take place at BHS in March. Encourage your student to start thinking about where they might like to send their score.



Students have been preparing for this exam throughout their education and will be tested in the areas of English, math, reading, science, and writing. Some students may wish to do extra preparation before taking the ACT Plus Writing if they have specific score goals. Preparation materials can be found through multiple vendors and publishers as well as at most public libraries.

Free online prep course and practice tests are available through the Minnesota Career Information System (www.mncis.intocareers.org) for all BHS students. See your school counselor for details.

Free ACT prep guides are available in the Student Services Office.

There are also test prep courses available through **BHM Community Education** for a fee. Please contact **BHM**

Community Ed to find out more information on classes, dates, and fees.

Financial Aid

Many local scholarships are now available and can be found in the Student Services Office. Senior students should continue to routinely check their emails for local scholarships that are being highlighted. New scholarships are posted frequently on the Student Services website. <https://www.bhmschools.org/scholarships-information>

The District 877 scholarship information will be made available and communicated to senior students near spring break time.

Juniors Meetings

School counselors will be meeting with junior students over the coming spring months. We will be discussing post secondary plans and providing resources to students. Students interested in attending a college after high school are encouraged to meet with admissions representatives that visit BHS.

Transcripts

All official high school transcripts must be sent using our online transcript ordering service, Parchment, at www.parchment.com. Students must set up an account to place an order.

Seniors! Need help completing the FAFSA?

There will be a FREE FAFSA event at North Hennepin Community College on Thursday, March 5th from 6:30-8:00pm in Grand Hall: 7411 85th Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Questions? Contact: John Warren via email at

iwarren@nws.k12.mn.us or 763-450-1306 or Alphonse Wiggins via email at alphonse.wiggins@ahschools.us or 763-506-5223.

Student Enrichment Opportunities

There are several summer enrichment opportunities available to students. Many come through the Student Services Office and many colleges offer different enrichment and camp programs over the summer months. Posters for events will be posted outside of Student Services as material arrives this spring. Here are a couple to highlight that have recently posted:

National Science Camp

Current seniors that have an interest in any area of science are eligible for this all expense paid opportunity. Applications are due by February 28th. For more information and the application, go to the following website: <https://nysf.smapply.io/>

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

The program was created in 2012 with the efforts of bringing youth leaders together to support disaster preparedness and make a difference in their communities by completing disaster preparedness projects nationally and locally. Students accepted into the program serve two terms. Current students in grade 8-11 are eligible to apply. For more information and the application, go to the following website: <https://www.ready.gov/kids/youth-preparedness-council>

Important Immunization and Health Updates From the BHS Health Office

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Minnesota Department of Health added a new immunization requirement for 12th grade students. The requirement states, "students entering 12th grade need to have documentation or a legal exemption for the booster dose of meningococcal vaccine (most students received the initial dose of this vaccine when they entered 7th grade)". Teenagers and young adults are at higher risk for meningococcal disease. This dose is important to make sure they are fully protected through their highest risk years.

If you have questions about your student's current immunizations on file with the school please see the parent portal and click on "health" to review your student's current immunization record. Please call the Health Office at (763) 682-8121 if you have any questions or if you would like an exemption form.

This winter, during flu and cold season, we have seen an increase in absences due to illness. Please continue to encourage your teen to stay healthy by washing their hands often, covering their cough/sneeze, and maintaining good hydration (8-10 8oz cups of water is a good goal). Aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night and stay home when ill.

Our school nurse will be available at parent teacher conferences on February 24, 2020 from 5:00 - 8:00pm if you have any questions regarding your teen's immunizations or health status.

Karen Schultz, RN, LSN
BHM School Nurse grades 6-12
(763)682-8120
kschultz@bhmschools.org



NHS Hosting March Blood Drive

Give Blood - Give Life. The BHS National Honor Society will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, March 20, from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Students ages 17 and over (or 16 with parental permission) that meet all donor requirements will be allowed to sign up to give blood. Student registration and appointment scheduling will happen at school, but the community is welcome to donate here as well. If you are interested in donating, please go to www.redcrossblood.org and type in "Buffalo High School". That will direct you to a page where you can schedule your own appointment.



Wright County Area United Way Supports Chemical Health Education and Services in BHM Schools



The Wright County Area United Way recently awarded \$16,000 to the Buffalo-Hanover-

Montrose School District 877. The allocated dollars have helped improve the lives of individuals in Wright County and also supported the chemical health education and services partnered with Central Minnesota Mental Health Center (CMMHC).

Buffalo High School Principal Mark Mischke said, "We are so appreciative of the support Wright

County Area United Way continues to provide the students and staff at Buffalo High School. The funding for our chemical health specialist provides students a person they can connect with that is trained to work through the challenges of addiction. The funding also allows counselors the ability to connect families with supports in our community that they may not be able to find themselves."

Chemical Health Education and Services are being used to provide support for students who are facing chemical health issues with their families, their friends, or themselves. These services have also helped

students become more resilient and connected in our schools and community. The students currently receive services at BHS, Phoenix Learning Center, and 6-12 grade students at wRight Choice. Wrap-around services like this help students to become successful in their personal life which has a direct correlation with the student's academics.

We are thankful to the Wright County Area United Way for their continued support.

Annual Night Out For Music



Join us on
Saturday,
March 21st at
6:00 pm

The Buffalo High School Music Department invites you to attend their annual **Night Out For Music** Jazz Concert and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 21. Doors open at 6:00 pm with the Silent Auction items on display.

Entertainment will begin at 7:00 pm in the Performing

Arts Center and will be provided by Jazz Ensemble I, BHS Singers, Treble Singers and Chamber Strings I. During intermission, guests will enjoy a variety of decadent, gourmet desserts and



can complete final bidding on the Silent Auction.

This year's theme is "*Lullaby of Broadway*" and is a *fundraiser* that directly supports *all* BHS music students. Last year, we were able to purchase a new electronic keyboard, sound equipment, music for all ensembles, visiting clinicians and more. Funds this year will also help offset student cost of the spring music trip to New York City.

AGAIN this year—you can purchase tickets and bid on Silent Auction items online! Check out the electronic bidding site sponsored by Bid

"Lullaby of Broadway"

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Buffalo High School
Performing Arts Center

6:00 pm Check In/Silent Auction begins

7:00 pm Jazz Concert/Desserts during
Intermission



Partner of Buffalo at <https://bidpartner.net/nofm/>.

Ticket prices are \$15/Adult, \$12/Senior and \$10/Student and may be purchased through Bid Partner (see website above) or by contacting Jill Starr at jstarr@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8129.

Summer Driver's Education: NOW OPEN!

Community Education is offering summer Drivers Education classes. June classes will be held June 8 -June 19, Monday-Friday, at Buffalo High School from 8-11 am or 11:15 am- 2:15 pm.

July classes will meet July 6-July 17, Monday-Friday, at Buffalo High School, Hanover Elementary and Montrose Elementary from 8-11 a.m. One evening class is offered those same July dates at Buffalo High School from 5-8 p.m.

Forms are available in the BHS Front Office. Visit bhmschools.ce.eleyo.com or call Community Education at 763.682.8770 for all the details!



BHS Prom 2020

Prom 2020 will be held at Minneapolis Marriott Northwest on Saturday, May 2nd. The dance will take place from 8-11 pm, with the Grand March preceding the dance at 4:30-5:30 pm at Buffalo High School. Registration will be in early April and will be \$40 per

person. More details will be coming soon. Please watch the school website or follow us on Instagram (bhsprom.20) and SnapChat (bhsprom).



Excellence Program

Thank you for your feedback regarding our annual Academic Excellence Program. We're listening! We will continue to recognize our 9-12th grade students nominated for departmental awards and new this year, during the program, we will recognize 11th and 12th grade students that academically letter. 9th and 10th grade students will receive special recognition during the school day.

All Night Grad Party Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers are needed to make the Class of 2020 All Night Graduation Party (ANGP) a success. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about the event, please email the co-chairs, Tanya Marr, Carmen Wyatt, and Kathy Hanson at buffaloangp@hotmail.com.

The All Night Grad Party will take place on Friday, June 5, 2020 following the Graduation Ceremony. This is an event your senior will not want to miss! Please watch the mail and the BHS website for the ANGP registration form. This mailing will come from the ANGP committee within the week.



Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior parents are also encouraged to volunteer for this event as a way to pay it forward. Please know that a separate letter with specific BHS graduation information will be sent from BHS at a later date.

Spring Testing at BHS



A phone call and corresponding email went out in early February regarding Spring testing at BHS beginning in early March.

- All BHS 11th graders will take the MCA, or Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, Math test in the window of March 3rd-6th.
- BHS students enrolled in Biology during semester 1 will take the MCA Science test in the window of March 17th-19th.
- On April 7th, all 10th grade students will take the MCA Reading test, while all 11th graders who choose to opt-in will take the ACT test. **9th grade and 12th grade students will not attend school on this day.**

- BHS students enrolled in Biology during semester 2 will take the MCA Science test in the window of May 4th-8th.

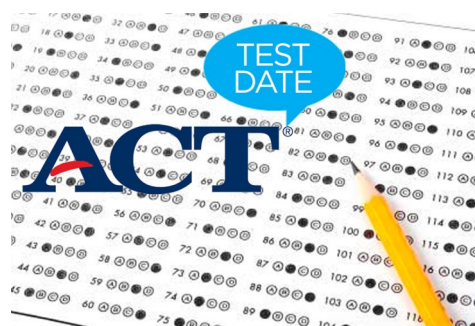
Families of 11th graders received additional information on how to Opt-In for the ACT Test. The ACT Plus Writing Test is being offered, free of charge, to all of BHS juniors on Tuesday, April 7th, 2020. Juniors no longer need to complete this test for their State

Graduation Requirement; however, we are strongly encouraging that all of our juniors take advantage of this free opportunity to take the ACT.

Juniors who wish to opt in and take the ACT Test on April 24th will need to have a parent/guardian complete the Opt-In form that was distributed.

A response is required of all families. Email reminders have been sent to parents/guardians who have not yet completed the opt-in.

Please be sure to complete the online form by **February 28** or call 763.682.8103 to complete the form over the phone.



Buffalo High School
877 Bison Blvd.
Buffalo, MN 55313

2019-2020 Yearbook Orders



Order your yearbook before they sell out again!

Prices go up at the end of the month. Head to bhs.cc or balfour.com to place your order now to guarantee that your child gets a yearbook. The Buffalo High School yearbook was named the best yearbook in Minnesota for the seventh consecutive year. It's produced to celebrate and save memories for a lifetime.

Questions? Email yearbook@bhs.cc

BHS Upcoming Events

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|----------|--|---------|---|
| 2/24 | Parent/Teacher Conferences - Cafeteria, 5-8 p.m. | 4/9 | 877 Endowment Pork Chop Dinner - BCMS, 4:30-7 p.m. |
| 2/27 | World Music Choir Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. | 4/16-18 | Spring Play: <i>Twelfth Night</i> - PAC, 7:30 p.m. |
| 3/2 | Orchestra Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. | 4/20 | <i>Strings and All That Jazz Concert</i> - PAC, 7:30 p.m. |
| 3/19 | Spring Sports Meeting - PAC, 7 p.m. | 4/30 | Spring Band Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. |
| 3/21 | <i>Night Out for Music</i> - PAC, 7 p.m. | 5/1 | Senior Appreciation Day |
| 3/24 | Arts Magnet Capstone Night - PAC, 7:00 p.m. | 5/2 | Prom, Grand March - Gymnasium, 4:30 p.m. |
| 3/27 | NO SCHOOL K-12, Teacher Workshop (End of Term 3) | | |
| 3/30-4/3 | Spring Break, NO SCHOOL K-12 | | |