



Early Childhood Family Education

BUFFALO HANOVER
MONTROSE SCHOOLS

ECFE and School Readiness Preschool Parent Handbook 2018-19

301 2nd Avenue NE
Buffalo, MN 55313
763.682.8780 or 763.682.8770
bhmschools.org

Welcome to ECFE and School Readiness!

ECFE and School Readiness Classes

- ❖ Parent/Child Classes-for parents and children birth to 5 years
- ❖ Parent Discussion Groups
- ❖ Sibling Care
- ❖ Preschool Classes/School Readiness with Parent Involvement
- ❖ Parent Coaching with Early Childhood Parent Educators
- ❖ Special Events
- ❖ Parenting 877
- ❖ Home Visits for families with children birth to 5 years by a Parent Educator
- ❖ Resource and Referrals for families
- ❖ Early Childhood Screening
- ❖ Spring Into Preschool for children 2.5-3.5 years of age
- ❖ Taste of Preschool for children 3-5 years of age
- ❖ Ready Set Grow Preschool for 3 and 4 year old children
- ❖ Ready Set Grow Preschool for 4 and 5 year old children

For a full description of these services see the current Community Education Catalog, the ECFE Newsletter or go online at bhmschools.org.

ECFE on Facebook: **BHM Schools Early Childhood Family Education**



Mission and Goals of ECFE

The goal of ECFE is to enhance the ability of all parents and other family members to provide the best possible environment for their child's learning and growth.

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose ECFE and School Readiness Preschool programs provide and opportunity for both child and parent learning and growth, across developmental domains.

ECFE Advisory Council

The ECFE Advisory Council invites parents to join us to make BHM ECFE the best program possible for our families! We meet the first Monday of the month, August through May, from 6:15 - 7:15 pm at Discovery Center. Child care is provided with prior notification, for no fee.

Purpose:

- To provide input regarding BHM early childhood programs and services.
- Raise funds for the ECFE and School Readiness programs.
- Inform parents, legislators, and community members about early childhood education, school district issues and community concerns that affect children and families.

Note: Advisory Council members receive a discount on fees for Community Education and ECFE classes. Please contact Barbara Eckberg, ECFE Coordinator, beckberg@bhmschools.org with any questions or if you are interested in joining!

General Information

Illness and Accident Procedures

1. If a child becomes ill at school the parent or emergency contact person will be called to take the child home. Please keep your child home if she/he has had the following symptoms within the last 24 hours or appears too ill to participate in class:
 - fever over 100 degrees (before medication)
 - vomiting/diarrhea
 - excessive coughing (especially with whooping sound)
 - untreated ear infection
 - strep throat
 - head lice until treated
 - undiagnosed eye infections
 - chicken pox
 - other communicable diseases
(ex., impetigo, hepatitis A, pink eye, etc.)
2. Antibiotic treatment for bacterial infections must be given for 24 hours **before** returning.
3. Please contact ECFE office if your child is confirmed with a communicable illness. This allows staff to monitor others for symptoms as well as tracking reportable communicable illness. In some instances, families will be notified of a confirmed communicable illness while respecting the privacy of all students.
4. In case of minor injury staff will give first aid and contact the parent. Please be sure your emergency contact information is up to date.

5. If the emergency is more serious, staff will call 911; call you and/or the contacts you have indicated on your registration materials.

6. Please call ECFE at 763.682.8780 if your child will not attend class due to illness.

Health and Emergency Information Form

For classes where the parents are not on site, students receive a blue health and emergency information form. This form provides the necessary contact information for the Health Office to reach parents. It is the parents' responsibility to update and return this form before class or during the first week of class. Parent will also receive a gold emergency card retained by classroom staff in an event of an emergency, and to carry along during walking or off-site field trips.

Emergency Information Changes

Please call and let the ECFE office know when you have changes in phone numbers, work location, daycare providers and/or emergency contact persons so that you can be reached quickly in the event of an emergency.

Chronic and Potentially Life-Threatening Conditions

When a student has a diagnosed chronic condition (i.e. asthma, diabetes, seizures, heart condition or severe allergies) it is necessary for parents to provide information on the health and emergency information form before beginning class. If appropriate, students will receive a medical management plan stating what steps typically will be taken if an emergency situation occurs. This plan will be developed in collaboration with the school nurse, physician, parent and child. Student health information will be shared with appropriate school personnel with respect to confidentiality.

Medications

The MN Departments of Health and Education have legislation regarding medications being administered in school.

Before *prescription medication* can be given at school, the health office must have:

- Written permission from physician and parent indicating medication, dose, frequency, side effects and termination date.
- Medication in **original bottle** with correct student name and medication instructions

Before *over the counter medications* (Tylenol, Ibuprofen etc.) can be given at school, the health office must have:

- Parent signature indicating medication, dose, frequency of medication and why the medication is needed.
- Medication in **original container** with label that includes instruction for appropriate dosage.
Medications transported in baggies, envelopes, etc. will not be accepted.

Potassium Iodide

The Department of Homeland Security has recommended that facilities within a 10 mile radius of a nuclear power plant have potassium iodide (KI) available to all people in the event of a nuclear incident. Permission to administer KI is on the emergency/health form. No KI will be administered without the written consent of the parent/guardian.

Immunizations

For each child enrolled in a class or in sibling care we must have a completed Registration form and an Immunization status form on file. Minnesota Statutes 1980, sec. 123. 70, requires that all children enrolled in a Minnesota Education program be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, Hib and Hepatitis, pneumonia and varicella.

Affirmative Action

The Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools Community Education Department complies with all Federal and State laws prohibiting discrimination. Religious, racial or sexual harassment is a violation of state law and school district policy. If you believe that you have been a victim of harassment or violence or have information about the harassment or violence of any adult or student, report it to ECFE staff.

Abuse/Neglect Reporting

Staff members and volunteers are required by state law to report instances of observed or suspected child abuse or neglect. State Statute 626.556.

Fee/Scholarships

No individual or family who resides in Buffalo Hanover Montrose will be excluded from participating in the ECFE program because of inability to pay. The parent/child ECFE classes have a sliding fee scale. Ready Set Grow and Spring Into Preschool have annual fees and the choice of one payment 9 payments. The Ready Set Grow and Spring Into Preschool classes have financial assistance options for children, aged 3 years by September 1. If you are having financial difficulty, you are invited to discuss tuition support with the ECFE Coordinator, Barbara Eckberg, beckberg@bhmschools.org.

Fire, Severe Weather and Safety Emergency Procedures

In order to be prepared for a building emergency:

- Ready Set Grow and ECFE classes will participate in fire drills, tornado drills, lock down and safety procedures as planned by the school building.
- Exit maps are posted in parent education and children's rooms by the exits.
- Staff in each area will escort children out of the building. The staff will be responsible for the evacuation and will make sure each child is accounted for.
- During a tornado, the building occupants will go to designated shelters as posted.
- During a lockdown, staff and children go to nearest secure room or location

Latex

All latex balloons, band aids, gloves, and other latex products are prohibited in any school building due to health and safety reason. Mylar balloons are allowed.

Animals In School Setting

The purpose of the district policy is to coordinate a district-wide effort to improve indoor air quality by eliminating pets not directly used as part of the required District curriculum thus reducing the presence of animal allergens in the classroom. Animals may be used as an educational tool, when and where appropriate. However, alternative teaching methods should be utilized whenever possible. Animals will be prohibited from being brought into schools for any non-instructional purpose. A

“Request for Animals in the Building” form must be submitted to, and authorized by, the building administrator prior to any animal being brought into the school setting.

Student Guidance

Guidance techniques will be age appropriate and will include the following:

- Positive role modeling by the staff
- Redirecting behavior
- Planning for scaffolding and intentional teaching of socialization and problem solving skills
- Support of prosocial behaviors by the teaching team and parents, through goal planning, parent coaching, resource sharing and referral

MN Restraint Seclusion Law

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 1125A.0942, Subd. 1, BHM School District has a public plan that discloses its use of restrictive procedures. This plan specifically outlines the list of restrictive procedures that the school intends to use; how the district will monitor and review the use of restrictive procedures, including post use debriefings and convening an oversight committee; and a written description and documentation of the training and staff that have completed the training. A copy of this plan is available upon request at each school principal’s office.

Referrals

If concerns regarding a child’s development arise, ECFE teachers will document observations and discuss them with parent/guardian following the District referral policy. Parents must sign a release before a child is observed or assessed further by school or community professionals. Parents may request assessments by contacting Early Childhood Special Education at 763-682-8700.

Children Served by Early Intervention (Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE))

ECFE staff request that parents of children being served by Special Education inform ECFE of their children’s needs. Parents may be asked to sign a release for ECFE Staff to consult with ECSE staff, in an effort to best serve the educational needs of the child.

Snack/Classroom Food

ECFE families may be asked to donate snack items. Families who bring snack to share in their classroom must follow the state law that all food should be wrapped and commercially prepared; no home-prepared food can be shared at school. ECFE policy requires healthy snacks to provide the nutrition and energy for optimal health and learning. Snack ideas include: fresh fruit or vegetables, canned fruit, unsweetened applesauce, yogurt, cheese, whole grain crackers, mini bagels, cottage cheese, muffins, low sugar cereal. Please notify your child’s teacher if you child has a food allergy.

School Closing

ECFE programs will follow late start or school closing due to severe weather. These closing are announced on KRWC 1360 AM and WCCO 830 AM radio, the school website at www.bhmschools.org or TV channels 4, 5, 9, and 11. If school is late there are no morning classes or Family Learning. If school is cancelled in mid-morning or noon there will be no afternoon or evening classes. ECFE will not make up snow/inclement weather days. No refunds will be giving due to inclement weather.

Visitors To ECFE Classes

Only registered children are allowed to attend ECFE parent child or preschool classes. Any significant adult in the life of the child are welcome to attend class in place of the parents.

Volunteering With Younger Children

Please find other care for siblings when volunteering in ECFE classes to prevent distractions in the classroom. If that's not possible, talk to the teacher about volunteer projects that can be done at home.

Evaluations

Parent/child classes offer parents an opportunity to complete a class evaluation one time per semester. ECFE staff members and administrators rely upon parent input to create a menu of class options, that best fit the needs of families.

Cell Phones

Please turn off cell phones during class. Cell phone use is not allowed in class.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is very important. While attending class or volunteering, you may observe, read or hear things about individual students and their school or home experience. Do not discuss your observations or opinions about a student with anyone other than the student's teacher or ECFE Coordinator. All information about student abilities, behavior, relationships, or background is confidential. We depend on our parents and volunteers to maintain confidentiality of our students, staff and volunteers.

Tobacco Free/Chemical Free

Smoking and use of tobacco products, alcohol, and chemicals are prohibited on school district property.

MN School Dangerous Weapon Law

Bringing a dangerous weapon on school property is a violation of Minnesota law. This is any device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of producing great bodily harm or death. School property includes on a school bus, in a school building, in a private vehicle on school property, or on a school-sponsored trip. Parents please remember this when attending classes and/or entering school property. Children are discouraged from bringing toy weapons to school; these toys will not be allowed in the classroom.



Spring Into Preschool

Spring Into Preschool is for children ages 2.5-3.5 years old and their parents. Children attend a 1 time weekly session, while parents participate in parent discussion 8 times throughout the program year. The focus of Spring Into Preschool is support learning and skill building in the social/emotional domain. A community of learners is built through intentional teaching and exploration, free play, circle time/group activities, hand washing/ self help and snack time routines. Your child will be encouraged to try a variety of developmentally appropriate activities throughout their day.

Taste of Preschool

Taste of Preschool is for children ages 3 to 5 years old to learn and strengthen skills across developmental domains. Children enrolled in a 1.5 hour session 1 evening per week, for 2 cycles of 10 weeks. A community of learners is built through intentional teaching and exploration, free play, circle time/group activities, hand washing/ self help and snack time routines. Your child will be encouraged to try a variety of developmentally appropriate activities throughout their evening session.

- ✓ Enrolled children must have completed Early Childhood Screening or do so within 90 days
- ✓ An evening visitation and parent orientation session will offered before beginning of class start date
- ✓ Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, MN Preschool Indicators of Progress, and Conscious Discipline foundation for curriculum and assessment
- ✓ State of the art classroom equipment
- ✓ State of MN Licensed Teachers

Ready Set Grow Preschool

Ready Set Grow Preschool is for children ages 3 to 5 years old to learn and strengthen skills across developmental domains. Children enrolled in 3 and 4 year old classes meet for 2 hours per session, 2 days per week. Children enrolled in the 4 and 5 year old classes meet for 3 hours per session, two, three, four or five days per week.

- ✓ Enrolled children must have completed Early Childhood Screening or do so within 90 days
- ✓ Orientation and open house offered before beginning of class start date
- ✓ Conferences are offered twice a year
- ✓ Field Trips for children 4 and 5 years
- ✓ Creative Curriculum, Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, MN Preschool Indicators of Progress, and Conscious Discipline foundation for curriculum and assessment
- ✓ State of the art classroom equipment
- ✓ State of MN Licensed Teachers
- ✓ 4 Star Quality Rating by MN Parent Aware

A community of learners is built through intentional teaching and exploration, free play, circle time/group activities, hand washing/ self help and snack time routines. Your child will be encouraged to try a variety of developmentally appropriate activities throughout their day. Children with special needs participate in preschool through integrated preschool programming. We will encourage all children/families to respect the abilities and differences of all people. ECFE and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) staff will work together to meet the needs of all students.

Ready Set Grow Preschool Parent Involvement

The opportunities and options for parent involvement are shared with parents at the Fall Open House, through the ECFE Newsletter and Community Education catalog. Parent participation is required for all preschool parents.

General Preschool Information:

Spring Into Preschool - Taste of Preschool - Ready Set Grow Preschool

Children are asked to bring a large zippered backpack/book bag each day to take home school projects and school notes. Please send along a complete change of clothing (including socks and underwear) labeled with your child's name.

Communication

Teachers will be available before and after class, and by appointment either on the phone or in person to discuss any concerns you may have. Ask your child to share his/her school bag notices & projects. Teachers may ask for parent email addresses, if available, for notices and updates.

Custody/Communication Information

ECFE/preschool teachers recognize that preschool children may live with one parent or guardian, possibly at more than one address. The following policy is an attempt to assist ECFE/preschool and parents in communication with each other under these circumstances.

Until a parent or guardian presents the teacher with an *official* document of custody, communications will be sent home with the child or to the address of the child's residence. Unless the teacher receives and verifies official notification that a court order exists to prohibit such actions, the non-custodial parent or guardian may:

- receive, upon request, copies of any and all communications from the school about the student;
- receive, upon request, information about the student's health, attendance or school progress;
- attend, upon request, a school-scheduled conference to review the child's program.

A copy of the court order will be kept on file.

If information is requested for child custody issues, generally, ECFE teachers are allowed to only report attendance.

Evaluations

Parents will have the opportunity to evaluate their child's preschool experience at least once a year.

Field Trips for Ready Set Grow Preschool

Parents will need to sign a field trip permission form for walking field trips within the downtown area. For bus field trips (for 4 and 5 year old children only), a separate permission form will be required at the time of the trip. There may be an additional charge for some field trips. **NOTE:** Parents who are bus drivers are not allowed to drive bus while attending for their children's class trips.

Sharing Time

Sometime during the quarter your child may have the opportunity to bring something special to share with the class. Each teacher will send home specific information regarding their sharing routine and guidelines.

Snacks

A snack schedule will be sent home with your child each semester. State law requires use of only commercially prepared foods. ECFE policy requires nutritious snacks, such as, fresh or dried fruits, fresh vegetables, canned fruit, unsweetened applesauce, cheese, yogurt, crackers, pretzels, mini bagels, popcorn, bread sticks, muffins or low sugar cereal. Please do NOT send candy, cupcakes, cake, gummy treats, fruit roll ups, juice, or juice drinks. Please alert staff of any food allergies so requests for snacks without that ingredient can be made.

Transportation and Pick-up Authorization

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school. Please send a note when someone other than the parent is going to pick up your child or call ECFE at 763.682.8780 if an emergency arises during class time. If there is someone who is NOT authorized to pick up your child we need to know this in writing. We need a copy of the restraining order/divorce decree if the

non-authorized person is a biological parent. Due to tight schedules, please plan to arrive no more than 5 minutes prior to class time, stay with your child until the class opens and pick up your child promptly when class ends. When parents use car pools or local transportation, ex., Trailblazer, they are responsible for informing both Trailblazer and class teachers of changes, especially if a child will not be riding. Please do not drop off children unless there is a staff person available to receive your child.

Toileting

All children who attend preschool classes are expected to handle their own toileting needs. Exceptions are made for children with Special Education services.

Volunteers

Parents are welcomed to assist the teacher, share their interests or professions, or just come to observe. Please arrange your visit with the teacher ahead of time. All school volunteers are required to have a criminal history background check completed before volunteering. Volunteers pay the fee for this check. See Volunteer Handbook for details.

Sign In/Out

You are required to sign in before you volunteer or visit. Stop in the school office immediately upon arrival each time you volunteer. Visitors/volunteers must wear a visitor/volunteer badge while in the building. Badges identify you to students, staff and other volunteers as a registered visitor/volunteer. For the safety of everyone, we need to know who is in the building and where to locate you in case of an emergency. Don't forget to sign out when you leave the building.

Winter Clothing

In winter children need boots, snow pants, mittens, and hats to allow for spontaneous outdoor activities. Please label your child's clothing.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is mandated by Minnesota State Law within 90 days of beginning preschool and prior to your child entering Kindergarten. The intent of this law is to see that all children are healthy and ready for learning by preschool age. The screening also helps you learn more about how your child is doing developmentally. Your child will be screened for speech, vision, hearing, height and weight as well as general development. In addition your child's health history will be reviewed. Families whose names are on the school census will be contacted when their child reaches 3 years 10 months. Screening in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools is held at three sites. Records from screening in another district should be transferred to the elementary school nurse. If you are new to this district, call 763.682.8737 to be listed on the census.



Annual Notifications from Buildings & Grounds

Asbestos: Annual Notification of Availability of the Management Plan and Related Activities

ISD 877 has on file a complete and updated Management Plan dealing with Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) within the School District's buildings. The Management Plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Principal's Office at each school site. Copies of the management plan are available from the District for a nominal cost.

As required by Federal law, the condition of asbestos in our school is surveyed every six months as part of an ongoing operations and maintenance program. The most recent survey was completed in June 2011. A comprehensive inspection is conducted every three years. The latest three-year inspection was completed in December 2008. Concerns identified from these inspections are remedied by professional asbestos abatement contractors in a timely manner. Asbestos-containing floor tile and mastic were removed from Discovery, Parkside, Tatanka, and Hanover elementary schools during the summer of 2011. There are no current plans to remove the remaining asbestos unless its condition deteriorates or it becomes necessary due to renovation. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to the District "Designated Person" for asbestos management, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 763.682.8773.

Janet B. Johnson, Parents Right-To-Know Act, August 2003

A Minnesota state law went into effect in the year 2000 that requires schools to inform school employees and parents if they apply pesticides on school property.

Specifically, this law requires schools that apply these pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide applications and to make the schedule available to employees and parents for review or copying at each school's office. If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please contact John Heltunen at 763.682.8773.

The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pesticides or the class of chemicals to which they belong may not be fully understood.

ISD 877 is continuing to work closely with its health and safety resources to comply with integrated pest management guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to John Heltunen, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

As an additional requirement by the Department of Education, ISD 877 has developed and implemented an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan that addresses indoor air quality issues throughout the District. Walkthroughs and inspections of the buildings are performed annually to detect current problems and prevent future problems from occurring. Information is also available from the Minnesota Department of Health at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/schools/index.html>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding indoor air quality, please contact the District's IAQ Coordinator.

