



Speaking of the Bison...

BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **BHS Parent/Teacher Conferences are Monday, October 8 from 5-8 p.m.**
- **BHS Senior pictures are due Friday, October 12**
- **BHS picture retake day is Friday, October 5**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Counselor's Corner** 2
- **"Fresh First Day" at BHS** 3
- **AVID College Visits**
- **BHS Gerontology Students** 4
- **Barn Dance at BHS**
- **Driver Ed** 5
- **Jukebox**
- **Saturday Night**
- **Yearbook**
- **Health Services**
- **BHS BPA**
- **Emergency Test Message** 6
- **Upcoming Events**

Mr. Mischke's Message

What an amazing "Day One" of school! For the first time in BHM history, our school year started with only the freshman class. Our teaching staff, along with our BHS student mentors welcomed almost 500 new students to Buffalo High School. Our goal on day one was to make sure our freshmen's first day of High School was a positive one. Two of our building goals at Buffalo High School are to ensure that 100% of our students have an adult to whom they can go if they have a problem (currently 91%), and that 100% of our students feel supported by other students (currently 82%). When looking at the data from our annual student survey, we've consistently noticed a drastic difference as we compared 9th grade results to our other grade levels. Freshmen were less connected to our staff and to each other. We are confident that this new staggered first day of school change will help to bridge the gap in our results this spring and in the years to come. Thank you for your flexibility and support in making this day happen.

Our fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, October 8 from 5-8 p.m in the BHS cafeteria. October is College Knowledge Month at BHS and in addition to our conferences, we will be hosting our very first BHM College and Career Fair with over 40 businesses, college and military branch representatives in attendance. This event will take place during our parent/teacher conferences from 5-7 p.m. in the main gym and is intended for our current students and their families. The College and Career Fair is only one way in which BHS is getting involved in the College Knowledge Month activities.

The importance of building relational capacity is not only a focus at Buffalo High School, but it is the driving force for the entire Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose school district. We as a district are committed to taking the steps needed to ensure that every student has an opportunity to develop the skills they need to be successful now and in the future. We know that smaller class sizes, a more comprehensive middle school schedule and well-trained teaching staff will help us reach the goal of "every kid every day." Therefore, on November 6, 2018 the BHM School district is asking voters to approve an operating referendum. You'll find more details within this newsletter.

Recently, I had the opportunity to represent Buffalo High School and Minnesota in Washington D.C. at the National Secondary Principal of the Year Conference. It was a tremendous opportunity to learn from others and share some of the great things happening at Buffalo High School. We are extremely fortunate to have amazing students and staff, and tremendously supportive communities in Buffalo, Hanover, and Montrose.

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 October 8th.

Sincerely,

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

Counselor's Corner

Welcome Back BHS Students and Staff

BHS Counselors:

Mark Jones (A-F)

763.682.8107

Kristen Lane (G-K)

763.682.8054

Christina Cox (L-P)

763.682.8075

Jennifer Blair (Q-Z)

763.682.8139

Upcoming ACT Test Dates

Buffalo High School code:
240-345

Sign up at:

www.actstudent.org

October 27, 2018 - Late
registration open until Oct
14th, 2018 deadline

December 8, 2018 -
Register by November 2,
2018

February 9, 2019 -
Register by January 11th,
2019

Transcripts

All official high school transcripts must be sent using an online transcript ordering service at www.parchment.com. Students create a profile and request to send official transcripts to any of the college or scholarship organizations needed.

Freshman Minute Meetings

Counselors will be meeting with all Freshman students individually through "Minute Meetings" during their Bison Times over the course of late September-December. The purpose of the meetings are to give the counselors an opportunity to meet their freshmen and learn a little bit about how they can support each of their students. The students get the chance to meet their individual counselor to start making connections and learn about how to access the many resources that school counselors provide throughout high school.

Junior Large Group Meetings

Junior students will be invited to a large group meeting during AAA the first week of October. The presentations are given to students by their counselor. Students will be provided information and resources for them to continue their post high school planning. An overview of topics include prep information for college admissions tests (ACT/SAT/Accuplacer), information about meeting colleges reps here at BHS, planning college tours, going to college fairs, reminder of credits needed for graduation, using MCIS to help them search and plan for their futures, NCAA information, and information about College Knowledge Month. Students will also have an opportunity to take resources with them from the meeting to help them continue their searches and plans for after graduation.

PSAT: Wed., October 10

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given at Buffalo High School on October 10th at **7:45AM** in the Bison Room. The PSAT is an opportunity for students to practice taking a

rigorous college entrance exam, and for students in 11th grade to compete to qualify for the very distinguished National Merit Scholarship. There are a limited number of tests. Students can check in the Student Services office and pay the \$20 fee.

Pre-ACT

Students in 10th grade will complete the Pre-ACT assessment on November 19th and 20th. The Pre-ACT, formerly the ACT Plan test, assesses students on the following subjects: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Pre-ACT helps 10th grade students build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. The Pre-ACT also provides a predictive ACT composite score. If results are back in time, they will be shared prior to registration in order to support decision making for class selection.

College Knowledge Month

- BHS will be hosting Mini College Fairs on Tuesdays during lunches every week in October. There will be 7-9 reps each week in the areas of U of M System, MNState 4yr System, 2yr college, Trade School, Out of State, Private Colleges, and Military.
- BHS will also have several college admissions reps, speakers, and individual help taking place during AAA throughout the month of October. Students have the opportunity to learn more about NCAA eligibility, how to fill out a college application, military officer training programs, financial aid, college essay help, study abroad, and more!
- During the week of October

22nd-26th, senior students have the opportunity to get help completing their college applications from 3:05-4pm in lab B203. Many MN colleges waive their application fees during this week.

Students should check out the posters, watch the monitor announcements, and their email for events scheduled throughout the month.

National College Fair

Free and open to the public, National College Fairs are the perfect place to kick off your college search. Admission representatives from schools across the country are all gathered in one place. Their goal: To encourage you to learn more about their institutions, and help you sort through the qualities you're looking for in a college. Explore your options. Each fair draws representatives from 175 to 400 colleges.

September 24, 2018: 9 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. & September 25, 2018: 9 a.m. to noon
Minneapolis Convention Center: 1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Register student information prior to going, print off the bar code that can be quickly scanned by colleges.

Registration: www.mn-acac.org/ncf

Information on workshop schedules: https://www.nacacfairs.org/minnesota#tab_WorkshopInformation

College Admissions Representatives

Throughout the fall and spring time, many college admissions representatives will make visits at BHS in the Student Services Office. They are looking to meet with students who want to learn more about their specific college. Encourage your student to visit with these reps if they come from a college of interest. (Counselor Corner Continued on next page)...

(Counselor Corner continued)... A list of visiting colleges can be found on the monitor announcements during the school day and on our website calendar.

Waivers for Students on Free or Reduced Lunch

Waivers are available for students on free or reduced lunch that can cover the cost of some college applications, ACT/PSAT testing, and official transcripts. Please provide your student's counselor with a copy of your notification letter from Food Service to receive any waivers that are available.

FAFSA Completion Workshop

Do you need help completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? On Monday, **October 8, from 5-8p.m. in BHS computer lab B203**, we will have financial aid professionals on hand to help families submit their FAFSA. No reservation needed. **What to bring:**

- **Social security number, date of birth** for both STUDENT and PARENT
- **Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID** – they can apply for this up to five (5) days prior to the event at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> or apply that evening. **NOTE:** They must have confirmed their FSA ID with a 6-digit code at the time they apply for it in order for it to be valid to sign the FAFSA
- **2017 federal income tax information** for both STUDENT and PARENT
- **2017 W-2 statements** for both STUDENT and PARENT
- **Balances of cash, checking, savings accounts** as of the day they file their FAFSA. **NOTE: Do not include** values of retirement plans or equity of the home in which they live

“Fresh First Day” at BHS

On September 4th, just under 60 sophomores, juniors, and seniors came to BHS for the sole purpose of making connections with the incoming freshman class.

These upperclassman volunteers have been training in communication and team building activities since April of the previous school year. They came in August to work with cooperating teachers to plan and organize the “Fresh First Day” for almost 500 ninth graders and staff.



This day was completely dedicated to bringing the new population of students into the fold of Buffalo High School. We, as a community, strive to make connections for all in our building: staff-to-student and student-to-student. Freshmen need the additional time and attention of the first day to feel comfortable in

their surroundings and supported by the caring people they will work with over their next four years.



Freshman Mentors and Freshman Advisory teachers spent much of the day together playing games and learning about each other. This is an important part of cultivating a community of respect and cooperation-- both needed before any learning can take place.

Students also participated in student panel discussions, an activity fair and art project, facility tours, lunchroom and bus procedures, and mock schedules.

We are proud of this inaugural special day Buffalo High School added to its calendar this year. We see this as yet another opportunity to *be nice, be proud, work hard, and model behavior*. Thank you to all of the students, staff, and administrators for your help in doing what's best for all students!



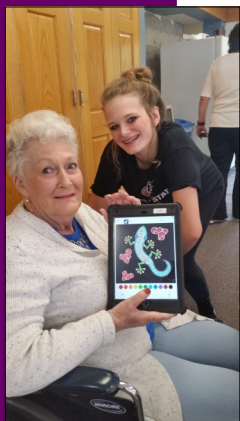
AVID Overnight College Visits in Fargo-Moorhead



The AVID elective classes sent 13 students on a two day college tour of Fargo, ND and Moorhead, MN. Students visited both North Dakota State University and Concordia College. Students enjoyed the in-depth tours provided by both institutions and spent the night in dorms at Concordia College.



BHS Gerontology Students are Teaching and Learning from our Older Adults



A new course is underway this Fall at BHS bringing together our student's young lives with those of older adults in our communities. CIS Introduction to Gerontology is the study of aging and that's just what students are experiencing in and out of the classroom.

Through a "skills exchange" between the students and residents of Park View Care Center, they recently prepared refrigerator pickles and taught the seniors how to use an iPad. It's through this time together that relationships are built that result in developing understanding and appreciation.

organizations including an Alzheimer's fundraiser, entertaining by playing an instrument, nail painting, yard work, and social visits.

Today's older adults are aging gracefully, living longer, and are full of vitality. By the year 2020, the US population 65 years and older will be larger than the population of children 5 years old and less. With the steadily growing aging population, BHS students will likely work with or for older adults. Whatever the students long-term career interest, the course is a great compliment for all careers. Students are learning about their future clients and customers, their own aging family, and themselves.

New Campus Portal App for Students and Parents



Infinite Campus has two NEW and IMPROVED mobile apps: Campus Student (for students) and Campus Parent (for parents).

Download your free app for real-time access to the following and much more: announcements, assignments, attendance, grades, schedules and much more!

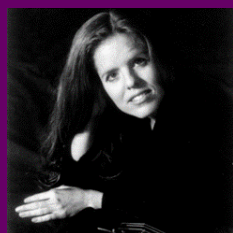
If you are using the old Infinite Campus app, you will need to download the new app. The old app will no longer be supported. You can download the apps from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

BHS Senior Lily said, "It was fun to help with iPads because the woman we worked with was very kind. She wasn't interested in learning the iPad but she was very interested in talking. She said she enjoyed talking with us and was nervous at first but that she had a good time." Another student realized, "It makes me happy to see how spirited they still are at an old age. The stories they tell are their personal history."

Students are also assisting at community centers and other



CIS Introduction to Gerontology is a concurrent enrollment course in partnership with St. Cloud State University. Students can earn three college credits while earning their high school credit. This is one of eleven courses taught through the Family Consumer Sciences Department at BHS.



Cristina Seaborn

The Buffalo High School Orchestras are excited to have teaching artist Cristina Seaborn work with them in a month-long residency.

Seaborn is an experienced fiddler and dance caller and will be teaching fiddling techniques and basic improvising skills. The experience will culminate with a Hoedown Concert and Dance on October 5, 2018. High school orchestra students, backed up by the bluegrass band

Random Road will perform the ten fiddle tunes and dances.

The event is free and open to the public at 7:30 pm in the Buffalo High School Commons.

"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Central MN Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund."

Dance is a great way to bring a community together. Barn dance was a big part of the culture of Minnesota, and a revival is long overdue. There is a beautiful symmetry when dancers are all doing the current step that creates a kaleidoscope pattern.

Dances include waltzes, circle dance, square dance, and parallel line set dance. We will have a grand time dancing together at an old fashioned Barn Dance!

BHM Driver Education Fall B Session Still Has Openings!

- Class held 3:35-6:35 pm at Buffalo High School
- Mondays & Wednesdays, November 7 - December 12
- \$360 fee includes 30 hours of classroom instruction AND 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction
- Note: After 4 pm on October 31 the fee will be \$385 if there are still openings
- Register online at bhmschools.cc.eleyo.com, call Community Education at 763.682.8770 or stop by the Community Education office at 301 2nd Ave NE in Buffalo



Expressing musical gratitude to all of our veterans, BHS Band Director,

Scott Rabehl and the BHS Jazz Ensemble invite you to the 2nd annual "Make Believe Ballroom" on Saturday, November 10th from 7:00 – 9:30 pm, in the BHS Cafeteria.

The students will once again share the stage with The West Metro Big Band to bring you an evening full of swing music and dancing. The WMBB will be joined by New York songstress Joyce Lyons as well as a very special mystery vocalist.

BHS students will be collecting non-perishable food items and donating a portion of the evening's proceeds to the Buffalo Food Shelf. There will also be free swing dance lessons provided by Twin Cities Swing starting at 5:30 pm.

Tickets are \$5 at the door.

1940's costume admired, but not required.



BHS Health Services

World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10th every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

Here in Buffalo, community agencies are teaming up to provide a free event titled "Let's Talk About It" on Wednesday, October 10 at Buffalo High School PAC. Come at 5:30pm for Dinner and a Resource Fair and 6:30pm for the program. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of mental health issues and create a space to have community conversations, resources, and support in the hopes of improving the lives of all Wright County residents.

This free event is brought to you by the Bounce Back Project and SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education). People of all ages and families are encouraged to attend.

In addition, October is National Dental Hygiene Month – Buffalo High School will be hosting a free Dental Clinic for BHS/PLC students provided by Local Dentists and Operation Grace. This is our third year of hosting this clinic and it has had great success!! To sign your Middle School or High School student up for this free clinic, please call Kirk at the High School Health Office at (763) 682-8121.

We are a competitive chapter that competes in business related events and we honor students for community service activities. Categories of events include Management, Communication, Marketing, Finances & Mathematics, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, and Digital Communication and Design. Students can compete in up to three of the over 70 possible individual and team events and can easily find an event to play up your strengths!

We have one required monthly meeting during AAA, and weekly practice check-ins for your event. Depending on which event you choose, the level of commitment varies, but generally, BPA is a very low commitment activity with

BHS Senior Pictures & Yearbook Orders

Attention parents of Seniors:

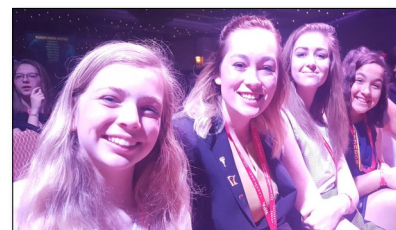
Senior Pictures for the yearbook are due by Friday, October 12. Photos can be emailed to yearbook@bhs.cc.

See www.bhs.cc for more information about senior pictures.

Save 20% on your yearbook!
If you order your yearbook by October 15, you will save over \$16 on the final price!
Order online at bhs.cc or balfour.com



a Fall Conference for officers in October, a Region Conference for all members to compete, a State Conference for those that qualify from Regions and a National Conference (this year in Anaheim, CA).



There is still time to register. Practices start in October, but final registration closes November 1. See Mrs. Diekmann or sign up in the Activities Office. Pictured above are 2018 Nationals Participants in Dallas, TX.

BHS BPA

"As a co-curricular activity, Business Professionals of America (BPA) has the ability to enhance student participation in professional, civic, service and social endeavors. BPA members participate in these activities to accomplish its goals of self-improvement, leadership development, professionalism, community service, career development, public relations, student cooperation and safety and health."



**Buffalo
Hanover
Montrose**
BHM SCHOOLS

BHM Operating Referendum

Vote: November 6, 2018

Just^{the}Facts

The place to dream, believe and achieve.

The Question

The BHM School Board has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$119.87 per pupil and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,067.87 per pupil. The net difference is \$950 per pupil. Beginning with taxes payable in 2019, the new net authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation for over a 10-year period.

Our Goals

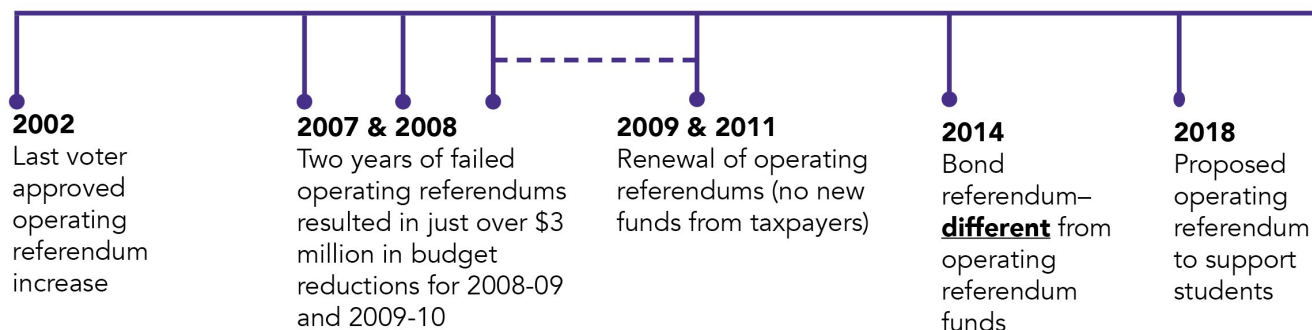
Help
**Reduce
Class Sizes**

Address
**School Safety
Through
Personnel &
Infrastructure**

Expand
**Middle
School
Opportunities**

Address
**Special
Ed
Funding
Deficit**

Historical Timeline



Why Now?

- The district can no longer spend down the district's fund balance to maintain class sizes.
- Addressing school safety and security issues and providing more mental health support is a top priority.
- Expanding opportunities for middle school students to receive extra help and have more elective class choices is very important.
- The state is not fully funding special education programs forcing our district to fill the \$760 per pupil funding gap.

Tax Impact

Year taxes payable		2019 Revoke Authority -\$119.87	2019 Proposed Authority \$1,069.87	2019 Net Change \$950
Property Type	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for BHM Operating Referendum Only		
Residential, Homesteads, Apartments, Commercial- Industrial Property	\$150,000	-\$17	\$279	\$262
	\$200,000	-\$22	\$371	\$349
	\$250,000	-\$28	\$464	\$436
	\$300,000	-\$34	\$557	\$523

More Information: www.bhmschools.org **Questions:** Call-763-682-0877 | Email- election@bhmschools.org



**Buffalo
Hanover
Montrose**
BHM SCHOOLS

BHM Operating Referendum
Vote: November 6, 2018

Financial Q & A

The place to **dream, believe and achieve.**

Q

If you need to fill the \$760 special education funding gap and you are asking for \$1,067.87 (net \$950) for this operating referendum, doesn't that mean 71% of this money will go towards special education?

A

No. The state and federal government continue to underfund the special education mandates they have placed on school districts. BHM Schools is already spending money for special education from our general fund to cover the cost. The funds raised through this referendum will free-up those funds to be spent in areas that benefit all students such as **reducing class sizes, expanding middle school opportunities, addressing school safety and security through personnel and infrastructure, and addressing the budget deficit.** Specific amounts have not been determined for each of these four areas because it could fluctuate from year to year—especially with class sizes.

Q

Why the big jump from \$119.87 to \$950?

A

The last voter approved operating referendum was 16 years ago. The district asked for an increase in operating funds in 2007 and 2008 and was unsuccessful, resulting in two years of budget reductions and a loss of 40 teachers. Since then, the district has used one-time state and federal funds and has begun to spend down the fund balance. The school board has been committed to class size reductions and over the last several years has hired back 18 teachers. With the lack of school funding, we can not sustain what we have, make additional investments in educational programming, improve student safety with personnel or make further reductions in class sizes. Even with the additional funding request of \$950, we are still below the state average for general education revenue.

Q

We just gave you money in the 2014 bond referendum election to help with safety and security. Do you need additional funds to do more or did you not budget those projects adequately?

A

Yes we budgeted adequately, but we need to do more. The funds from the 2014 bond referendum could ONLY be used for building projects and upgrades. We improved the safety and security of our buildings by building new, secure entrances at Discovery Elementary, Hanover Elementary and Tatanka Elementary STEM School. We also added video cameras, updated intercom systems, fixed roofs, repaired parking lots and sidewalks, and upgraded the phone system (along with many other improvements).

Since 2014, many factors have changed in the way we want to protect our students in our schools and other safety measures we want to put in place. This referendum will address the need to reduce class sizes and hire personnel to deal with student mental health issues and provide funds for school improvements such as bullet resistant window film, a blue light alert system (notifies students when they can't hear announcements), open door indicators and other identified safety improvements.

Q

Can you use the 2014 bond referendum funding to help pay for more teachers?

A

No. The funds from the 2014 bond referendum could ONLY be used for the building projects and upgrades as identified and could not be used for operating expenses such as teacher salaries. Funds from the 2014 bond election can only be placed in Fund 06 (Construction Fund) which can only pay for construction related costs. Teachers are not an allowable expenditure in the Construction Fund.

Q

If this operating referendum passes, how much will my taxes go up each year?

A

See the tax impact chart on the front page. If this operating referendum passes, it will be in effect for the next 10 years. As you will see on the tax impact chart, the estimated tax on a \$250,000 home would be \$436 for the year or \$36.33 per month. This amount will fluctuate each year based on the rate of inflation. If inflation goes up by 1%, that amount will increase \$4.36 to \$440.36 or \$36.69 per month.

Buffalo High School
877 Bison Blvd.
Buffalo, MN 55313

Emergency Test Message - October 11

BHM Schools wants to ensure that we are communicating with parents in the most effective way possible. On Thursday, October 11, 2018, mid-morning, the district will send out a district-wide emergency test message to parents and guardians from our parent notification system. You should receive a call, email and text messages (whatever information you have on file with your child's school). Especially with the upcoming winter months, we want to be sure parents/guardians don't miss any important messages from the school or the district about cancellations or delays. Remember this is **ONLY** a TEST and **NO** action will likely be necessary.

Join us on Parent/Teacher Conferences night for a College and Career Fair!

On Monday, October 8 from 5 - 7pm in the BHS Gymnasium, over 40 colleges, business, and organizations will be in attendance for students to learn about various career paths and educational opportunities available to them. Check it out!

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| 10/5 | Picture Retake Day | 11/5 | Teacher Workshop, NO SCHOOL K-12 |
| 10/8 | Parent/Teacher Conferences - Cafeteria, 5 - 8 p.m.
FAFSA Help - Lab B203, 5-8 p.m.
College & Career Fair, 5 - 7 p.m. | 11/10 | Jazz I & West Metro Big Band -
BHS Cafeteria, 7 p.m. |
| 10/17-10/19 | Fall Break, NO SCHOOL K-12 | 11/15-11/17 | BHS Fall Play - PAC
Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m. |
| 10/23 | Major Work Choir Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. | 11/20 | Fall Band Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. |
| 10/27 | Concert Band & 34th Infantry Div. Red Bull Band -
PAC, 7:30 p.m. | 11/21-11/23 | Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL K-12 |
| 10/30 | Concert Orchestra & Univ. of Minnesota Symphony
Orchestra Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. | 11/29 | Fall Orchestra Concert - PAC, 7:30 p.m. |
| 11/1 | Winter Sports meeting - PAC, 7 p.m. | 12/3 | Concert Band & BCMS Grade 8 Band Concert
PAC, 7:30 p.m. |