

# ***The Bison Blast***

Buffalo Community Middle School – October 2019



## **Mr. Lubben's Greetings**

It has been a great start to the school year here at BCMS! Our 7th and 8th grade students are providing positive leadership and the 6th graders have made the adjustment to middle school and seem to love the new experience. We are excited for positive transitions to our school community as we continued this year with our In the Middle Day for 6th graders, the use of a Bison Binder for all students, and the WEB program. We value the feedback you all have given us regarding the start of the school year and hope you will continue to share with us how the school year is going for your student and family.

I have had many of you ask me about the importance of the upcoming referendum for Buffalo Community Middle School. I will try to summarize in a short version, on details that I feel are key and make the most sense of the current budget situation.

In November of 2018, BHM schools asked voters to pass a levy that would have provided further funds to operate the district. It did not pass. As a result, the district made \$1.375 million in reductions for the 2019-20 school year. On November 5, the district is asking residents to vote on another operating levy. If it does not pass, another \$2.9 million in cuts are planned for 2020-21. BHM has continued to operate with less per pupil dollars than most schools.

The voter approved per pupil dollars for BHM students today is:

\$358 less than Delano

\$467 less than Elk River (Rogers)

\$600 less than Maple Lake

\$510 less than Monticello

\$750 less than Rockford

\$1457 less than Osseo (Maple Grove)

Specifically, BCMS would be greatly impacted if the operating referendum does not pass. All middle school activities would be cut. The QUEST programming would be lost along with cuts to intervention classes that currently help struggling students in math and reading. Classrooms and bus rides will become more crowded than they currently are, and we would lose approximately another 5 teachers. None of the things listed above are "Doing What's Best for Kids". The reality is, to continue to offer our students a quality education, something must be done to meet the growing deficit between funding and operation.

Throughout the month of October, there will be multiple opportunities to find out more about the upcoming levy and the impact it will have on the long term future of our school district. There will be informational meetings on October 1 at the BHM District office, October 3 at Montrose Elementary School of Innovation, and October 10 at Hanover Elementary. They will start at 7:00pm. These meetings are great ways to become informed in regards to the impact the upcoming levy vote will have on our school district. I have also provided a link below to the Special Edition Insider that has much more election information. There are many factors to consider when asking the community to contribute more dollars for our schools. Please become informed and make an educated decision when voting.

Thank you for sharing your child with us!

Matt Lubben  
BCMS Principal



The place to dream, believe and achieve.

# VOTE

BHM Operating Referendum | Tuesday, November 5, 2019

## Meet the Matters

Meet Bob H. Matters.  
He is married to Shelly.  
They have three kids—Archie is 16, Betsie is 12 and Charlie is 8.  
They are relocating and need to find a new home.  
They scope out the area school districts.  
They discover the opportunities that are available for their kids in BHM Schools.  
They also discover the lakes, shopping and restaurants in the area.  
They talk to “locals” who have lived in the area for 20 or more years.  
They learn about their experiences.  
They decide that the BHM School District is a great place to raise their family.



## The Situation

The Matters family loves ❤️ their new schools and community.  
But, the school district is in financial trouble.  
The last voter-approved operating referendum was in 2002.  
That helped pay salaries, supplies, utilities, programs, activities and more.  
They needed more funds and had to go out in 2007 and 2008 for an operating referendum election.  
Those elections failed.  
The district made over \$3 million in cuts from 2008-2010.  
After the reductions, BHM received one-time federal and state funding.  
This freed up money 🏠 in the district's general fund.  
BHM Schools was able to build up their fund balance (savings).  
With the savings, over the last 3 years, BHM was able to hire back more teachers and support staff.  
This helped reduce class sizes.  
But sadly, 😞 state funding is not keeping up with inflation and the district's savings are running low.  
The BHM budget increases \$1-\$1.5 million annually (inflation/operating costs).  
That does not include the increasing annual funding deficit for special ed mandates—(currently at \$5.9 million).

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## BCMS Fall Conferences

Hello BCMS Families,

BCMS Fall Conferences will be held on November 19 and 25 from 4:00 - 8:00pm. Conferences are optional, as you can also use the Parent Portal, teacher websites, and Google Classroom to keep updated on your child's progress. We ask parents to select a start time in order to spread out our building traffic throughout the night. During the time you select, you will have the opportunity to meet with each of your child's teachers. Please note the entire process will take approximately 45 minutes - 1 hour. Find your child's section which is listed alphabetically by team or last name, unless your child is in the Quest program - then please sign them up under Quest.

[6th Grade Student Sign Up](#)

[7th Grade Student Sign Up](#)

[8th Grade Student Sign Up](#)

[QUEST Student Sign Up](#)

Thanks for all of your support!

## Counseling Corner: Supporting students on their Middle School journey

How can a School Counselor help my child?

The BCMS Counseling Team would like to inform parents of the services and resources they offer to students and their families. Counselors help students through personal counseling, group counseling, academic planning, goal setting and assistance accessing community and mental health resources. Counselors practice a solution focused and problem solving approach.

If you have a concern about how your child is performing in school, how they are functioning personally or socially, or you're just wondering if your pre-teen/teenage child's behavior is developmentally appropriate, please contact your child's grade level counselor. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel there is something we can do to help your child.

Looking for ways to connect with your middle school student!?

- \*Have your student show you their grades - Your student is really excited about their good grade they received in that class
- \*Attend school events - Even though your student might not admit it, they want you to be involved and interested in their schoolwork.
- \*Go for a walk together - Do an internet search for "middle school conversation starters." You'll be amazed at what you can find out about your kid during a short walk together!
- \*Create Memories - Pick their favorite meal and make it together.
- \*Set aside time - When you are riding in the car with your child, make that a positive time to talk about his/her day
- \*Be available - Let your student know you are there to listen, you don't need to solve the problem.



**Ashley  
Kamphenkel**

6th Grade

[Ms. Kamphenkel's email](#)

(763)682-8217



**Penny Thalacker**

7th Grade

[Ms. Thalacker's email](#)

(763)682-8219



**Kaitlin Kolbinger**

8th Grade

[Ms. Kolbinger's email](#)

(763)682-8220



## BCMS Picture Re-Take Day

This year's picture retake day at BCMS will take place on Friday, October 4. Please see the attached form for more details. To place an online order or view what is available, follow this [link](#). Parents will also have up to 48 hours after picture day to complete their online order.

## Full Steam Ahead....

In our semester long STEAM Technology class, all 6th graders will be exploring coding while using Ozobots and Chromebooks. Students are engaged through observation, collaboration, problem-solving and experimenting! This is a fun hands-on unit that the students use higher level thinking skills to complete their code. Shown in these pictures are students using Ozobots as an introduction to coding.



## Emergency Test Messages to BHM Families

Emergency Test Message—October 10, 2019

BHM Schools want to ensure that we are communicating with parents in the most effective way possible. **On Thursday, October 10, 2019, 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.



# Buffalo Community Middle School

## Daily Schedule



### Schedule: Monday & Thursday

Prime Time	8:50 - 9:25
1st hour	9:30 - 10:20
2nd hour	10:25 - 11:15
3rd hour	11:20 - 12:10
4th Hour & Lunches	
8th Grade:	Lunch 12:10 - 12:35 Class 12:40 - 1:35
7th Grade:	Class 12:15 - 12:40 Lunch 12:40 - 1:05 Class Continues 1:10 - 1:35
6th Grade:	Class 12:15 - 1:10 Lunch 1:10 - 1:35
5th hour	1:40 - 2:30
6th hour	2:35 - 3:25

### Schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Prime Time	8:50 - 9:10
1st hour	9:15 - 10:08
2nd hour	10:13 - 11:06
3rd hour	11:11 - 12:04
4th Hour & Lunches	
8th Grade:	Lunch 12:04 - 12:29 Class 12:34 - 1:29
7th Grade:	Class 12:09 - 12:34 Lunch 12:34 - 12:59 Class Continues 1:04 - 1:29
6th Grade:	Class 12:09 - 1:04 Lunch 1:04 - 1:29
5th hour	1:34 - 2:27
6th hour	2:32 - 3:25

### TWO HOUR LATE START

Prime Time does not meet on late start days.

1st hour: 10:50 - 11:24

2nd hour: 11:29 - 12:02

4th hour: 12:07 - 1:30

8th Grade Lunch 12:02 - 12:27, 4th hour from 12:32-1:30

7th Grade 4th hour starts at 12:07-12:33, Lunch from 12:33 - 12:58, 4th hour continues from 1:03-1:30

6th Grade 4th hour starts at 12:07 - 1:04, Lunch 1:04 - 1:29

3rd hour: 1:35 - 2:08

5th hour: 2:13 - 2:46

6th hour: 2:51 - 3:25



## Buffalo Community Middle School



Facebook



@BCMSBison

"Doing What's Best for Kids!"



Buffalo Community Middle Sch...



763-682-8200



mlubben@bhmschools.org



bhmschools.org/schools/buffa...