

Students in our summer Camp SAFARI program build structures using marshmallows and toothpicks.

A Message from Superintendent Les Fujitake



## Our students enter schools with a promise, leave with a purpose



Superintendent Les Fujitake congratulates Kennedy graduate Sarah Carrillo-Vilchez last spring. See page 3 for more on what we're doing to ensure our graduates are ready for career and college.

It's almost time to dry off from the pool, grab the backpack and head back to school.

The first day of school brings excitement for students as they prepare to start a new school year, renew friendships and meet their teachers. It also brings a mix of emotions for students and parents alike over the promise of new beginnings and changes to come.

There is a wonderful feeling of community and belonging for our students and families within our schools. Our goal is to make sure all students are part of a trusting and caring community of teachers, support staff, volunteers and school leaders each day they walk into their schools and classrooms.

Life has many challenges, but I want all of our students and parents to know they belong to a community that will stand with them and help

them learn to navigate their pathways to career or college.

Helping every child feel like they belong and are included in a community that supports them is the key to their overall emotional well-being and academic success. We are so proud of our schools and their ongoing commitment to academics, the arts, activities and school safety, all of which contribute to student growth and achievement.

All of our students enter school with a promise. Our responsibility is to help them leave with a purpose.

We look forward to partnering with parents, guardians and families to inspire success and a lifetime of learning in Bloomington Public Schools.

## Don Gramenz new interim Hillcrest principal



Don Gramenz is the new interim principal at Hillcrest Community School following the resignation of Calvin Keasling, who accepted a new role at another district.

Gramenz was selected from a pool of internal candidates. He has been with Bloomington Public Schools for the past 16 years as an elementary teacher (Washburn), district peer coach, and most recently as a dean of students at Kennedy High School. Prior to becoming a teacher, Gramenz was a professional soccer player and coach.

Gramenz holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a graduate degree from the University of St. Thomas, and principal licensure from the University of Minnesota.

We were also pleased to announce earlier this year our new assistant superintendent Jenna Mitchler, Ph.D., and the following principals in new positions:

- Principal Joan Maland has moved from Indian Mounds Elementary School to Valley View Elementary School
- Principal Jeremy Kuhns has moved from Olson Middle School to Indian Mounds
- Tim Ciavarri, former assistant principal at Oak Grove Middle School, is the new principal at Olson Middle School

# Back-to-School Guide

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! Here, you'll find important back-to-school information. For more school- and student-specific information, visit the Hub and your school's website. Let's have a great year!

## 2019-20 School Directory

### Community Education

Tamra Sieve, Director  
**Community Ed. Campus**  
 2575 W 88th St.

### Early Learning Services

Jeanna Miller, Director  
**Pond Center**  
 9600 3rd Ave.  
**Southwood Center**  
 4901 W. 112th St.

### Elementary Schools: Grades K-5

#### Hillcrest Community

9301 Thomas Rd.  
**Indian Mounds**  
 9801-11th Ave.

#### Normandale Hills

9501 Toledo Ave.

#### Oak Grove

1301 W. 104th St.

#### Olson

4501 W. 102nd St.

#### Poplar Bridge

8401 Palmer Ave.

#### Ridgeview

9400 Nesbitt Ave.

#### Valley View

351 E. 88th St.

#### Washburn

8401 Xerxes Ave.

#### Westwood

3701 W. 108th St.

### Middle Schools: Grades 6-8

#### Oak Grove

1300 W. 106th St.  
 Galaxy Youth Center

#### Olson

4551 W. 102nd St.  
 Galaxy Youth Center

#### Valley View

8900 Portland Ave.  
 Galaxy Youth Center

### High Schools: Grades 9-12

#### Jefferson

4001 W. 102nd St.  
 Activity Center

#### Kennedy

9701 Nicollet Ave.  
 Activity Center  
 Beacon

681-6100

681-6200

681-6200

806-8900

Don Gramenz

681-5300

Jeremy Kuhns

681-6000

Andrew Vollmuth

806-7000

Brian Cline

681-6800

Paul Meyer

806-8800

Roberto Cantu

681-5400

Steve Abrahamson

806-7100

Joan Maland

681-5700

Andrew Wilkins

681-5500

Hugh Roberts

806-7200

Brian Ingemann

681-6600

681-6606

Tim Ciavarri

806-8600

806-8606

Megan Willrett

681-5800

681-5806

Jaysen Anderson

806-7600

806-7880

Carol Kampa

681-5000

681-5280

681-5056



## BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- School in session
- Teacher professional development, conference\* or work day
- Elementary assessment day
- No school for elementary Grades 6-12 in session

### START AND END DATES

Sept 3	First day of school 6-12
Sept 4	First day of school K-5
Jun 4	Last day of school K-12

### KEY DATES

Aug 26-30	Teacher professional development
Aug 28	Elementary assessment day
Sept 2	No school K-12: Labor Day
Sept 3	No school K-5: Elementary assessment day
Sept 3	First day of school 6-12
Sept 4	First day of school K-5
Oct 16	No school K-12: Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
Oct 17-18	No school K-12: Education Minnesota Conference
Nov 1	No school K-5: Elementary teacher professional development; grades 6-12 in session
Nov 22	End of Trimester 1
Nov 25-26	No school K-12: Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
Nov 27-29	No school K-12: Thanksgiving break
Dec 23-Jan 3	No school K-12: Winter break
Jan 20	No school K-12: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 14	No school K-12: Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
Feb 17	No school K-12: President's Day
Mar 5	End of Trimester 2
Mar 6	No school K-12: Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
Mar 9	No school K-12: Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
Mar 23-27	No school K-12: Spring break
Apr 10	No school K-12
May 25	No school K-12: Memorial Day
Jun 4	End of Trimester 3
Jun 5	Teacher work day

\* Individual schools determine actual school conference dates.

Approved by the School Board January 28, 2019.

JULY 2019					JANUARY 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3
8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10
15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17
22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24
29	30	31			27	28	29	30	31
AUGUST 2019					FEBRUARY 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30					
SEPTEMBER 2019					MARCH 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	23	24	25	26	27
30					30	31			
OCTOBER 2019					APRIL 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4			1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30	
NOVEMBER 2019					MAY 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1					1
4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29
DECEMBER 2019					JUNE 2020				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5
9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26
30	31				29	30			

[bloomingtonschools.org/full-year-calendar](http://bloomingtonschools.org/full-year-calendar)

## Back-to-School Events

### Elementary Schools

The 2019-20 academic calendar features two elementary student assessment days prior to the first day of school. On Wednesday, Aug. 28 and Tuesday, Sept. 3, K-5 teachers will conduct individual reading conferences with students. The early assessment will help teachers determine the instructional reading level of each student, set academic goals and design effective personalized instructional.

Families have received information from their schools with teacher assignments and instructions for signing up for a 30-minute assessment conference appointment.

Back-to-school events will be held in conjunction with elementary early assessment days. Parents and students will meet school staff, visit classrooms, set up lunch accounts, discuss health concerns with nurses, learn about their PTAs and more.

The first day of school for K-5 students is Wednesday, Sept. 4.

### Hillcrest Community School

Assessment days: Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Open house: Aug. 29, 3 - 4 p.m.

### Indian Mounds Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Normandale Hills Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Oak Grove Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Olson Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Poplar Bridge Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Ridgeview Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Valley View Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Washburn Elementary School

Assessment days: Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 Back-to-school picnic: Sept. 5

### Westwood Elementary School

Aug. 28 or Sept. 3, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Secondary Schools

Middle and high school students return to school on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Back-to-school events are scheduled as follows:

#### Oak Grove Middle School

Aug. 29, 3 - 7 p.m.

#### Olson Middle School

Aug. 29, 3 - 7 p.m.

#### Valley View Middle School

Aug. 29, 3 - 7 p.m.

#### Jefferson High School

Jumpstart, all students: Aug. 21, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Back-to-School Night: Aug. 27, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

#### Kennedy High School

Connect Day: Aug. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Early Learning

Early Learning Services will host a back-to-school ice cream social for early learning families:

Aug. 29, 4 - 5 p.m.  
 Pond Center, 9600 3rd Ave. S.

# Preparing students for life

Preparing students for the future is no small task. Bloomington Public Schools is committed to preparing all students to graduate with the needed knowledge, skills and attitudes to succeed in a career that fits their interests, talents and goals.



The Personal Growth Plan (PGP) is our system for helping students and parents monitor progress and goals through the school years and prepare for post-high school plans. Each student's PGP includes:

- Academic indicators like grades, test scores, attendance and academic goals.
- Learning success skills like goal setting, time management, personal strengths and financial literacy.
- Career and college planning like career interest inventories, resume tools and course planning (grades 6-12).

Students start their PGPs in middle school, focusing on school success strategies and personal strengths and beginning

career exploration.

Throughout the high school years, PGP activities focus on life skills and academic planning. Career and college planning includes learning about career fields and types of postsecondary education and training, including traditional four-year colleges, technical or trade colleges, apprenticeships, on-the-job training and military service.

Students have many opportunities to earn college credits in high school with AP, dual enrollment, online, Career and College Academy, post secondary enrollment options (PSEO), technical training and apprenticeships. Last

year's seniors graduated with a combined 3,700 college credits, plus potential credit for AP classes. Students also have opportunities for internship or mentorship experiences in high school, which helps them connect what they're learning to their goals.

The work world is rapidly changing. Many in-demand jobs today don't require a four-year degree. By aligning high school courses and activities with a career interest area, students can choose the postsecondary education or training that best fits with their goals.

[bloomingtonschools.org/career-college](http://bloomingtonschools.org/career-college)

## Check student info in the Hub



In preparation for the start of school, parents and students are encouraged to log into the Hub to view important back-to-school information. The Hub, a password-protected website, provides easy access to homework, calendar, classroom sites, school news, attendance and bus information.

To log in to the Hub, visit [login.isd271.org](http://login.isd271.org). School lunch PINs, class schedules, and locker numbers and combinations if they are assigned by the school are all available now. School bus routes and pick-up/drop-off times are available, but note that these may change slightly up to the start of school.

Hub usernames are emailed to families with an email address on file several times before the start of school. To update your email address with the district, log in to Infinite Campus and provide your contact information and preferences.

[bloomingtonschools.org/parents-hub](http://bloomingtonschools.org/parents-hub)

## Convenient care for students

Health Commons at Pond, 9600 3rd Ave. S, is a free clinic serving students and families on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2-6 p.m.

The clinic offers a variety of care and services, including sports physicals, health screenings and referrals, mental health support, care for infections and other minor illnesses. Immunizations are available to patients with state insurance or no insurance.

Care is provided by nurse practitioners, faculty and nursing students in partnership with Minnesota State University Mankato Graduate School of Nursing.

Additionally, all school health offices are staffed during the school day with licensed nurses.

The Health Commons  
at Pond





# IN THE KNOW

## New Two-hour Delay

A new two-hour delay will be an option for district administration in the event severe weather—fog, snow, ice and extreme cold—creates hazardous conditions for transporting students to school. Previously, the district considered two options: canceling classes and programs or operating as normal. The district also initiated early release when weather conditions worsened as the day progressed.

Further details on how the two-hour delay will impact students, families and staff will be provided in the next issue of School Pages, along with other communication to families.

## Computer Science Immersion

Indian Mounds and Poplar Bridge elementary schools will introduce a new Computer Science Immersion program this year. The program aims to empower students with skills and knowledge necessary for success in the 21st Century: creativity, collaboration, communication, persistence and confidence in dealing with complex, open-ended problems. Introducing computer science concepts in the early grades expands opportunities for girls, lower income youth and students of color who are typically under-represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

## Public Use of School Playgrounds

In response to safety concerns, access to all school playgrounds and playfields are limited to Bloomington Public Schools students during the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each school day. Before- and after-school programs run between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., including Kids' SAFARI and Galaxy.

School playgrounds and playfields may be used by the general public when students in school and district-run programs are not present. Signs with language to this effect are now posted at school sites. Additional exceptions are allowed in summer months when district programs are limited to a few school sites.



## Chip in for Schools

The annual Education Foundation of Bloomington Chip In For Schools Golf Classic raised more than \$37,000 thanks to sponsors and participants. Mall of America, Kraus-Anderson and other businesses and groups donated to the event, which helps EFB support programming and create opportunities for students.

Save the Date: The 2020 event will be held July 29 at Dwan Golf Course with a reception following at Minnesota Valley Country Club.

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# POINTS OF PRIDE

■ **Kelsey Johnson** (Jefferson) and **Linnea Ziebol** (Kennedy) earned two of five Awards of Excellence at last spring's Metro West Conference Art Competition. Other Bloomington award winners include:

- **Elyse Cooke** (Jefferson), Award of Achievement
- **Samantha Ouellete** (Jefferson), Award of Achievement
- **Isabella Phan** (Jefferson), Award of Achievement
- **Margaret Duerwachter** (Jefferson), Award of Merit
- **Britney Lopez** (Kennedy), Award of Merit

■ **Jordan Thomson** (Kennedy), **Ryan Cole**, **Colden Longley** and **Christopher Melville** (Jefferson) earned perfect scores on the ACT. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of students taking the ACT earn a top score of 36.



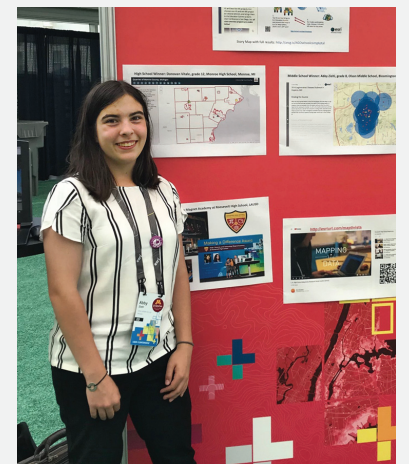
■ Olson Elementary School first grade teacher **Susan Duffey** (above) was named a WCCO Excellent Educator.

■ **Jefferson High School** received a Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) Gold Star of Innovation Award for its Jaguar Proud initiative, designed to celebrate and recognize every Jefferson student.

■ **Jefferson High School** is among the top 20 high schools in Minnesota according to recent rankings by U.S. News & World Report. Ranking No. 19, Jefferson boasts a high AP course participation rate, a 91 percent graduation rate, and

reading and math proficiency levels well above statewide averages.

- Kennedy High School students received top marks on Le Grand Concours, a national French exam given each year:
  - **Jessica Greymont**, **Darcy Pliego**, **Nina Hawkins** and **Carolina Herrera Ramirez** were awarded gold honors for scoring in the top five percent nationally.
  - **Brandon Medina Alvarado**, **Jaden Grace**, **Natalie Manro** and **Eva Martin** were awarded bronze honors for scoring in the top 10 percent nationally.
  - **Katarina Campbell**, **Alex Fischer**, **Tixzy Garzon-Herrera**, **Jeremy Olea-Herrera**, **John Lane** and **Emma Moore** earned honorable mention recognition.



■ Olson Middle School student **Abby Ziehl** (above) earned first place in the National ArcGIS Online Student Competition.

■ Education Foundation of Bloomington (EFB) named the following Prodigy Award winning teams:

- **Kennedy High School Community Alliance Team:** administrators, counselors, social workers, student advocates
- **Metro South Adult Basic Education Registration and Testing Team:** Judy Bergstreser, Marylynn Dvorak, Jill Lynch, Marni Anderson, Shelley Mattson
- **Jefferson High School Behavior Intervention Team:** Dave Mousel, Kristen Wetzel, Quinton Johnson