

BLOOMINGTON
Public Schools

SCHOOL PAGES

Back-to-School 2020-21



A Message from Superintendent Les Fujitake



Our Compass: Safe, sustainable learning environment



Like other schools across Minnesota and the country, we've learned this about the COVID-19 global pandemic: expect change.

We've tackled the simple but weighty question, "How do we return to school amid a pandemic?" Although there are no right answers, we've established that our compass will always be fixed on creating a safe and sustainable learning environment amidst the uncertainties of these times.

With our lens on the fall, teams of district and school leaders, teachers and support staff have prepared educational models and safety guidelines for each possible scenario we encounter in the 2020-2021 school year.

In this back-to-school issue, you'll find elements of our Distance Learning 2.0 + Supports plan to address student learning while keeping students and staff safe.

All of you—from the School Board to administration to teachers and support staff—seek a return to safe in-person learning. And, while we had planned to open our doors on Tuesday, Sept. 8, we could not ensure a safe and

sustainable learning environment for students, teachers, staff and families.

It became clear in our work with district and school leaders and staff that the issues and challenges of creating a viable district-wide staffing plan for the hybrid learning model and flex option while balancing parent preferences with staff requests for accommodations for health concerns were too great to ensure a quality educational experience for every child.

We will begin the school year with a vastly improved Distance Learning 2.0 + Supports plan, which will provide opportunities for in-person learning to students who need more support, and the new Bloomington Online School.

In all we do this year, we will continue to put safety first and leverage science, data and public health evidence to inform our decision-making to serve every student and staff member. Our plans will continue to be flexible and may be adjusted as conditions allow.

We appreciate your continued support, understanding and patience.

How we landed on Distance Learning

There is no doubt that in-person learning and support is best for most students. Being together with classmates and caring adults is beneficial to students' academic and social-emotional health. As much as we all want certainty, there are no easy answers.

Earlier this summer, we worked diligently to gather parent and staff data needed to inform our return to school plans. We monitored three key data sources:

- Hennepin County's COVID-19 health rates and the expert advice of our partners at Bloomington Public Health;
- Parent preferences for the learning model that best fit their family situation, with a majority of parents wanting flexibility for their children to attend in-person, while others favored at-home learning; and
- Teacher exemptions. Nearly 200 teachers requested exemptions from on-site work because they or their family members are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 as specifically addressed in the governor's executive order and federal law.

With this number of exemptions, we were unable to staff the hybrid and flex models. Balancing parent preferences with staff requests for exemptions based on health concerns, we were unable to ensure a quality educational experience for every child.

Looking ahead, exploring ways to return to in-person learning begins with building empathy for stakeholder needs and concerns. Whether for preschool and elementary students initially, or every student, we can assure you our goal is to find a way for students and staff to return to school safely.



Distance Learning 2.0 + Supports: What to expect

Throughout the summer, BPS teachers, support staff, technology integrationists and curriculum and instruction experts have worked to create a robust Distance Learning 2.0 + Supports plan. Improvements were made based on feedback from staff, students and parents:

- Consistent schedule for students for synchronous learning
- Consistency in parent communication
- Streamlined technology tools and platforms
- Courses designed around online learning best practices
- Assessments and grading aligned to highest priority standards

SAMPLE ELEMENTARY STUDENT DAY	SAMPLE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT DAY	SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Morning meeting: 20-30 minutes with direct teacher instruction ✓ Small group instruction: 20-30 minutes with direct teacher instruction in reading or math ✓ Self-directed learning: 3-4 blocks of recorded instruction with activities to complete for reading, math, social studies, science or health ✓ Self-directed learning: specialist instruction in music, physical education, or art ✓ Small group instruction: special education, intervention and English language support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advisory: daily connection with teacher and advisory classmates ✓ Exploratories: Up to 40 minutes of synchronous instruction ✓ Core subjects: Up to 30 minutes of synchronous instruction ✓ Optional support: teachers available for student support during regular office hours ✓ Self-directed learning: students complete activities assigned during synchronous/asynchronous instruction at their own pace ✓ Small group instruction: special education, intervention and English language support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ First, third and fifth hours: 1-2 synchronous classes per week ✓ Second, fourth, and sixth hours: 1-2 synchronous classes per week ✓ Self directed learning: students complete activities assigned during synchronous/asynchronous instruction at their own pace ✓ Optional support: teachers are available for support during posted times

Building Relationships

We know student-teacher and school-family relationships are a key to school success. We are committed to building relationships with students and families. All schools will have time in the first weeks of school to build relationships and distribute materials. All schools will have multiple days for technology drop off and pick up with support.

A Typical Week

M / T / Th / F	Synchronous learning
W—Elementary	Synchronous meetings with specialists
W—Secondary	Aynchronous learning with opportunities to meet with teachers

The four-day instruction schedule will help maintain consistency if we are able to move to a hybrid model in the future.

Daily schedules will vary by level and grade with consistent times for direct teacher instruction.

Teachers and specialists will collaborate to differentiate instruction based on individual student needs and maintain consistency in services for English language learners and students who receive special education services.

Elementary

- Daily synchronous morning meeting required for attendance
- Approx. 1 hour of synchronous learning per day
- Up to 2 hours of asynchronous learning per day with activities to complete
- Synchronous meets with art, music and PE specialists on Wednesday with asynchronous/independent learning throughout the week
- Additional small group direct instruction added as needed for English language, interventions and special education

Secondary

- 1-3 hours of synchronous learning per day
- Up to 3 hours of asynchronous learning per day with activities to complete
- Students are required to attend all synchronous classes and sessions

Preschool and Early Learning

Preschool, early childhood special education (ECSE) and early childhood family education (ECFE) programs will start the school year in the Distance Learning 2.0 + Supports model.

- Emphasis on community building, relationships and connectedness by incorporating social emotional supports in academic content
- Weekly asynchronous learning plan (independently at your own pace) with a balance of teacher-created lesson plans and activities, read-alouds and mini group-time videos
- Personal family check-ins and small group Google Meets throughout the month

Grab and Go Meals

During Distance Learning, grab and go meals will be available to all BPS families at no charge at any of the following sites.

Monday pickup includes breakfast and lunch for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday pickup includes breakfast and lunch for Thursday and Friday.

HOURS: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
LOCATIONS	
Jefferson High School	Door 34
Kennedy High School	Door 5
Normandale Hills Elementary School	Door 12
Valley View Middle School	Door 1

bloomington.k12.mn.us/food-services

District, schools welcome new leadership

Bloomington Public Schools welcomes new administrative and school leaders to start the 2020-21 school year: **Beth Flottmeier, Sarah Moline** and **Molly Hollenbeck**.



Beth Flottmeier is the new director of curriculum and instruction. Flottmeier has been with the district since 1998, serving as an elementary teacher, curriculum coordinator, media director, summer school coordinator/principal, interim elementary principal and most recently as a literacy coach at Oak Grove Elementary School.



Sarah Moline is the new early learning and youth and family services director. The Bloomington Jefferson High School graduate will serve as the site leader for Pond Center, which houses early childhood screening and family education and 3- and 4-year-old preschool. Moline started her education career as a Kids' SAFARI activity leader with the district in 1998, then moved into early childhood teaching and coordinator positions with

Small Wonders Preschool and Lakeville Community Education. She most recently served as the director of early childhood programs for Eden Prairie Schools.



Molly Hollenbeck is joining the Kennedy High School administrative team as an assistant principal. Hollenbeck served as an associate principal at Eden Prairie High School for the past five years, and was previously a special education teacher and district behavior specialist in Eden Prairie Schools. Hollenbeck is the former assistant director of student support services for Edina Public Schools.

The district earlier this year also selected **Jake Winchell** as the new director of Community Education, **Akram Osman** as the new Kennedy High School principal and **Carey Seeley** as the new Ridgeview Elementary School principal.

2020-21 SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Community Education 681-6100

Jake Winchell, Director
Community Ed. Campus
2575 W 88th St.

Early Learning Services 681-6200

Sarah Moline, Director
Pond Center 681-6200
9600 3rd Ave.
Southwood Center
Michelle Kvikstad, Supervisor 806-8900
4901 W. 112th St.

Elementary Schools: Grades K-5

Hillcrest Community Don Gramenz 681-5300
9301 Thomas Rd.
Indian Mounds Jeremy Kuhns 681-6000
9801-11th Ave.
Normandale Hills Andrew Vollmuth 806-7000
9501 Toledo Ave.
Oak Grove Brian Cline 681-6800
1301 W. 104th St.
Olson Paul Meyer 806-8800
4501 W. 102nd St.
Poplar Bridge Roberto Cantu 681-5400
8401 Palmer Ave.
Ridgeview Carey Seeley 806-7100
9400 Nesbitt Ave.
Valley View Joan Maland 681-5700
351 E. 88th St.
Washburn Andrew Wilkins 681-5500
8401 Xerxes Ave.
Westwood Hugh Roberts 806-7200
3701 W. 108th St.

Middle Schools: Grades 6-8

Oak Grove Brian Ingemann 681-6600
1300 W. 106th St.
Galaxy Youth Center
Olson Tim Ciavarri 806-8600
4551 W. 102nd St.
Galaxy Youth Center
Valley View Megan Willrett 681-5800
8900 Portland Ave.
Galaxy Youth Center 681-5806

High Schools: Grades 9-12

Jefferson Jaysen Anderson 806-7600
4001 W. 102nd St. 806-7880
Activity Center
Kennedy Akram Osman 681-5000
9701 Nicollet Ave. 681-5280
Activity Center 681-5056
Beacon

2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- School in session
- Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
- Elementary assessment day

START AND END DATES

Sept 8 First day of school K-12
Jun 3 Last day of school K-12

KEY DATES

Aug 24-28 Teacher professional development
Aug 26 Elementary assessment day
Aug 31 Elementary assessment day, secondary family outreach
Sept 1 Elementary professional development/work day, secondary family outreach
Sept 2 Elementary/secondary professional development/work day
Sept 8 First day of school K-12
Oct 14 No school K-12: Secondary professional development day, elementary conference/comp day*
Oct 15-16 No school K-12: Education Minnesota Conference
Oct 30 End of Quarter 1: Middle school
Nov 24 End of Trimester 1: High school
Nov 25 No School K-12: Secondary professional development/work day, elementary conference/comp day*
Nov 26-27 No school K-12: Thanksgiving break
Dec 21-Jan 1 No school K-12: Winter break
Jan 15 End of Quarter 2: Middle school
Jan 18 No school K-12: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 19 No school K-12: District-wide professional development day
Feb 12 No school K-12: Elementary professional development/work day, secondary conference/comp day*
Feb 15 No school K-12: Presidents Day
Feb 16 No school K-12: Elementary and secondary conference/comp day*
Mar 5 End of Trimester 2: High school
Mar 8 No school K-12: Secondary professional development/work day, elementary conference/comp day*
Mar 26 End of Quarter 3: Middle school
Mar 29-Apr 2 No school K-12: Spring break
May 31 No school K-12: Memorial Day
Jun 3 End of Quarter 4: Middle school
Jun 3 End of Trimester 3: High school
Jun 4 Teacher work day

* Individual schools determine actual school conference dates.

JULY 2020					JANUARY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3					1
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22
27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29
AUGUST 2020					FEBRUARY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12
17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19
24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26
31									
SEPTEMBER 2020					MARCH 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			29	30	31		
OCTOBER 2020					APRIL 2021				
M	T	W	T	F		T	W	T	F
			1	2				1	2
5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30
NOVEMBER 2020					MAY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	24	25	26	27	28
30					31				
DECEMBER 2020					JUNE 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31		28	29	30		

Revised calendar approved by the School Board Aug. 3, 2020.

bloomington.k12.mn.us/calendar

BLOOMINGTON



Public Schools

POINTS OF PRIDE



Olson Middle School eighth graders (2019-20) **Ian Rash** and **Matthew Oullett** won the state level ArcGIS mapping competition with their story map "Investigating the Relationship Between Civic Engagement and Newspaper Readership."



Michele Kvikstad, special education supervisor, has been appointed to the Governor's Interagency

Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention to advise and assist the Minnesota Department of Education in the planning, coordination and delivery of a statewide interagency system of services to children birth to 5 years old with special needs and their families.

Normandale Hills Elementary School and **Bloomington Transition Center** have been named 2020 Sustaining Exemplar PBIS Schools by the

Minnesota Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) State Leadership Team. Sustaining Exemplar Schools are recognized each year for their PBIS implementation and positive student outcomes.



Beth McCoy, fourth grade teacher at Hillcrest, was published in the latest Bernstein

publication for her Artful Learning project she did with her students during distance learning. McCoy recently received her Arts Integration certification.

Career & College ACADEMY

Bloomington Public Schools



Bloomington Career and College Academy (BCCA) was awarded one of 17 Youth Skills Training (YST) grants awarded to Minnesota school districts and employer partners. The \$90,000 grant will support Bloomington Public Schools programming that allows students to gain real, hands-on experience in high-demand, high-growth career field pathways during high school.



IN THE KNOW

Safe and Supportive Schools

The Bloomington Public Schools Safe and Supportive Schools plan is a comprehensive approach to making instructional spaces exciting for all students, where students' strengths are enriched, needs are supported and aspirations are nourished.

Centered around families, students and staff and created with an equity focus, the district's Safe and Supportive Schools design team identified three key areas for Bloomington's plan:

- Climate of Care
- Tailored Instruction
- Meaningful Engagement

The Safe and Supportive Schools plan ensures each and every student receives equitable access to resources and opportunities. With this focus in mind, the School Board and staff will participate in professional growth opportunities to examine values, beliefs and behaviors and how those impact our systems and work, revising policies and practices to create the most safe and supportive school district possible.

Childcare in Distance Learning

During Distance Learning, Early Learners Academy and Kids' SAFARI will be open for childcare, prioritizing enrollment for Tier 1 essential workers, at Poplar Bridge and Indian Mounds elementary schools.

Children will have daily creative learning experiences and enrichment activities. Staff, families and children are expected to follow Minnesota Department of Health guidelines around face coverings, social distancing and other health and safety precautions.

bloomington.k12.mn.us/ce/childcare

Donations

We're grateful for our caring community. Families and community partners have asked how they can help during this time. The district is accepting monetary donations toward meal distribution, supplies or an area of your preference.

bloomington.k12.mn.us/health-services/covid-19

2020 Census

Be counted! If you haven't yet, make sure you complete the census by Sept. 30. When you do, you're helping fund community programs and services for the next 10 years, including educational programs that benefit Bloomington children.

mn.gov/admin/2020-census

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Olson Middle School teachers (L-R) **Jake Norsten**, **Jane O'Connell**, **Kari McElveen**, **Paul Garlock** and principal **Tim Ciavari** prep for the school year in the Olson Middle School media center.