BLOOMINGTON

Public Schools

SCHOOL PAGES

Back-to-School 2022

A Message from Superintendent Eric Melbye

Hopes and Dreams Inspire Our Commitment

A hearty welcome back to a new school year that holds the promise of a continued journey to ignite and inspire our students' passion for learning, and our wonderful educators and support staff's commitment to serve and deliver.

As I begin my second year as superintendent, one that I know is a privilege and awesome responsibility, let me share with you my goals, hopes and dreams as we continue to put the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us.

I want the best of all that is possible for our students and staff. This starts with a commitment to ensure Bloomington Public Schools is THE place to be where every student feels safe, knows they are seen, heard and valued, and that they will be held to high expectations.

I want our schools to be places where parents and caregivers are proud to send their children, where they know they will be safe and cared for, and where they know their children will be expected to grow academically and socially.

I want our schools and work spaces to be a place employees know they are valued and appreciated, that their work is valued, and a place they are proud to come to work each day.

The challenges we've endured for more than two years have given us a renewed commitment to meet the needs of every student in the classroom. We consider the social and emotional perspective as well. Last year we expanded our focus on the overall well-being by adding more counselors and programs to ensure we care for the whole child. These efforts will continue.

As one of the few metro area school districts to remain open for the entirety of the 2021-22 school year, we are planning for and expect another traditional school schedule with all students learning in-person, or online via our highly successful New Code Academy. As this issue of School Pages goes to print we will not be requiring masks or social distancing. However, we encourage persons eligible to get vaccines and boosters, and to please stay home when experiencing any symptoms.

At the center of everything we do this year will be our ongoing focus on equity. Our goal is simple: Identify and eliminate any barriers to student success so that we can ensure the best, equitable outcomes for every student in our district.

Together - staff, students, parents, caregivers, and residents - let us come together to help ensure we reach our goals to make Bloomington Public Schools a source of pride for our community.

Above: Asst. Superintendent Jenna Mitchler and Superintendent Eric Melbye share a light moment during leadership planning.

District, Schools Welcome New Leadership

Bloomington Public Schools welcomes new administrative and school leaders to start the 2022-23 school year.

Hodan Bile is the new dean of students at Kennedy High School. Bile has been with the District for seven years as an English-language teacher at Hillcrest Community and Ridgeview Elementary schools.

Latiesha Bogar and **Katrina Mezera** are new assistant principals at Kennedy High School. Bogar previously served as assistant principal at Olson Middle School in Minneapolis Public Schools. Mezera has been with BPS for 19 years as a seventh-grade math teacher and most recently the director of digital learning and data.

Molly Hey is the new Early Learning Services Manager and site leader for Pond Center. Hey has more than 11 years of early childhood programming experience and was previously the Home Based Program supervisor for Ramsey County.

Dr. Alexandra Holter is joining the district's digital learning team as computer science coordinator. Dr. Holter previously served as the STEAM coordinator at Brooklyn Center Elementary School.

Claire Humes is the new middle and high school dean of students for New Code Academy. Humes has taught chemistry and physical science at Kennedy since 2017, and served as a dean for elementary summer school.

Ashley Modrow is the new director of secondary curriculum and instruction. Modrow has been with the District for 18 years, most recently as assistant principal at Valley View Middle.

Amy Wilkinson is the new Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Supervisor at Southwood Center. She was previously ECSE coordinator for Farmington Public Schools.

We welcomed these new leaders earlier this year:

- **Molly Hollenbeck**, principal, Kennedy High School
- **Mariah Pringnitz**, assistant principal, Jefferson High School
- **Anthony Sicoli**, assistant principal, Valley View Middle School
- **Kelly Tennison**, principal, Valley View Elementary School

SAFE & INNOVATIVE Schools

District seeks referendum renewal

As summer winds down and children head back to school, parental worries over school safety remains a top of mind concern. Providing a safe and secure environment for students to learn and staff to work is a primary focus of all district leaders and employees.

Our current school safety and technology referendum expires in 2024, requiring voter approval to renew the same tax rate. The School Board unanimously approved a resolution to place a capital projects levy renewal question on the Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 ballot.

If approved, the levy will fund approximately $9.8 million the first year, and is renewed for 10 years. The approval will result in a no tax increase on property owners as a whole, unless property values increase in the future. All locally approved referendum dollars stay in Bloomington schools.

The levy will continue to cover costs related to classroom and district technology systems and programs, and school safety and security improvements, including a visitor management system, upgrades in video and emergency communications systems, threat assessment, and expanded training.

If the renewal is not approved by voters, it will result in the loss of $9 million each year on technology and school safety spending.

School-based teams of parents and staff will be sharing information with families and residents. A community referendum committee, led by citizens Curtis Griesel and Paige Rohman, is currently developing plans to provide additional information and advocacy efforts this fall.

SCHOOL SAFETY
Information for Parents

We want our parents and caregivers to feel confident in the safety of their children while they're at school.

In the unlikely event of a school crisis, schools will initiate one of the following school safe conditions:

- **Lockdown** when the perceived threat is inside or on the campus.
- **Shelter-in-place** when a potential threat exists near the campus and requires police or fire response.
- **Evacuation** when conditions are safer outside the building.
- **Hold-in-place** when an urgent or medical incident occurs to a student or staff.
- **Severe weather** when conditions warrant relocating students and staff to a more secure location inside the school.

What can parents do in a school emergency?

- Trust that our first priority is protecting your children; then we'll communicate information as it becomes available.
- Sign up for district text notifications: bit.ly/bps-notify-text
- Refrain from calling or texting your children, as it may put students in danger.
- Phone lines, staff and roads are needed for emergency response.
- Parents will not be allowed on campus.
- The parent-student reunification process will begin as soon as it is safe to do so.

Review our School Safety information

Learning to live with COVID-19

COVID-19 has not disappeared, and leading epidemiologists believe we've entered the endemic stage. After four major waves in the past two years, new more infectious variants can be expected.

In light of this new reality, our goal remains the same: to ensure our mitigation strategies and guidance are in place to provide safe and healthy school environments for students and staff. We've compiled this updated list of mitigation strategies to start the school year.

MASKS
- Optional for students and staff in early childhood through age 21.

HEALTH SCREENING
- Required daily for students and staff prior to coming to school or work.
- Remain home if showing any signs of illness.
- Students who become ill at school will be sent home. Parents must pick up their child in a timely manner.

SAFETY
- Frequent hand washing and use of school hand sanitizers.
- Classrooms and offices equipped with medical grade HEPA purifiers.

ISOLATIONS, QUARANTINES & CONTACT TRACING
- Positive COVID-19 cases must be reported to the school nurse's office, and requires a five-day isolation from symptom onset or date of a positive test. Siblings, family members and close contacts are not required to quarantine.
- Persons testing positive may return after five days and symptoms have improved or resolved.
- We do not require a negative test to return to school.
- Persons returning to school after five days are required to wear a mask for an additional five days.
- MDH no longer requires school districts to complete contact tracing, only weekly surveillance reporting of positive cases by school or site.
- We will no longer provide a COVID-19 weekly dashboard of cases.

TESTING & VACCINATIONS
- Recommend testing for anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and after known exposures.
- Immunization is the single most effective strategy to prevent COVID-19. Get a vaccine and stay up-to-date on recommended boosters, if eligible.
- Volunteers required to be fully vaccinated (including boosters for persons eligible).
- Vaccine info: blm.mn/clinics or vaccines.gov.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The first day of school for K-5 students is Tuesday, August 30. Elementary schools have two scheduled student assessment days prior to the first day of school: Wednesday, Aug. 24 and Monday, Aug. 29. K-5 teachers will meet individually with students to help teachers determine students' instructional reading level, set academic goals and design personalized instruction.

Families will receive information from their child's school with teacher assignments and instructions to schedule a 30-minute assessment conference. During the assessment conference, parents, and caregivers will meet school staff, visit classrooms, set up lunch accounts, discuss health concerns with nurses, learn about their PTAs and more.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Middle and high school students return to school on Monday, Aug. 29. Back-to-school events:

Oak Grove, Olson and Valley View Middle School
Aug. 25, 3 - 7 p.m.

Jefferson High School
Jumpstart, all students: Aug. 17, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Back-to-School Night: Aug. 23, 6 - 8 p.m.
Freshman Orientation: Aug. 25, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Kennedy High School
Kennedy Connect Day: Aug. 18, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Back-to-School Night: Aug. 23, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
New Student Orientation: Aug. 23, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

To register, find information or for assistance:

Community Education	681-6100
Early Learning Services:	681-6200
Enrollment:	681-6400
Educational Services Center/ District Offices:	681-6400
Food Services	681-6570
Metro South Adult Education	681-6170
Transportation	681-6300

2022–2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

BLOOMINGTON Public Schools

- School in session
- Teacher professional development, conference* or work day
- Elementary assessment day
- ○ No school K-5; grades 6-12 in session

START AND END DATES

Aug 29	First day of school 6-12
Aug 30	First day of school K-5
Jun 1	Last day of school

KEY DATES

Aug 22-26	Teacher professional development
Aug 24	Elementary assessment day
Aug 29	No school K-5: Elementary assessment day
Aug 29	First day of school 6-12
Aug 30	First day of school K-5
Sep 1-2	No school K-12
Sep 5	No school K-12: Labor Day
Oct 19	No school K-12: Elementary conference*/comp day; secondary professional development day
Oct 20-21	No school K-12: Education Minnesota Conference
Nov 4	End of Quarter 1: Middle school
Nov 22	End of Trimester 1: High school
Nov 23	No school K-12: Elementary/middle school conference*/ comp day; high school professional development/work day
Nov 24-25	No school K-12: Thanksgiving break
Dec 21-Jan 3	No school K-12: Winter break
Jan 16	No school K-12: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 17	No school K-12: District-wide professional development day
Jan 20	End of Quarter 2: Middle school
Feb 3	No school K-12: Elementary professional development/work day; secondary conference*/comp day
Feb 20	No school K-12: Presidents Day
Mar 3	End of Trimester 2: High school
Mar 6	No school K-12: Conference*/comp day
Mar 7	No school K-12: Elementary conference*/comp day; secondary professional development/work day
Mar 24	End of Quarter 3: Middle school
Apr 3-7	No school K-12: Spring break
Apr 28	No school K-5: Elementary teacher professional development; grades 6-12 in session
May 29	No school K-12: Memorial Day
Jun 1	End of Quarter 4: Middle school
Jun 1	End of Trimester 3: High school
Jun 2	Teacher work day

*Individual schools determine actual school conference dates.

Approved by the School Board Nov 23, 2020.

JULY 2022

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST 2022

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2022

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2022

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

NOVEMBER 2022

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2022

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2023

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

FEBRUARY 2023

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH 2023

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL 2023

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY 2023

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

JUNE 2023

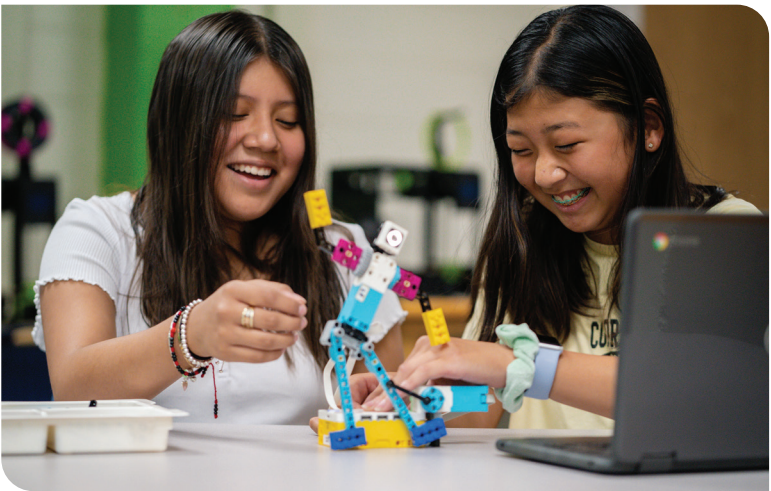| M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

bloomingtonschools.org/full-year-calendar

Empowering Students with Computer Science Skills

As Minnesota's leader in K-12 computer science education, Bloomington Public Schools believes all students should have access to high quality computer science (CS) opportunities and instruction. We aim to empower students by leveraging transferable skills such as creative problem solving, computational thinking, collaboration and perseverance to be able to creatively solve real-world challenges. Our mission is to eliminate social, economic, cultural and geographical barriers to computer science education and provide all Bloomington Public Schools students with opportunities to learn and thrive in computer science.

Through our CS for All approach BPS is committed to ensuring all students have computer science experiences. Elementary students engage in a variety of computer science experiences throughout the year and middle school students take a one-term exploratory course in grades 6-8. High school students can choose from a variety of CS courses including, video game design, web/app development and AP Computer Science.

The Computer Science Immersion program provides opportunities for students to develop a deeper understanding of CS through integrated courses with other subjects such as art, social studies and health. The first of its kind in Minnesota, this unique program is located at five BPS elementary and middle schools.

bloomington.k12.mn.us/computer-science-education

IN THE KNOW

POND CLINIC OFFERS FREE CARE

The Health Commons at Pond offers health and wellness care to Bloomington Schools students and families at no cost, including sports physicals, immunizations and mental health support/referrals.

Hours are 2-6 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Appointments are preferred. Please call 952-681-6277 to schedule.

▶ bit.ly/bps-pond

BPS IS HIRING

Join our dynamic team of professionals dedicated to helping all students achieve their greatest potential. We have immediate openings for full and part-time staff in many areas including teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, health service providers, custodial and maintenance, food services and reserve positions.

▶ bit.ly/bps-hiring

STUDENT DATA PRIVACY BILL

Bloomington Public Schools uses various digital tools and data systems to support student learning by developing the necessary skills to thrive in an ever-changing world.

In accordance with the Minnesota Student Data Privacy Act, we are committed to protecting families and districts with respect to how third-party vendors use student educational data. As agreements with vendors are renewed, the district will work with providers to ensure compliance with the new safeguards.

▶ bit.ly/bps-data-privacy

CHIP IN FOR SCHOOLS

The annual Education Foundation of Bloomington Chip In For Schools Golf Classic raised more than $45,000 thanks to sponsors and participants. Proceeds support BPS students through programs and scholarships.

BLOOMINGTON Public Schools
POINTS OF PRIDE

Juniors **Peter McKinley** (Jefferson) and **Siri Anderson** (Kennedy) earned perfect American College Test (ACT) scores. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of students taking the ACT earn the top score of 36: bit.ly/bps-act. **Anderson** was selected to perform as a harpist for the Minnesota Music Educators Association's (MMEA) All-State orchestra for the second consecutive year.

Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight program recognized **Jefferson** and **Kennedy high school theatre companies** as honorees for the productions of "All Shook Up!" and "Shrek the Musical" respectively: bit.ly/bps-spotlight. **Jefferson Theatre Company** also earned the Community Service Award for fundraising more than 500 personal care items and gas cards for students in need.

Kennedy language arts teacher **Kathryn Haddad** was named a McKnight Culture Bearer fellow by the McKnight Foundation. She was one of four recipients honored for practicing sacred and healing lifeways and sharing cultural art practices across generations.

Principal **Brian Ingemann** (Oak Grove Middle School) was named 2022 Middle-Level Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

Teacher **Whitney Determan** (New Code Academy) received the Computer Science Teachers Association's Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding teaching by K–12 computer science teachers.

Oak Grove Middle School students **Elizabeth Couling** and **Regan Isaac** and Olson Middle School students **Jordin Floyd**, **Mamie Holm**, **Kenley Jansen**, **Mckenna Reding-Kolsrud**, **Caroline Stockinger** and **Omera Syed Asif** were part of the Angelica Cantanti Children's Chorus that performed at Orchestra Hall for conductor Osmo Vänskä's farewell concert in June.

The **Kennedy Green Club** and volunteers planted a 900-square-foot rain garden to provide a habitat for pollinators and birds, and will include more than 600 native plants.

Valley View Middle and the **Bloomington Transition Center** were recognized as Sustaining Exemplar Cohort Schools for implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The **Health Commons at Pond** received a gold rating from the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (NAFC). The honor acknowledges clinics for their practices to ensure quality care for students and families. The clinic is operated by students, faculty and staff from the Minnesota State University - Mankato's nursing program.

Oak Grove Elementary Wizards of Chess placed fifth in the state tournament in May: bit.ly/ce-ogechess

Holly Skadsem was named Educator of the Year by the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota.

Since implementing Peachjar in 2016, **Bloomington Public Schools** has saved 18.4 million sheets of paper and 2,212 trees. Peachjar is the district's e-flyer distribution system: bit.ly/bps-earthday

Jefferson senior **Norah D'Almeida** and junior **Megan Lee** broke school records in their respective events at the MSHSL State Track and Field meet in June. D'Almeida placed 6th in the 100m dash and Lee placed 7th in the 1600m, and 6th in 3200m.

Bloomington Transition Center (BTC) presented completion diplomas to 28 students in June, the largest class of graduates in program history. BTC helps young adults with disabilities transition to living and working independently in the community.