



BLUMENORT SCHOOL

September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new year at Blumenort School! We hope that you have all had a restful and healthy summer break and are ready for the start of this new school year! At this time we would like to wish all of our new families that have joined our community and especially our new Kindergarten students, a warm welcome to the Blumenort area and our school. At Blumenort School, we believe that it is important to keep the lines of communication open between your home and our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 204-326-1757 or at one of the email addresses listed on the last page. Thank you again for your continued partnership and your patience as we welcome our students back and engage in the resumption of learning and prioritization of safe school environments. We ask for your support in preparing your children for proper mask-wearing and physical distancing.

2020-2021 Blumenort School Staff

This year we have a few new additions to our staff lineup that we would like to share with you...Holly Reimer (Secretary), Kristyn Radchenka (1N/R), Pam Barkman (2B), Nathan Giesbrecht (Phys. Ed. 1-6), Dale Sawatzky (Phys. Ed. 7 & 8), Janessa Roy (French). Returning is Rebecca Friesen (4F) and Janette Suppes (5S). We would like to wish all of our staff members a great year! Together we will make Blumenort School a fantastic school where student learning is our number one priority. For a complete list of our staff please see below and for their email addresses, please visit our website.

|  | | <h2 style="text-align: center;">2020-2021 BLUMENORT SCHOOL - STAFF LINEUP</h2> | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Principal: | Dave Schettler | Grade 4: | Rebecca Friesen | Educational Asst.: | Rhonda Falk |
| Vice-Principal: | Corinne Thiessen | Grade 5/French: | Andrea Cuccaro | Educational Asst.: | Val Konrad |
| Admin. Secretary: | Landis Benitez | Grade 5: | Janette Suppes | Educational Asst.: | Pat Koop |
| Secretary: | Holly Reimer | Grade 6: | Cameron Hiebert | Educational Asst.: | Jodi Moorey-Gamaldo |
| Learning Support: | Mallory Worsnop | Grade 6: | Kristy Shumsky | Educational Asst.: | Norine Plett |
| Counsellor: | Curtis Brandt | Grade 6 Itinerant: | Julian Penner | Educational Asst.: | Susan Reimer |
| Early Literacy: | Rhonda Stobbe | Grade 7/Art: | Scott Hutchinson | Educational Asst.: | Liz Stoesz |
| Kindergarten: | Elaine Kauenhofen | Grade 7/Social: | Michelle Plett | Head Custodian: | Jason Fehr |
| Grade 1 (AM): | Arianna Neufeld | Grade 7 Itinerant: | Nathaniel Dyck | Asst. Custodian: | Maria Boldt |
| Grade 1 (PM): | Kristyn Radchenka | Grade 8/Science: | Katie Fast | Asst. Custodian: | Lydia Hoffman |
| Grade 1: | Amanda Ross | Phys. Ed. (1-6): | Nathan Giesbrecht | Asst. Custodian: | Galina Schelenberg |
| Grade 2: | Pam Barkman | Phys. Ed. (7&8): | Dale Sawatzky | Bus Driver #37: | Jackie Goertzen |
| Grade 2: | Jennifer Penner | Music/Guitar/Drama: | Shannon Sawatzky | Bus Driver #59: | Mary Ann Lupky |
| Grade 2: | Irene Plett | French (7&8): | Janessa Roy | Bus Driver #79: | Leanna Reimer |
| Grade 3: | Brandy Derksen | Librarian: | Ellie Friesen | Bus Driver #25: | Marge Reimer-Toews |
| Grade 3: | Celia Kellett | Educational Asst.: | Carla Burkert | | |
| Grade 4: | Rachel Allard | Educational Asst.: | Jena Carriere | | |

Meet The Teacher - September 8 from 1:00-5:30pm

Our annual Meet the Teacher Event is set for this Tuesday, September 8 from 1:00-5:30pm. Our families would have received an email asking them to sign up for a 10-minute time slot using the Parent Portal. New for this year is that we are asking our students to keep their school supplies at home until Wednesday morning. A reminder as well that non-medical masks will be mandatory in our school for all staff and visitors as well as students in Grades 4-8, when physical distancing is not possible.

Picture Day - September 23

Please take note that our Picture Day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23. In the next little while you will receive a package from our school outlining the various picture package options. Please note class photos will not be taken this year.

Strong Connections - September 18 & 21

Our annual Strong Connections program is planned for our school on Friday, September 18 and Monday, September 21. Strong Connections is a form of authentic assessment in a practical and useful way. The purpose is to enhance the beginning of the year classroom assessment for all children. It includes observation and assessment practices both in the classroom and on an individual basis. Students will be asked to attend either on the Friday or the Monday, which was noted on the June Report Card. With half of our students present, students will then be further divided to allow our homeroom teachers the opportunity to meet one-on-one with each student and participate in assessment activities in Language Arts and Mathematics. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather data about each child's learning that may not be evident during whole class instruction. It is also an opportunity to further develop the teacher-student relationship to strengthen the connection. A letter will be coming home shortly with the date that your child will attend or check the parent portal to view your dates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our school.

HSD Parent Portal

Stay connected and informed. The HSD Parent Portal is a communications tool designed to enhance and increase parent/guardian involvement in the education of their children. The portal will provide secure online access to your child's student information. With a single username and password, you will be able to access the following data for each of your children attending an HSD school: Student Information, School Fees Account, Report Cards, Attendance Information, Permissions & Consent Forms and School Information. Before creating a Parent Access Account, you will first need to obtain a unique Access ID for each student profile that you want added to your account. Please contact our school office to request account setup information.

The Lines of Communication

In an effort to keep track of our students' whereabouts, we ask that parents/guardians continue to communicate with the main office. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

- Please call between 8:30 and 8:50am to speak to someone directly, leave a message at anytime, email blumenort.hsd.ca to advise the office that your child will be absent or late, or log onto the Parent Portal and put in an absent request!
- If there is an unexplained student absence, we will continue the practice of calling parents after 9:00am and 1:00pm.
- If your children are leaving the building (for appointments or special outings, because of illness, etc.) during the course of the day, we ask that you and/or your children report to the office before departing.
- If your child arrives at school outside the regular times (appointment or illness, returning the same day after having checked out etc.), please make sure that the office knows about their arrival and also to pick up a late slip.

Student Fees

Student fees for supplies, agendas, art, and music have been charged to the student accounts. Please log into your Parent Portal account to make payment. Be sure to check the balance before making payment as many accounts had a credit on them from last year. If you are unable to make the payment online please submit a cheque or cash to the office.

Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction

We were recently informed that schools will need to work with their communities to find flexible approaches to conducting religious exercises and instruction in schools while maintaining required public health measures. As a result, our religious exercises will be on pause until a plan is finalized.

Bengals Athletics

A note that our extra-curricular sports program is on pause. We will provide an update when we are set to resume.

Hanover Parent and Child Community Program

A note that Blumenort School's Hanover Parent and Child Community Program will not be running this year.

School Safety

Now that classes are about to start, we again need to pay close attention to the safety concerns that arise as our students make their way to school. We all need to cooperate and follow some basic rules to ensure that we keep our children safe.

- Students will need to be aware as they pass by our new staff parking lot. A reminder that parent vehicles will need to use the road or the front parking lot if they are picking up their little ones.
- To cross our bus loop, we ask once again that our students use either of the two openings in the fence but to please be aware of traffic.
- Please remember that private vehicles need to avoid using our bus loop.
- In front of our school there are a number of areas highlighted with bright yellow paint and pylons. Please avoid stopping or parking in these areas, as per the signs that are posted.
- At our main crosswalk on the PTH 311, we ask for your patience and awareness as our students make their way to and from school.
- Bike riders, walkers and those who are being picked up or dropped off always need to be aware of their surroundings. It is best to avoid the bus loop when possible and always remember to use care and caution.
- Once again this year, a second bike rack zone for students is located by the west main entrance. Students coming from the south and west on Park Street will now need to park in this area.
- Finally, we would like to remind all parents, relatives and visitors to please check in at the main office when you arrive at our school and we will be able to help you with your concerns.
- A reminder as well that non-medical masks will be mandatory in our school for all visitors when physical distancing is not possible.



SEPTEMBER 2020

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 7 Labour Day | 8 Meet the Teacher 1:00-5:30pm Please sign up using Parent Portal | 9 First Day of Classes Kindergarten Interviews <i>Day 1</i> | 10 Kindergarten Interviews <i>Day 2</i> | 11 Kindergarten Staggered Entry <i>Day 3</i> |
| 14 Kindergarten Staggered Entry <i>Day 4</i> | 15 <i>Day 5</i> | 16 <i>Day 6</i> | 17 <i>Day 1</i> | 18 Strong Connections <i>Day 2</i> |
| 21 Strong Connections <i>Day 3</i> | 22 <i>Day 4</i> | 23 Picture Day <i>Day 5</i> | 24 <i>Day 6</i> | 25 <i>Day 1</i> |
| 28 <i>Day 2</i> | 29 <i>Day 3</i> | 30 Orange Shirt Day <i>Day 4</i> | | |