



BLUMENORT SCHOOL

Bengals' Update 04 - October 15, 2021

Lunch Hour Time Change

Over the past little while our staff has had discussions about increasing the outdoor time for our students over the lunch hour. So starting on Monday, October 18th, our lunch hour will now look as follows...

- **12:00-12:20pm: Lunch for ALL Students**
- **12:20-12:55pm: Recess for ALL Students**

Staffing Updates

This past month, we said goodbye to Mr. Fehr, our Head Custodian. We would like to wish him all the best in his new school within our division. At the same time, we would like to welcome Ms. Kristen Shalley to our school team as our new Head Custodian.

Blumenort Parent Advisory Council

The Blumenort PAC Annual General Meeting was held this past Wednesday. We would like to congratulate Chad Richardson, Rosanna Penner and Jessica Barkman, who were elected to the council. They will be joining Stephanie Karalash, Kate Ernst and Brittany Walker who are currently on board. We would also like to thank Lisa Moesker, Darcia Hiebert, Bonnie Boux and Tracy Friesen whose terms have come to an end. Thank you for all of your hard work over the past number of years!

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. At any time, feel free to leave a message or email blumenort.hsd.ca to advise the office that your child will be absent or late. You can also 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 & 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.

HSD Superintendent's Updates

On October 8th, our superintendent's office shared an update with our families based on the recent public health orders. Here are a few excerpts below. For the full release, please check out the following link:

<https://hsd.ca/2021/10/08/superintendents-update-oct-8-2021/>

● **COVID-19 Vaccinations in Schools**

As [announced by the province](#) a few weeks ago, public health teams have begun offering immunization clinics in schools across the province. The clinics are expected to run for four to six weeks. Eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine includes anyone born on or before Dec. 31, 2009. At Blumenort School, we will be hosting a clinic on Wednesday, October 20th in the morning and an information letter has been sent to our families.

● **Removal of Masks Indoors**

A reminder that masks may be removed indoors where there is a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) for the purpose of eating, drinking, and for short, infrequent mask breaks. At Blumenort School, we have added overflow eating areas for each of our grades. If you are concerned about an increased risk of exposure during the lunch breaks, please consider picking up your child and providing lunch at home.

HSD Superintendent's Updates Continued

On October 13th, our superintendent's office shared an update with our families based on the recent public health orders. Here are a few excerpts below. For the full release, please check out the following link:

<https://hsd.ca/2021/10/13/superintendents-update-oct-13-2021/>

- **Self-Isolation**

As a result of increased community transmission and case numbers in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region, public health officials are implementing stricter household self-isolation (quarantine) requirements for this region. Household members of close contacts or symptomatic people who have not had any known COVID-19 exposures must also self-isolate. Fully vaccinated (two doses) or recently infected (within six months) people will be exempt from this requirement. Asymptomatic designated workers who are not fully vaccinated but are taking part in a regular rapid testing program are also exempt from self-isolation (quarantine). If the worker or a close contact in the household has symptoms, the exemption does not apply. This will mean that siblings of close contacts or symptomatic household members will now need to stay home (they will be exempt if identified as fully vaccinated or recently infected within six months).

Bengals Merchandise

Our online store continues to offer our families the opportunity to purchase Bengals Merchandise. They have a variety of items to choose from and ship directly to your home. Please take advantage of an early bird offer below. To find out more, please visit <https://blumenortschool.entripyshops.com/>



The Umbrella Project at Blumenort School

This month, we continue our school-wide focus on Empathy. Here is a little thought from The Umbrella Project...

End your day with "High low high" - This is a quick exercise you can do around the dinner table or as a family before bedtime. Have each member of your family recall a high point, a low point and then another high point of their day or week. Take time to listen to each person and ask questions if you want. In order to practice empathy for someone else, we need to understand their journey.

For your kids, it's very beneficial to hear what went well in your day, what you are proud of and also the challenges you are working through. For parents, this is a great way to get your kids talking about the specifics of their day and improve your parental empathy for the daily rain they face.

