

BLUMENORT SCHOOL



Student Handbook 2022-2023

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Welcome to Blumenort School!

Administrative Team Message

Welcome back to a new year at Blumenort School! We hope you enjoyed the summer and we would like to wish the new families that have joined our community and especially our new kindergarten students, a warm welcome to our school. We hope your first few weeks in the area have been enjoyable. As mentioned later in this handbook, 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 below.

On behalf of our entire staff, we would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and successful year ahead!

Dave Schettler
Principal
dschettler@hsd.ca

Corinne Thiessen
Vice-Principal
cothiessen@hsd.ca

Vision Statement: *Inspired to Learn - For Life!*

Blumenort Staff 2022-2023

Principal:	Dave Schettler
Vice-Principal/Learning Support:	Corinne Thiessen
Learning Support:	Pam Barkman
Counsellor:	Curtis Brandt
Early Years Literacy Support:	Kayla Dupont
Kindergarten:	Elaine Kauenhofen
Grade 1:	Amanda Ross
Grade 1:	Emily Walker
Grade 2:	Jennifer Penner
Grade 2:	Irene Plett
Grade 3:	Brandy Derksen
Grade 3:	Celia Kellett
Grade 4:	Rachel Allard
Grade 4:	Rebecca Friesen
Grade 5:	Andrea Cuccaro
Grade 5:	Heather Messner
Grade 6:	Cameron Hiebert
Grade 6:	Julian Penner
Grade 7/Art:	Scott Hutchinson
Grade 7/Social:	Michelle Plett
Grade 8/Science:	Bryanna Berkowski
Grade 8:	Kristy Shumsky
French 5-8:	Michael Friesen
Phys. Ed 1-8:	Nathan Giesbrecht
Music/Guitar/Drama:	Shannon Sawatzky
Head Secretary:	Landis Benitez
Secretary:	Holly Reimer
Librarian:	Ellie Friesen
Educational Asst:	Carla Burkert
Educational Asst:	Jolaika Giesbrecht Wiebe
Educational Asst:	Tracey Giguere
Educational Asst:	Val Konrad
Educational Asst:	Rachelle Lehman
Educational Asst:	Dwayne Louis
Educational Asst:	Victoria Main
Educational Asst:	Jodi Moorey-Gamaldo
Educational Asst:	Crystal Nordine
Educational Asst:	Norine Plett
Educational Asst:	Jorjah Reimer
Educational Asst:	Susan Reimer
Educational Asst:	Mallory Stang
Head Custodian:	Jason Fehr
Asst. Custodian:	Holly Edwards
Asst. Custodian:	Betty Funk
Bus #37 Driver:	Jackie Goertzen
Bus #59 Driver:	Mary Ann Lupky
Bus #79 Driver:	Leanna Reimer
Bus #25 Driver:	Marge Reimer-Toews

Calendar of Events 2022-2023

BLUMENORT SCHOOL 2022-2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
SEPT 6	Admin Day / Meet the Teacher Event	JAN 5	Classes Resume
SEPT 7	First Day of Classes	FEB 4	PD Day – No Classes
SEPT 7-8	Kindergarten Interviews	FEB 20	Louis Riel Day – No Classes
SEPT 9&12	Kindergarten Staggered Entry	FEB 24	HTA PD Day – No Classes
SEPT 16&19	Strong Connections	MAR 10	Admin Day – No Classes
SEPT 21	Picture Day	MAR 21	Report Cards Issued
SEPT 30	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – No Classes	MAR 23	Student-Led Conferences
OCT 10	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes	MAR24	Last Day before Spring Break
OCT 21	MTS PD Day – No Classes	MAR 27-31	Spring Break
NOV 1	Picture Retakes	APR 3	Classes Resume
NOV 11	Remembrance Day	APR 7	Good Friday – No Classes
NOV 14	PD/Admin Day – No Classes	APR 17	Admin/PD Day – No Classes
NOV 22	Report Cards Issued	MAY 22	Victoria Day – No Classes
NOV 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences	JUNE 5	Admin Day – No Classes
NOV 28	PD/Admin Day – No Classes	JUNE 29	Last Day before Summer Break
DEC 21	Last Day before Christmas Break	JUNE 29	Awards Day
DEC 22-JAN 4	Christmas Break	JUNE 30	Admin Day – No Classes & Report cards issued

Please note that not all of our events are listed here, so stay tuned to our upcoming newsletters for more.

Daily Routine

It is preferred that students arrive between 8:50 and 8:55 a.m.

Students who arrive earlier than that are asked to wait outside until the 8:50 buzzer.

8:50 Students enter the school

9:00-9:05 Religious Exercises (if chosen)

9:08-9:10 Opening Exercises

9:10-9:40 Period 1

9:40-10:10 Period 2

10:10-10:40 Period 3

10:40-10:55 Recess

10:55-11:30 Period 4

11:30-12:00 Period 5

12:00-12:20 Lunch

12:20-12:55 Recess

12:55-1:00 Attendance

1:00-1:35 Period 6

1:35-2:10 Period 7

2:10-2:25 Recess

2:25-3:00 Period 8

3:00-3:35 Period 9

3:35-3:40 Homeroom

Dismissal Times:

- Bus students dismissed at 3:40
- Town students dismissed at 3:45
- Late bus departure at 4:00

Communication

We believe that communication between parents and school/teachers is one of the most important aspects of creating a learning environment that is essential for students

To keep up with what's happening in our school, please check out our.....

- School website (www.blumenort.hsd.ca)
- Bright Arrow Emails
- Monthly newsletter
- Daily announcements
- Instagram (blumenorthsd)
- Twitter (@BlumenortHSD)
- Teacher social media
- Agenda notes
- Notes in backpacks

Permission Notes

Should there be any changes in the daily dismissal pattern of your child (picked up from school early, walking to a friend's house after school, or being picked up by another child's parent for a birthday party, etc.) a parental note must be provided that informs your child's teacher of the alternative arrangements and specify who will be picking up your child. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Attendance

Please call us to let us know if your child is not coming to school due to illness, appointments and other reasons. If they will be gone for an extended time, such as a family holiday, we ask that you inform the school and their teacher(s) ahead of time.

Office hours are from 8:00am- 4:30pm.

Signing Out

When a student is picked up, they must be signed out at the office.

Phone Messages

Please leave phone messages for students to pick up at break or lunch time to help us keep classroom disruptions at a minimum.

Levels of Communication

If you have a concern with an issue in a particular classroom, please phone, write a note or send an email to the respective teacher. This will help sort things out. If a teacher has a concern, they will do the same.

Regardless of the level on the following outline, the communication process remains the same:

- A. Start at the source.
- B. Clarify your concern.
- C. Discuss the concern with the other person.
- D. Resolve the concern (review after a set period of time).
- E. If the concern cannot be resolved, consult the next level.
- F. If necessary, a mediator can be arranged.

Regardless of the concern, remember the best overall interest of the child is our primary focus. Parents and school staff members may disagree about what is the best way to resolve an issue. Please remember that the school staff has a responsibility to look after the best interests of all children. The needs of many may be different than the needs of a particular child. The most important consideration is to help parents and the school staff work together in the best interests of students.

Level 1

- Student

Level 2

- Parents/Teachers

Level 3

- School Based Administration

Level 4

- Blumenort PAC

Level 5

- Divisional Senior Administration

Level 5

- Trustees

Level 6

- Provincial Government

Visitors to the School

We love that we have many parents and community members volunteering in our school! We request that parents and other visitors report to the general office between 8:00am and 4:30pm to sign in and obtain a guest tag

Fire Drills

A total of ten fire drills will be practiced each school year to familiarize students with evacuation procedures.

Emergency Lockdown Procedures

Blumenort School has an emergency lockdown procedure in place. This procedure is practiced as a drill two times per year. This plan is in place for situations when it is unsafe due to dangerous intruders or dangerous situations in the community. The main purpose of the procedure is for students and staff to be aware of how they can be safe in such an event. If necessary, the students will be directed to our Emergency Shelter - Blumenort Rec Centre.

Medication

Hanover School Division has established medically approved guidelines for the administration of medication in schools that ensure the safety of students. Before any medication is given out by the school, there is a form that needs to be completed by parents.

Any prescription medication that students are taking during the school day must be stored in our designated area.

School Closure Policy (due to weather)

When schools are closed due to extreme weather, parents/guardians will receive an automated phone message between the hours of 6:00 am - 8:00 am. Notice will be posted on www.hsd.ca and Twitter [@HanoverSD](https://twitter.com/HanoverSD). Closure announcements are also distributed to local media outlets such as AM 1250, Mix 96.7, 680 CJOB, SteinbachOnline.com and TheCarillon.com

Learning Support

The learning support teacher is available to help students who need assistance in attaining the basic skills necessary to achieve success depending on student identification.

When warranted, the resource teacher may refer the student to divisional clinicians to administer tests to help diagnose a student's learning ability and skills.

The learning support teacher will also assist in adjusting and monitoring programs for students with special needs. The program adjustment will be based on recommendations from teachers and other specialized personnel in order to best accommodate the needs of the particular student.

Counsellor

Students who need help or someone to talk to can approach Mr. Brandt at any time. Students may be referred to other professionals for further assistance.

Student concerns are kept strictly confidential unless the situation requires wider involvement. Parents, staff or students with guidance related concerns should feel free to contact the principals who will see that the best possible care will be given to the student in need.

The counsellor's office is located in C2.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

There are many different learning opportunities that take place outside of school hours. Students are encouraged to participate in some form of extra-curricular activity. Some of the most rewarding and memorable school experiences will come from the “extras” in which students are willing to participate. These activities are for YOU!

Blumenort School regularly offers the following programs:

Athletics

Grade 7-8 Volleyball

Grade 7-8 Basketball

Grade 7-8 Badminton

Grade 7-8 Soccer

Grade 5-8 Track and Field

Grade 5-8 Running Club

**Please note there is a \$30.00 fee charged for Volleyball and Basketball.

**Please note there is a \$5.00 fee for Badminton, Soccer and Track.

Student Leadership

Grade 7-8 Student Council/Student Leadership

Arts

Calendar Committee

In School Activities

Grade 4-5 Intramurals

Grade 6-8 Intramurals

Terry Fox Run

Student Leadership Events

Family Fun Day

Grade 5-8 Choir Trips

Awards

Each year, we celebrate the successes of our students! The grade 1-5 classes celebrate student achievements at their various assemblies. The grade 6-8 students participate in an awards assembly at the end of the school year.

Grade 6-8 Awards:

Awards are given to students who have excelled in various areas of school activities, as listed below:

Athletic Award: Awards will be presented to the best male and the best female athlete of the year. One male and one female award per grade.

Music: The Superior Music Achievement Award will be awarded for excellence in music to deserving students. One award per homeroom.

Art Award: Awards will be presented for excellence in art to deserving students. One award per homeroom.

French Award: Awarded to a top student who shows initiative in his/her language studies (i.e. French speech competition, French club). One award per homeroom.

Classroom Academic Achievement Award: Awarded to a student who displays superior abilities/skills in the subjects of ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science. One award per homeroom.

Merit Recognition: Awarded to students who have particularly impressed teachers with their hard work and a determination to further their learning. Up to five students per homeroom.

Citizenship Recognition: Awarded to students who display a positive, caring attitude towards fellow students and teachers, who contribute positively to the overall well-being of Blumenort School and contribute meaningfully to many areas of school life. Up to five students per homeroom.

School Involvement Recognition: Awarded to students involved in a variety of school-based groups. This includes ESF, Yearbook, Jazz Band & Choir and those who played on three or more school sports teams.

Leadership Recognition: Awarded to students who are members of our Student Leadership Team.

Vern Hildebrand Memorial Award Leadership Recognition: Awarded to a student in Grade 6-8 who exhibits academic, athletic and positive social abilities and has made a special contribution to school life in general.

Learning Commons

Our Learning Commons is one of the most treasured spaces in our school! This is a special place where students and teachers research, study or read for enjoyment. It is important that we treat this space with care and consideration.

Please ensure that:

- Books and magazines are handled with care.
- Books are checked out with the librarian and returned punctually.
- Food or drinks are not brought into the library.
- A quiet atmosphere is maintained.

If a student has misplaced or damaged a book, students will be expected to pay the replacement cost of that book.

Gym

Physical fitness and healthy lifestyles are important to all of us! White soled or non-marking soled runners are required in the gym. Outdoor or regular shoes are not allowed.

Grade 4-8 students are expected to change into appropriate gym clothes (shorts and shirts).

Jewellery is not permitted during gym class, intramurals or extra curricular activities.

Lockers

Students who are issued lockers should ensure that they keep them locked to avoid items being taken. Students should also be aware that the lockers are the property of Hanover School Division which means that HSD personnel may access the lockers.

Lunch

Students are invited to remain at school over the lunch hour. Students who choose to do so have the following expectations:

- Lunches are eaten in the classroom (except for special privileges).
- Students remain at their desks until the bell.
- Students leave the classroom tidy and clean.

Students are allowed off school grounds for lunch if..

- Town students have a note at the beginning of the year saying they will be going home for lunch during that school year.
- Students who do not regularly go home for lunch bring a note on the specific day.
- Parents have made arrangements with the office.

Recess

All students are expected to go outside for recess. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. All grade 1-8 students have morning, noon and afternoon recess. Students are expected to be outside during those times unless they are involved in club activities that day.

Indoor recess will occur on occasion due to weather conditions, usually rain or windchill. These decisions are made at the principal's discretion.

Telephone

If students have an urgent reason to contact their parents, they may use the phone in the office, with permission. We urge parents to leave messages if they need to contact their child.

In order to limit interruption of classes, messages to students will be given to them at breaks, lunch or after school. We will generally not call students out of class for a phone call unless it is an emergency.

We ask that, whenever possible, parents communicate after school arrangements with their children in the morning.

Computer Use

Hanover School Division offers students access to a variety of information technology resources, including computer workstations, local area networks, a wide area network and the Internet.

Students are responsible for good behaviour on school computer networks, the network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a responsible manner.

Use of the internet and other computer networks will take place in teacher supervised settings. Before a student is permitted to access the internet, parents/guardians will need to give consent to "RUTA/Permission for Internet and Network" on the parent portal.

Blumenort Computer Use:

- All students and parents will be required to sign a user's contract before being granted access to Blumenort computers and to the internet through Hanover School Division's server. All students are required to abide by their signed user's contract.
- Food or drinks are not to be used while using our technology.
- Students are to use only those programs allowed by the teacher.
- Use of the technology outside of classroom times will be by permission only, and with a staff supervisor present.
- Damage due to tampering, vandalism or other violations of the computer guidelines or the computer user's contract will result in the removal of user privileges.
- Abide by the HSD Acceptable Use Policy where staff and students respect the appropriate use of electronic mail and the Internet, including the prohibition of accessing, uploading, downloading or distributing material that HSD has determined to be objectionable.

Student Fees

Students will receive a checklist of fees at the beginning of the school year. Fees can be paid through the Parent Portal.

Code of Behaviour

At Blumenort School we encourage respectful, and responsible behaviour. Staff and students alike are working towards creating a safe, productive and inviting place for all children to learn. Student behaviour should not distract fellow students from learning, or teachers from teaching effectively, or make others feel bad about themselves or unsafe in their environment.

Classroom teachers are generally responsible for day-to-day discipline and will use a variety of incentives as well as disincentives to ensure appropriate student behaviour. Teachers will be in contact with parents where necessary.

In the case that a student does not respond well to the teacher's efforts, that student will be referred to the principal for further counselling and/or discipline. Parents will be contacted where necessary.

As much as possible, discipline issues will be handled on an individual basis, where all circumstances will be considered. We will attempt to handle discipline in a way that reflects the welfare of the individual child as well as the security of the school. Follow-up will be reasonable, and, as much as possible, in keeping with the nature of the offense.

Please also refer to the HSD website (www.hsd.ca) for detailed divisional policies.

Harassment

At Blumenort School, we work hard to ensure that every student feels safe.

Students who feel they are being harassed by another student should report this to a staff member or to the principal immediately. Depending on the situation, the harasser will be given a verbal warning, or parents will be contacted or it could become a police matter. Suspension of the harasser may occur at any point in the process.

Bullying, abusing physically, sexually or psychologically - orally, in writing or otherwise - any person or being involved in gang activity is against the HSD Freedom from Harassment Policy. This policy also outlines the procedure for investigating and dealing with harassment claims.

Cell Phones and Other Technology

More and more students are bringing electronic devices to school for a variety of reasons. We wish to ensure the safety of all students and an environment of learning where students can concentrate in order to work effectively.

Hanover School Division:

- Hanover School Division supports and encourages the use of technology to enhance and facilitate learning. Technology supports educational environments that are innovative, creative, and engaging. All students are required to complete and comply with the division's Responsible Use of Technology Agreement for Students. This agreement applies to student use of HSD/personal technology.

At Blumenort School:

- Students in K-5 are not allowed to bring an electronic communication device to school.
- Students in Grade 6-8 that bring an electronic communication device to school will ensure that it is turned off and remain stored in their locker.
- Students in Grade 6-8 may access their electronic communication device quickly at their locker during break or lunch recess. These devices will then be turned off and remain in the locker when done.
- Supervisors have the right to ensure this is happening. Any misuse will result in appropriate disciplinary action.
- It is important to note that Digital Citizenship expectations must always be followed, and when necessary, school staff has the right to confiscate electronic devices.
- Parents and guardians that need to contact their child during the day can do so by calling our office at 204-326-1757.

Dress Code

At Blumenort School, our standards of dress and expectations regarding appropriate attire are based on respect for self and of others.

The guidelines listed are representative, but not exhaustive. They help to protect the safety, self-confidence, self-respect, and self-esteem of students.

Please respect the following:

- Clothing should not have offensive language/pictures.
- Chests, stomachs, and bottoms need to be covered.
- Shorts/skirts should be an appropriate length for school setting
- Footwear must be worn at all times.
- Students may be asked to change their dress accordingly.
- Responses may vary depending on the age of the child.

Smoking

Blumenort School and school grounds are smoke free. In accordance with provincial and federal laws, students under the age of 16 are not to possess or use tobacco at any time.

Lighters or matches should not be brought to school or to the school grounds as they will be confiscated.

Use of Alcohol or Drugs

Possession or use of alcohol or drugs is not permitted under any circumstances for anyone. Violation could result in police involvement, suspension from school and a recommendation to the school board for expulsion from school.

Prohibited Items

Please do not bring the following items to school:

- Laser pointers
- Lighters
- Knives of any kind, including pocket knives
- Weapons
- Imitation weapons
- Other items that present a potential danger

Staff will confiscate the above materials.

Collectables such as trading cards do occasionally become an issue at school. We will respond to these issues as they arise.

Bus Expectations

There are many occasions when our students are transported by bus, including transportation to and from home, MYLO (Middle Years Learning Opportunities), extra-curricular events and class field trips. Students are expected to behave in a way that keeps themselves and others safe and allows the bus driver to concentrate on driving.

Please observe the following:

- Sit quietly in your assigned seat.
- Remain seated at all times.
- Listen to the instructions of the bus driver.

Students who do not follow the above expectations or whose behaviour is deemed inappropriate, may lose their bus privileges.

MYLO (Middle Years Learning Opportunities)

Grade 7-8 students will be piloting a new program called MYLO in place of Tech Ed./Home Ec. for the 2022-2023 school year. More info outlining the program will be shared throughout the year.

When MYLO takes us away from our school, students should remember:

- They are representatives of our school and should present a positive image of our school.
- Inappropriate behaviour on the bus or at the destination may result in suspension of privileges.

After Grade 8

Blumenort School is a K-8 school. Following grade 8, students from Blumenort register for the Steinbach Regional Secondary School. Letters will be sent home in March regarding course registration, school tours, and parent information nights at the SRSS. Staff from Blumenort School and the SRSS will assist in registering the students.

Occasionally students opt to register at private schools for their grade 9-12 years. They are welcome to do so, however that is generally done through their own arrangements.