



BLUMENORT SCHOOL


BENGALS UPDATE 01 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new year at Blumenort School! We hope that each of you had a wonderful and relaxing 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!

Blumenort School Staff for 2023-2024

This year we have quite a few new additions to our staff lineup that we would like to share with you. First off, Ms. Vanessa David is our new Vice-Principal. She joins us from the Steinbach Regional Secondary School, where she taught science and chemistry. We would like to wish Ms. David all the best, as she begins her time with us! We also would like to welcome Cindy Horrock (EA), Jessica Martens (EA), Pet Ballares (Head Custodian) and Roland Vogt (Asst. Custodian) to our school. Returning to us is Rhonda Stobbe (Learning Support), Janette Suppes (SS), Julian Penner (6P), Bryanna Berkowski (French) and Laura Unger (EA). Please also note that Mrs. Kellett in 3K will now be known as Mrs. McKee in 3M. Together we will make Blumenort School an amazing school! For a complete list of our staff please see below and for email addresses, please visit our website.

|  BLUMENORT SCHOOL STAFF LINEUP - 2023-2024 | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Principal: | Dave Schettler | Grade 4: | Rebecca Friesen | Educational Asst.: Dwayne Louis |
| Vice-Principal: | Vanessa David | Grade 5: | Andrea Cuccaro | Educational Asst.: Victoria Main |
| Admin. Secretary: | Landis Benitez | Grade 5: | Janette Suppes | Educational Asst.: Jessica Martens |
| Secretary: | Holly Reimer | Grade 6: | Cameron Hiebert | Educational Asst.: Jodi Moorey-Gamaldo |
| Learning Support: | Pam Barkman | Grade 6: | Julian Penner | Educational Asst.: Crystal Nordine |
| Learning Support AM: | Rhonda Stobbe | Grade 7/Vis Com: | Scott Hutchinson | Educational Asst.: Norine Plett |
| Literacy Support AM: | Kayla Dupont | Grade 7/Social: | Michelle Plett | Educational Asst.: Susan Reimer |
| Learning Support PM : | Kayla Dupont | Grade 8/Science: | Kaitlyn Koop | Educational Asst.: Mallory Stang |
| Counsellor: | Curtis Brandt | Grade 8 (AM): | Kristy Shumsky | Educational Asst.: Laura Unger |
| Kindergarten: | Elaine Kauenhofen | Phys. Ed.: | Nathan Giesbrecht | Head Custodian: Pet Ballares |
| Grade 1: | Amanda Ross | Music/Guitar/Drama: | Shannon Sawatzky | Asst. Custodian: Betty Funk |
| Grade 1: | Emily Walker | French (5-8): | Bryanna Berkowski | Asst. Custodian: Roland Vogt |
| Grade 2: | Jennifer Penner | Librarian: | Ellie Friesen | Bus Driver #37: Jackie Goertzen |
| Grade 2: | Irene Plett | Educational Asst.: | Tracey Giguere | Bus Driver #59: Mary Ann Lupky |
| Grade 3: | Brandy Derksen | Educational Asst.: | Cindy Horrock | Bus Driver #79: Leanna Reimer |
| Grade 3: | Celia McKee | Educational Asst.: | Val Konrad | Bus Driver #25: Marge Reimer-Toews |
| Grade 4: | Rachel Allard | Educational Asst.: | Rachel Lehman | |

Bengals Update for 2023-2024

Prior to the 2021-2022 school year, our main office sent home a monthly newsletter in an effort to keep everyone in our school community informed. For the past two years, our newsletter took on a new name...Bengals Update...and has been sent out every two weeks and then weekly in the month of June. For the 2023-2024 school year, you will be pleased to hear that the Bengals Update will be published weekly! We hope you enjoy this increased communication from our school!

Meet The Teacher - September 5 from 4:00-5:30pm

Our annual Meet the Teacher Event is set for this Tuesday, September 5th from 4:00-5:30 pm. Our students and parents are welcome to stop by the classroom to meet their new teacher and drop off their school supplies. Don't forget to check out the table by our main entrance to enter your name for a chance to win some really cool prizes. The draw will be made at our Welcome Back Assembly on Wednesday morning.

Strong Connections - September 15 & 18

Our annual Strong Connections program is planned for Friday, September 15th and Monday, September 18th. Students will be asked to attend either on the Friday **or** the Monday. With half of our students present, students will then be further divided to allow our homeroom teachers to focus on collecting our students and building relationships. The only assessments that will take place are for the students who did not take the assessments in June. An email will be sent shortly reminding you of the date that your child will attend or you can check the parent portal to view your dates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our school.

Grade 7&8 Red Rock Outdoor Education - September 20-22

Our Grade 7&8 students will be heading to Red Rock Bible Camp from September 20-22, 2023 for their Outdoor Education Retreat. Parents will receive a very detailed package with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Picture Day - New Date - September 26

Please take note that our Picture Day has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th. In the next little while you will receive a package from our school outlining the various picture options. Please also note the following change for this year..."Classroom group photos will continue to be complementary for families ordering a photo package. Families that don't order a photo package will now have the option to purchase a group photo for \$9.99."

Blumenort School Den Teams

Last year, our school created the Blumenort School Den Team System. All of our students are assigned to one of six dens - Black, White, Grey, Orange, Red or Yellow. The basic principle of our Den System is to promote school spirit through the enjoyment of academic and athletic activities throughout the school year. The emphasis in all Den activities is participation. You can see your child's den/house colour on the Parent Portal.

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. You can also leave a message at any time. Feel free to email blumenort@hds.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.
- Lastly, a reminder to parents that if their child is going home for lunch to notify the teacher or office. You can send an email for the whole year if always going home or just on days they'll be going home.

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 or to provide us with any changes to your existing account. If your account is working, please review all outstanding permissions that need to be updated for this year.

Student Fees

Student fees for supplies and agendas, along with Grade 7&8 Music/Band, Grade 7&8 Art (Vis Com) and Grade 7&8 Red Rock have been charged to the student accounts. Fees for Extra-Curricular Sports will depend on whether or not your child participates. 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

Our Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction will be returning again. Religious Exercises will begin the week of Monday, September 11th, while the start date for our Religious Instruction will be shortly after Thanksgiving.

Bengals Athletics


Our extra-curricular sports program is back once again! Stay tuned for updates about our upcoming volleyball and cross-country running seasons!

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 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.
- When crossing our bus loop, we ask our students to use either of the two openings in the fence.
- Remember that private vehicles need to avoid using our bus loop.
- Avoid stopping/parking in areas highlighted with bright yellow paint and pylons and be aware of all signage.
- We ask for your patience and awareness as our students make their way across the crosswalk on the PTH 311,
- 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.
- Our main bike rack is located on the east side of our school, by the Kindergarten doors. Students coming from the north and east will continue to park in this area. Our second bike rack zone for students is located by our old parking lot on the west side. Students coming from the south and west on Park Street will continue to park in this area.
- We would like to remind all parents, relatives and visitors to please check in at the main office when you arrive.

Blumenort School 2023-2024 Calendar

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|  | <p>Our Blumenort School 2023-2024 School Calendar is ready to roll and will be distributed to our families this upcoming week.</p> <p>Thank you to Mr. Hutch and Mrs. Shumsky for putting this all together for us.</p> <p>Thank you also to the local businesses who sponsored us once again.</p> <p>We hope you enjoy!</p> |
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The Umbrella Project at Blumenort School

The students and staff at Blumenort School will be participating in our third year of The Umbrella Project!

The Umbrella Project is a teacher-led curriculum and school based program created to help teachers, students and parents reframe our perception of challenges and strengthen the skills of well-being to positively cope with the everyday stresses of life.

The Umbrella Project is based on a few key pillars:

1. Knowledge: Without knowing what the skills of wellbeing are, it is difficult to recognize them in ourselves and others. By giving children and adults the language of wellbeing, we can begin to celebrate the use of these skills and change how we think about ourselves.
2. Stories: The Umbrella Project intentionally uses stories to tap into the emotional parts of our brains and make deeper connections to our wellbeing. By looking for and sharing others' stories, students will find examples that resonate and inform their own personal journey.
3. Role modelling: Role models have the power to shift and change a child's self-perception. By collecting stories of the Umbrella Skills in action, students will be exposed to many role models that are overcoming obstacles in ways that are improving their lives.
4. Positive priming: Obstacles and opportunities are often the same thing. By repeatedly looking for the Umbrella Skills in our environment, we can change what our brains do when faced with obstacles and opportunities of our own. We can learn to first see the tools we have to succeed instead of all of the reasons we may fail.

The Umbrella Project also offers our families a few easy ways to engage. You can Join The Umbrella Project community - Follow us on your favourite social media channel: Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. You can also sign up to receive monthly parenting resources and tips from The Umbrella Project. If you feel like diving deeper, you can join our Umbrella Project Parenting Community or sign up for our Parenting 101 Course. More info will be shared soon with our families.

In the meantime, please check out the following link to The Umbrella Effect, which provides a great overview of the program...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhhmzhPF0mw>





BLUMENORT SCHOOL

2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLUMENORT SCHOOL 2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| SEPTEMBER 5 | Admin Day / Meet the Teacher Event | JANUARY 8 | Classes Resume |
| SEPTEMBER 6 | First Day of Classes | FEBRUARY 2 | PD Day – No Classes |
| SEPTEMBER 6-7 | Kindergarten Interviews | FEBRUARY 19 | Louis Riel Day – No Classes |
| SEPTEMBER 8&11 | Kindergarten Staggered Entry | FEBRUARY 23 | HTA PD Day – No Classes |
| SEPTEMBER 15&18 | Strong Connections | MARCH 8 | Admin Day – No Classes |
| SEPTEMBER 20-22 | Grade 7&8 Red Rock Outdoor Education | MARCH 18 | Report Cards Issued |
| SEPTEMBER 25-29 | Orange Shirt Week | MARCH 21 | Parent-Teacher & Student-Led Conferences |
| SEPTEMBER 26 | Picture Day | MARCH 22 | Last Day before Spring Break |
| OCTOBER 3 | Election Day - No Classes | MARCH 23-31 | Spring Break |
| OCTOBER 9 | Thanksgiving Day – No Classes | APRIL 1 | Classes Resume |
| OCTOBER 20 | MTS PD Day – No Classes | APRIL 15 | PD Day – No Classes |
| OCTOBER 30 | Picture Retakes | MAY 20 | Victoria Day – No Classes |
| NOVEMBER 10 | Admin Day – No Classes | JUNE 21 | National Indigenous Peoples Day |
| NOVEMBER 20 | Report Cards Issued | JUNE 27 | Last Day before Summer Break |
| NOVEMBER 23 | Parent-Teacher Conferences | JUNE 27 | Awards Day |
| NOVEMBER 24 | PD Day – No Classes | JUNE 28 | Admin Day – No Classes |
| DECEMBER 22 | Last Day before Christmas Break | JUNE 28 | Report Cards Issued |
| DEC 23-JAN 7 | Christmas Break | | |

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



SEPTEMBER 2023

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| 4 Labour Day NO CLASSES | 5 Administration Day NO CLASSES Meet the Teacher 4:00-5:30pm | 6 First Day of Classes Kindergarten Interviews <i>Day 1</i> | 7 Kindergarten Interviews <i>Day 2</i> | 8 Kindergarten Staggered Entry <i>Day 3</i> |
| 11 Kindergarten Staggered Entry <i>Day 4</i> | 12 <i>Day 5</i> | 13 <i>Day 6</i> | 14 <i>Day 1</i> | 15 Strong Connections <i>Day 2</i> |
| 18 Strong Connections <i>Day 3</i> | 19 <i>Day 4</i> | 20 Gr. 7&8 Red Rock Outdoor Education <i>Day 5</i> | 21 Gr. 7&8 Red Rock Outdoor Education <i>Day 6</i> | 22 Gr. 7&8 Red Rock Outdoor Education <i>Day 1</i> |
| 25 Orange Shirt Week <i>Day 2</i> | 26 Orange Shirt Week Gr. 1-6 Picture Day <i>Day 3</i> | 27 Orange Shirt Week <i>Day 4</i> | 28 Orange Shirt Week <i>Day 5</i> | 29 Orange Shirt Week <i>Day 6</i> |

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