



BLUMENORT SCHOOL

BENGALS UPDATE 01 - AUGUST 30, 2024

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, 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 by email. Thank you again for your continued partnership!

Meet The Teacher - Tuesday, September 3rd from 4:00-5:30pm

Our annual Meet the Teacher event is set for this Tuesday, September 3rd 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.

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:

- Our Main Office is open from 8:00-4:30pm.
- To advise the office that your child will be absent or late, feel free to call us/leave a message or email blumenort@hsd.ca. 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 and 1:00pm.
- If your children are leaving the building during the course of the day, we ask that they report to the office. Our expectation is for an adult to meet them at the office and sign them out.
- 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.

Blumenort School Staff for 2024-2025

This year we have quite a few new additions to our staff lineup that we would like to share with you. We would like to welcome Samantha Kinley (Counsellor), Jennifer Nairn (1/2N), Krystin Dychko(6CD AM/7&8 French PM), Krista Kubanek (7K/7&8 Social Studies), Angela Thiessen (EA), Michelle Schmidt (EA), Sacha Barkman (Bus Driver) and Mary Penner (Asst. Custodian) to our school. 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.

<i>Principal:</i>	Dave Schettler	<i>Grade 5:</i>	Julian Penner	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Crystal Nordine
<i>Vice-Principal:</i>	Vanessa David	<i>Grade 6 & 5/6 French:</i>	Andrea Cuccaro	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Susan Reimer
<i>Admin. Secretary:</i>	Landis Benitez	<i>Grade 6 & 7/8 French:</i>	Krystin Dychko	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Michelle Schmidt
<i>Secretary:</i>	Holly Reimer	<i>Grade 6:</i>	Cameron Hiebert	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Mallory Stang
<i>Learning Support:</i>	Pam Barkman	<i>Grade 7 & 7/8 Social:</i>	Krista Kubanek	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Angela Thiessen
<i>Learning Support:</i>	Felicia Torchia	<i>Grade 7 & 7/8 Drama:</i>	Michelle Plett	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Laura Unger
<i>Literacy Support:</i>	Kayla Dupont	<i>Grade 8AM:</i>	Kristy Shumsky	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Rachelle Willison
<i>Counsellor :</i>	Samantha Kinley	<i>Grade 8 & 7/8 Science:</i>	Kaitlyn Koop	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	T.B.A.
<i>Grade 1:</i>	Amanda Ross	<i>Phys. Ed.:</i>	Nathan Giesbrecht	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	T.B.A.
<i>Grade 1:</i>	Emily Walker	<i>Music/Band:</i>	Shannon Sawatzky	<i>Head Custodian:</i>	Pet Ballares
<i>Grade 1/2:</i>	Jennifer Nairn	<i>Librarian:</i>	Ellie Friesen	<i>Asst. Custodian:</i>	Betty Funk
<i>Grade 2:</i>	Jennifer Penner	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Tracey Giguere	<i>Asst. Custodian:</i>	Mary Penner
<i>Grade 2:</i>	Irene Plett	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Cindy Horrock	<i>Bus Driver #25:</i>	Sacha Barkman
<i>Grade 3:</i>	Brandy Derksen	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Val Konrad	<i>Bus Driver #37:</i>	Jackie Goertzen
<i>Grade 3:</i>	Heather Messner	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Dwayne Louis	<i>Bus Driver #59:</i>	Mary Ann Lupky
<i>Grade 4:</i>	Rachel Allard	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Victoria Main	<i>Bus Driver #79:</i>	Leanna Reimer
<i>Grade 4:</i>	Celia McKeen	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Jessica Martens		
<i>Grade 5:</i>	Rebecca Friesen	<i>Educational Asst.:</i>	Jodi Moorey-Gamaldo		

Crosswalk Supervision Updated Times & School Safety Reminders

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. Firstly, we want everyone to be aware that our crosswalk will now be supervised starting at **8:45am**. We have been noticing that our students have been arriving earlier and earlier, sometimes before 8:30am, when they only need to be here for 8:50am. This new change will align much better with our morning supervision times so we ask for everyone to be aware of this change and plan to leave home a little later in the morning. Here are a few other reminders, especially those driving.

- 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.

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 have been charged to the student accounts. Grade 7&8 VisCom fee mentioned on the supply list has been changed to a Mylo fee. The \$10 amount will be charged shortly. 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.

New Provincial Cell Phone Policy

Over the summer you likely would have heard about the Province of Manitoba and HSD's decision to limit cell phone use in schools. For our K-8 school, students will be asked to leave their phones at home during the school day. If there is a medical reason why your child needs a phone at school, please let our office know so we can discuss. Stay tuned for an email from HSD for more information.

Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction

Our Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction will be returning again. Religious Exercises will begin the week of Monday, September 9th, while the start date for our Religious Instruction will be shortly after Thanksgiving.

Strong Connections - Friday, September 13th & Monday, September 16th

Our annual Strong Connections program is planned for [Friday, September 13th and Monday, September 16th](#). Half of our students will be asked to attend on Friday and the other half on Monday. This will allow our teachers an opportunity to focus on collecting our students and building relationships. 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.

The Umbrella Project at Blumenort School

The students and staff at Blumenort School will be participating in our fourth 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

2024-2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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SEPTEMBER 3	Admin Day / Meet the Teacher Event	JANUARY 6	Classes Resume
SEPTEMBER 4	First Day of Classes	JANUARY 31	PD Day – No Classes
SEPTEMBER 4&5	Kindergarten Interviews	FEBRUARY 17	Louis Riel Day – No Classes
SEPTEMBER 6&9	Kindergarten Staggered Entry	FEBRUARY 27	PD Day – No Classes
SEPTEMBER 13&16	Strong Connections	FEBRUARY 28	PD Day – No Classes
SEPTEMBER 26	Picture Day	MARCH 7	Admin Day – No Classes
SEPTEMBER 27	Orange Shirt Day	MARCH 17	Report Cards Issued
SEPTEMBER 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day - No Classes	MARCH 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences
OCTOBER 14	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes	MARCH 28	Last Day before Spring Break
OCTOBER 25	MTS PD Day – No Classes	MAR 29-APR 6	Spring Break
OCTOBER 28	Picture Retakes	APRIL 7	Classes Resume
NOVEMBER 7	Remembrance Day Assembly	APRIL 14	PD Day – No Classes
NOVEMBER 8	Admin Day – No Classes	APRIL 18	Good Friday – No Classes
NOVEMBER 18	Report Cards Issued	MAY 19	Victoria Day – No Classes
NOVEMBER 21	Parent-Teacher Conferences	JUNE 25	Awards Day
NOVEMBER 22	PD Day – No Classes	JUNE 26	Last Day before Summer Break
DECEMBER 20	Last Day before Christmas Break	JUNE 27	Admin Day – No Classes
DEC 21-JAN 5	Christmas Break	JUNE 27	Report Cards Issued

Please note that this calendar is as of AUGUST 30, 2024.



SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <i>Labour Day</i> NO CLASSES	3 <i>Administration Day</i> NO CLASSES <i>Meet the Teacher</i> 4:00-5:30pm	4 <i>First Day of Classes</i> <i>Kindergarten Interviews</i> Day 1	5 <i>Kindergarten Interviews</i> Day 2	6 <i>Kindergarten Staggered Entry</i> Day 3
9 <i>Kindergarten Staggered Entry</i> Day 4	10 Day 5	11 Day 6	12 Day 1	13 <i>Strong Connections</i> Day 2
16 <i>Strong Connections</i> Day 3	17 Day 4	18 Day 5	19 Day 6	20 Day 1
23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25 Day 4	26 <i>Picture Day</i> Day 5	27 <i>Orange Shirt Day</i> Assembly @ 10:10am Day 6
30 <i>National Day for Truth & Reconciliation</i> NO CLASSES				