

BENGALS UPDATE 01 - AUGUST 29, 2025

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 - Wednesday, September 3rd from 4:00-5:30pm

Our annual Meet the Teacher event is set for this <u>Wednesday, September 3rd</u> 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.

Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction

Our Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction will be returning again. Religious Exercises will begin the week of Monday, September 8th, while the start date for our Religious Instruction will be shortly after Thanksgiving.

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.

Crosswalk Supervision 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 be supervised starting at 8:30am. 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. We ask for everyone to plan to leave home a little later in the morning so that you can cross the highway safely. 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.



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Coming Soon!!!



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 Band/STEM courses 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.

Strong Connections - Friday, September 12th & Monday, September 15th

Our annual Strong Connections program is planned for <u>Friday</u>, <u>September 12th and Monday</u>, <u>September 15th</u>. 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.



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The Umbrella Project at Blumenort School

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

The Umbrella Project is a Canadian, 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 the following four key pillars:

- 1. <u>Knowledge:</u> 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. <u>Stories:</u> 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. <u>Role modelling:</u> 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. <u>Positive priming:</u> 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=YhhmzhPFOmw





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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are many events throughout the course of the school year that require parent volunteers. Those events include coaching, field trips, reading with students and helping at our school carnivals. In the past couple of years however, the process to become a parent volunteer has changed slightly, where we as a division require the checks to be completed <u>and</u> approved before anyone can volunteer.

As a result, we are strongly encouraging those who are interested in volunteering in the school year ahead, to start this process when we return in September so that we can avoid the scramble for approved volunteers that we have experienced throughout the year.

Here are the 4 simple steps...

- 1. Pick up a **Volunteer Package** at our school office. We will provide a letter waiving the cost for the Criminal Record Check. (Please let us know when you will be coming in so that we can get the letter ready.)
- 2. Complete and return the **Volunteer Package** to the Blumenort School office <u>in person</u>. Be sure to bring the 2 pieces of ID used on the Child Abuse Registry Check.
- 3. Go in person to the Steinbach RCMP Detachment stating you need to do a **Criminal Record Check,** including a **Vulnerable Sector Search**.
- 4. Bring the original Release of Results from the Criminal Record Check to the school office.

Please note that It takes about 6-8 weeks to complete the volunteer process, once the paperwork is submitted. That is why we strongly recommend getting it completed well before the actual event you hope to volunteer for.

Once approved, the paperwork is valid for **5 years**. However, every year you will be required to sign off on an **Annual Declaration**, which will be sent via email.



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Blumenort School 2025-2026 Staff Line-Up

Here is our 2025-2026 Staff Line-Up, as of August 29, 2025.

| Position | Name | Position | Name |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Principal | Dave Schettler | Gr. 1-8 PE | Nathan Giesbrecht |
| VP/Learning Support | Jerrah-Lee Broesky | Gr. 1-8 Music/Band | Shannon Sawatzky |
| Learning Support | Pam Barkman | Admin. Secretary | Landis Benitez |
| Learning Support | Rhonda Stobbe | Secretary | Holly Reimer |
| Literacy | Kayla Dupont | Librarian | Ellie Friesen |
| Counsellor | Samantha Kinley | Educational Asst. | Gillian Dueck |
| Kindergarten AM/PM | Elaine Kauenhofen | Educational Asst. | Tracey Giguere |
| Grade 1N | Jennifer Nairn | Educational Asst. | Cindy Horrock |
| Grade 1W | Emily Walker | Educational Asst. | Stephanie Karalash |
| Grade 2P | Jenn Penner | Educational Asst. | Irina Komarova |
| Grade 2PL | Irene Plett | Educational Asst. | Val Konrad |
| Grade 3M | Heather Messner | Educational Asst. | Jessica Martens |
| Grade 3R | Amanda Ross | Educational Asst. | Jodi Moorey-Gamaldo |
| Grade 4A | Rachel Allard | Educational Asst. | Crystal Nordine |
| Grade 4M | Celia McKee | Educational Asst. | Uliana Shtoiko |
| Grade 5P | Julian Penner | Educational Asst. | Angela Thiessen |
| Grade 5W | Joyce Waldner | Educational Asst. | Michelle Wiens |
| Gr.6C/P & Gr.5-8 French | Andrea Cuccaro | Head Custodian | Pet Ballares |
| Grade 6C/P PM | Jeremy Plett | Asst. Custodian | Betty Funk |
| Grade 6H | Cam Hiebert | Asst. Custodian | Mary Penner |
| Gr.7KK & Gr.7&8 Social | Krista Kubanek | Bus Driver | Sacha Barkman |
| Grade 7JP AM | Jeremy Plett | Bus Driver | Thomas Dacey |
| Gr.7MP & Gr.7&8 Drama | Michelle Plett | Bus Driver | Jackie Goertzen |
| Gr.8R & Gr.7&8 Science | Kayla Rosenthal | Bus Driver | Mary Ann Lupky |
| Grade 8S AM | Kristy Shumsky | | |

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DIVISIONAL CALENDAR 2025-2026

September 2025

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 1 | 5 ² | 6 |
| 7 | 8 ³ | 9 4 | 10 ⁵ | 11 6 | 12 ¹ | 13 |
| 14 | 15 ² | 16 ³ | 17 4 | 18 ⁵ | 19 ⁶ | 20 |
| 21 | 22 ¹ | 23 ² | 24 ³ | 25 ⁴ | 26 ⁵ | 27 |
| 28 | 29 ⁶ | 30 | | | | |

October 2025

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | 1 1 | 2 2 | 3 ³ | 4 |
| 5 | 6 4 | 7 5 | 8 6 | 9 1 | 10 ² | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 ³ | 15 ⁴ | 16 ⁵ | 17 ⁶ | 18 |
| 19 | 20 ¹ | 21 ² | 22 ³ | 23 ⁴ | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 ⁵ | 28 ⁶ | 29 ¹ | 30 ² | 31 ³ | |

LEGEND



November 2025

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 4 | 4 ⁵ | 5 ⁶ | 6 ¹ | 7 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 ³ | 13 ⁴ | 14 ⁵ | 15 |
| 16 | 17 ⁶ | 18 ¹ | 19 ² | 20 ³ | 21 4 | 22 |
| 23 30 | 24 ⁵ | 25 ⁶ | 26 ¹ | 27 ² | 28 ³ | 29 |

December 2025

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | 1 4 | 2 5 | 3 6 | 4 1 | 5 ² | 6 |
| 7 | 8 ³ | 9 4 | 10 ⁵ | 11 6 | 12 ¹ | 13 |
| 14 | 15 ² | 16 ³ | 17 4 | 18 ⁵ | 19 ⁶ | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

IMPORTANT DIVISIONAL DATES

Additional school-specific dates are listed on school websites.

| First Day of SchoolSept. 4 |
|---|
| Strong ConnectionsSept. 12, 15 |
| School Bus Safety WeekOct. 20-24 |
| Board/PAC Liaison MeetingOct. 28 |
| Public Consultation on BudgetOct. 28 |
| Kindergarten Registration (Sept. 2026)Jan. 5 |
| Board/PAC Liaison MeetingApr. 28 |
| Schools of Choice Deadline May 15 |
| SRSS GraduationJune 24 |
| GVS, LC, NHS GraduationJune 25 |
| Last Day of SchoolJune 26 |
| Kindergarten Registration for the 2026–27 school year will take |

place from Jan. 5 - Mar. 6. Parents are encouraged to complete the online registration during this time.

January 2026

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 ¹ | 6 ² | 7 3 | 8 4 | 9 5 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 ⁶ | 13 ¹ | 14 ² | 15 ³ | 16 ⁴ | 17 |
| 18 | 19 ⁵ | 20 ⁶ | 21 ¹ | 22 ² | 23 ³ | 24 |
| 25 | 26 ⁴ | 27 ⁵ | 28 ⁶ | 29 ¹ | 30 ² | 31 |

February 2026

| Su | Мо | | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 ³ | 4 4 | 5 ⁵ | 6 ⁶ | 7 |
| 8 | 9 1 | 10 ² | 11 ³ | 12 ⁴ | 13 ⁵ | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 ⁶ | 18 ¹ | 19 ² | 20 ³ | 21 |
| 22 | 23 4 | 24 ⁵ | 25 ⁶ | 26 ¹ | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |

March 2026

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| 1 | 2 2 | 3 ³ | 4 4 | 5 ⁵ | 6 ⁶ | 7 |
| 8 | 9 ¹ | 10 ² | 11 ³ | 12 ⁴ | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 ⁵ | 17 ⁶ | 18 ¹ | 19 ² | 20 ³ | 21 |
| 22 | 23 ⁴ | 24 ⁵ | 25 ⁶ | 26 ¹ | 27 ² | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

April 2026

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 ³ | 7 4 | 8 ⁵ | 9 6 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 ¹ | 14 ² | 15 ³ | 16 ⁴ | 17 ⁵ | 18 |
| 19 | 20 ⁶ | 21 ¹ | 22 ² | 23 ³ | 24 ⁴ | 25 |
| 26 | 27 ⁵ | 28 ⁶ | 29 ¹ | 30 ² | | |

ADMIN / PD DAYS

| Sept. 2 | Oct. 24 | Feb. 2 | Mar. 13 | June 29 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Sept. 3 | Nov. 10 | Feb. 27 | Apr. 10 | June 30 |

May 2026

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | | | 1 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 4 | 5 ⁵ | 6 ⁶ | 7 1 | 8 ² | 9 |
| 10 | 11 ³ | 12 ⁴ | 13 ⁵ | 14 ⁶ | 15 ¹ | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 ² | 20 ³ | 21 4 | 22 ⁵ | 23 |
| 24 21 | 25 ⁶ | 26 ¹ | 27 ² | 28 ³ | 29 ⁴ | 30 |

June 2026

| Su | Мо | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----|
| | 1 5 | 2 6 | 3 1 | 4 ² | 5 ³ | 6 |
| 7 | 8 4 | 9 5 | 10 ⁶ | 11 ¹ | 12 ² | 13 |
| 14 | 15 ³ | 16 ⁴ | 17 ⁵ | 18 ⁶ | 19 ¹ | 20 |
| 21 | 22 ² | 23 ³ | 24 ⁴ | 25 ⁵ | 26 ⁶ | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND BREAKS

| abour Day | Sept. 1 |
|---|------------------|
| National Day for Truth & Reconciliation | onSept. 30 |
| Thanksgiving Day | 0ct. 13 |
| Remembrance Day | Nov. 11 |
| Christmas Break | Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 |
| ouis Riel Day | Feb. 16 |
| Spring Break | Mar. 30 - Apr. 3 |
| Good Friday / Easter | Apr. 3, 5 |
| /ictoria Day | May 18 |
| | |



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| BLUME | NORT SCHOOL 2025-2026 | CALENDAR | OF EVENTS AT A GLANCE | |
|-----------------|---|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| SEPTEMBER 2 | Administration Day - No Classes | JANUARY 6 | Classes Resume | |
| SEPTEMBER 3 | Admin Day / Meet the Teacher Event | FEBRUARY 2 | PD Day – No Classes | |
| SEPTEMBER 4 | First Day of Classes FEBRUARY 3-5 | | Book Fair | |
| SEPTEMBER 4&5 | Kindergarten Interviews | FEBRUARY 17 | Louis Riel Day – No Classes | |
| SEPTEMBER 8&9 | Kindergarten Staggered Entry | FEBRUARY 27 | PD Day – No Classes | |
| SEPTEMBER 12&15 | Strong Connections | MARCH 13 | Admin Day – No Classes | |
| SEPTEMBER 26 | Picture Day MARCH 23 | | Report Cards Issued | |
| SEPTEMBER 29 | Orange Shirt Day MARCH 26 | | Parent-Teacher Conferences | |
| SEPTEMBER 30 | Truth & Reconciliation Day - No Classes | MARCH 27 | Last Day before Spring Break | |
| OCTOBER 15 | Thanksgiving Day – No Classes | MAR 28-APR 5 | Spring Break | |
| OCTOBER 24 | MTS PD Day – No Classes | APRIL 6 | Classes Resume | |
| OCTOBER 28 | Picture Retakes APRIL 10 | | PD Day – No Classes | |
| NOVEMBER 7 | Remembrance Day Assembly | MAY 19 | Victoria Day – No Classes | |
| NOVEMBER 10 | Admin Day – No Classes | JUNE 26 | Awards Day | |
| NOVEMBER 11 | Remembrance Day - No Classes | JUNE 26 | PAC Family Picnic | |
| NOVEMBER 17 | Report Cards Issued | JUNE 26 | K-3 Carnival & Grade 4-8 Fun Day | |
| NOVEMBER 20 | Parent-Teacher Conferences | JUNE 26 | Last Day before Summer Break | |
| DECEMBER 19 | MBER 19 Last Day before Christmas Break | | Administration Day - No Classes | |
| DEC 20-JAN 4 | 20-JAN 4 Christmas Break | | Admin Day / Report Cards Issued | |

Please note that this calendar is as of AUGUST 29, 2025.

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SEPTEMBER 2025

BENGALS CALENDAR

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Labour Day NO CLASSES | Administration Day NO CLASSES | Administration Day NO CLASSES Meet the Teacher 4:00-5:30pm | First Day of Classes Kindergarten Interviews | Kindergarten Interviews |
| | | | Day 1 | Day 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Kindergarten Staggered Entry | Kindergarten Staggered Entry | | | Strong Connections |
| Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 1 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Strong Connections | | | | |
| Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | | | Picture Day |
| Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 |
| 29 | 30 | | | |
| Orange Shirt Day | National Day for Truth & Reconciliation NO CLASSES | | | |
| Day 6 | | | | |

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