

BLUMENORT SCHOOL



Parent/Student Handbook 2025-2026

Phone: (204)326-1757
Email: blumenort@hsd.ca
Website: www.blumenort.hsd.ca

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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

Jerrah-Lee Broesky
Vice-Principal
jebroesky@hsd.ca

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

Our Core Values: *GRRR...*

- *Growth Mindset*
- *Relationships*
- *Resilience*
- *Respect*

Blumenort Staff 2025-2026

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
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	Bus Driver	Leanna Reimer

Calendar of Events 2025-2026

BLUMENORT 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	Last Day before Christmas Break	JUNE 29	Administration Day - No Classes
DEC 20-JAN 4	Christmas Break	JUNE 30	Admin Day / Report Cards Issued

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

Daily Routine

8:50	Students enter the school
8:55-9:00	Religious Exercises (if chosen)
9:03-9:05	Opening Exercises
9:05-9:40	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	Transition
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

Dismissal Times:

- Bus students dismissed at 3:35
- Town students dismissed at 3:40
- Late bus departure at 3:55

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 cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Attendance

Please report your child's school absences in the Parent Portal. You can also call the school (204-326-1757) or email (blumenort@hsd.ca) 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

For the safety of our students, 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. All volunteers must have their volunteer paperwork completed.

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

From HSD website: HSD will close schools for cold weather reasons when the recorded temperature at the Environment Canada Kleefeld Weather Station at 6:00am indicates -35° degrees Celsius or colder, or a Windchill of -45° degrees Celsius or colder.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support teachers are available to help students who need assistance in attaining the basic skills necessary to achieve success depending on student identification.

When warranted, the Learning Support 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 Mrs. Kinley 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.

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 STUDENTS!

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 \$35.00 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

In School Activities

Terry Fox Run

Student Leadership Events

Family Fun Day

Grade 5-8 Choir Trips

Awards

Our Grade 7-8 students participate in an awards assembly at the end of the school year.

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 athletes of the year.

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

Drama Award: Awards will be presented for excellence in drama to deserving students.

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

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

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.

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). Jewelry 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...

- Our expectation is that once students arrive at 9am, they are staying for the entire day, unless signed out by a Parent/Guardian.
- If your child goes home daily for lunch, please let our office know so that can be marked accordingly.
- If you are picking up your child for any reason - appointment, lunch plans, etc. - please check in at our office to ensure they are signed out.
- For those who are part of the weekly, Blumenort YFC Lunch program, our office and the Blumenort YFC have communicated about the permission list. Only students on the list for that week can go. Town students have a note at the beginning of the year saying they will be going home for lunch during that school year.

Grade 8s and Blumenort Co-op...

As spring arrives, Grade 8 students have traditionally been allowed to walk to Co-op during the lunch hour. This year we will continue the tradition for our Grade 8 students. This is a privilege that comes with increased independence and allows for some flexibility from our typical lunch hour expectations.

For those planning to head there, please remember the following...

- All students need permission - either permission for a specific day they will be going to Co-op or blanket permission for the remainder of the school year.
- Permissions need to be emailed to the office - blumenort@hsd.ca.
- There is NO crosswalk supervision at lunchtime.
- Students heading to Co-op need to check-in at the office at the 12:00 bell. Once they've signed out, they're free to leave. Students need to return on time - 12:55 and head straight to class. There should be no loitering anywhere and going to the park is not an option.
- Remember that students leaving our school over the lunch hour are still representatives of our school. Please remind your child to continue to be kind and respectful.
- Privileges will be revoked if problems arise.

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.

GRADE 7-8 AM/LUNCH/PM RECESS PLAN

Starting MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, you will have some choices to make at recess...

1. If you like the outdoors, you can continue to go outside. If you choose this option, you will need to stay outside until the end of that recess.
2. If you would rather be indoors, here are your options...

AM RECESS

- *HALLWAY
- *YOUR GRADE LEVEL ROOM
- *GYM
- *Grade 7 and 8 Band students can practice in Band Room (am only)

LUNCH RECESS

- *DRAMA ROOM
- *LIBRARY
- *GYM
- *Hallways are only used to go from room to room.

PM RECESS

- *HALLWAY
- *YOUR GRADE LEVEL ROOM
- *GYM

A reminder, this is a privilege! If you are causing problems, we will make the choice for you!

Main Office 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

Supply and activity fees will be charged to student accounts at the start of the school year. Sports and field trip fees will be charged throughout the year. Fees can be paid through the Parent Portal or at the office with cash or cheque.

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

On August 15, 2024, the Province of Manitoba established enhanced guidelines for school cell phone use to minimize distractions and support student learning and safety. This new provincial directive, which all public school divisions must adhere to and aligns with our new divisional policy.

Effective September 3, 2024, Hanover School Division will implement the following protocols in all HSD schools: Students in Grades K-8 are not permitted to bring their phones to school.

We will provide appropriate exceptions to support students with medical or diverse learning needs. We ask students to respect the privacy of classmates who have been granted such exceptions.

Our collective goal is to create an educational environment where students can fully engage in their learning without the distractions that cell phones often present. We appreciate your continued support in helping us create the best possible learning environment for our students.

Parents and guardians that need to contact their child during the day can do so by calling our office at 204-326-1757. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office to discuss.

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 sit quietly in your assigned seat, remain seated at all times and 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.

Tech Ed./Human Ecology

Grade 7-8 students have a wonderful opportunity to attend Tech Ed. & Home Economics at Mitchell Middle School for one half day during the six day school cycle.

Students should remember:

- They are representatives of our school and should present a positive image of our school.
- When at MMS, all rules of the school and the authority of the host principal and teacher apply.
- Discipline referrals from SMS & MMS will be dealt with when the student returns to Blumenort.
- Inappropriate behaviour on the bus or at MMS 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.