



THE COMMUNICATOR

www.blissfieldschools.us

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

"Blissfield Community Schools provides a learning environment that challenges all students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens."



From the Superintendent

Welcome Back...With summer recess drawing to a close, it is time to begin making preparations for the upcoming school year. To assist families with the assortment of school documents required each fall, Student Information Packets were mailed home on

Wednesday, August 24th to allow ample time for review and completion before returning with your children on their first day of school on **Tuesday, September 6th**. Special thanks to Blissfield State Bank for sponsoring the District Calendar Magnet, which we hope you find useful throughout the year.

Blissfield Community Schools are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for each of our 1,240 students. As students return this fall they will be welcomed by a variety of curricular, building and technology enhancements including the opening of our new "Project Lead the Way" learning lab at Blissfield Middle School, recently updated Elementary Social Studies and K-12 Science Curricula, along with many facility improvements that occurred throughout the district this summer. Furthermore students, parents, and community members can now remain anonymous while notifying school officials of bullying, drug abuse, and other safety issues via text messaging from your cell phone by texting BCSTIP to 847411. Each of these improvements will be showcased during our Open House activities on Wednesday, August 31st as denoted below.

Link Crew Freshman Orientation 10:00am Blissfield High School
K-5 Elementary Open House 4:00pm Blissfield Elementary
6-8 Middle School Open House 6:00pm Blissfield Middle School

Hours of instruction will remain unchanged for the upcoming school year with the Blissfield Elementary School day from 7:45am to 2:52pm and Blissfield Middle and High School from 7:50am to 2:54pm. If you have questions regarding these or other matters, please stop by or call our school offices as we are open each weekday for your convenience.

Blissfield Elementary (517) 486-2811 Dee Crane, Principal
Blissfield Middle School (517) 486-4420 Cris Rupp, Principal
Blissfield High School (517) 486-2148 Jerry Johnson, Principal

You are also encouraged to visit our district website at www.blissfieldschools.us to review our 2010-11 Annual Reports and for school updates throughout the year.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Administration and our outstanding teachers and support staff members, we look forward to extending your child the "Royal Treatment" they deserve throughout the 2011-12 school year.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Moellenberndt

Blissfield Community Schools Upcoming Events Calendar

Aug 30	Inservice Day
Aug 31	Teacher Work Day Freshman Orientation 10:00a.m. Elementary Open House 4:00p.m. Middle School Open House 6:00p.m.
Sept 1	Inservice Day
Sept 5	Labor Day
Sept 6	1st Day of School for Students
Sept 9	High School Student Picture Day Middle School Student Picture Day
Sept 16	Constitution Day
Sept 17	Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Sept 19	Board of Education Meeting
Oct 4	Marching Band Festival
Oct 5	Elementary School Student Picture Day Student Count Day Walk to School Day
Oct 7	Progress Reports Distributed
Oct 11	MEAP Testing Begins Grades 3-8
Oct 15	District Marching Band Festival
Oct 17	Board of Education Meeting
Oct 19	MEAP Testing Concludes
Nov 3-5	Middle School Musical
Nov 4	End of First Marking Period
Nov 10-12	High School Play
Nov 14	American Education Week Begins
Nov 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences - No School
Nov 18	Vacation Day

Tip 411

The Blissfield Police Department and Blissfield Community Schools have teamed up to create an Internet based communication tool that allows community residents and students to send anonymous text messages to school and police officials.

The system is not intended to replace 911. It will allow police and school officials to chat anonymously with students and community members to reduce crime, bullying, vandalism, abuse, weapons and other illegal behavior such as drug abuse or trafficking. The system is operated by a third party, independent company, and is completely anonymous since all identifying information is removed before school or law enforcement officials see the messages.

Tips to law enforcement can be sent by texting the word BPDTIP and whatever information they wish to pass along to 847411 (TIP411). Tips to school officials should be labeled BCSTIP and sent to 847411. Police and school officials encourage people to enter the number into their phones for future use.

Board of Education Meetings

August 22, 2011
September 19, 2011
October 17, 2011
November 14, 2011
December 19, 2011
January 16, 2012
February 20, 2012
March 19, 2012
April 16, 2012
May 14, 2012
June 18, 2012
July 16, 2012

School Board Meetings will be held the third Monday of each month at 7:30p.m. in the high school cafetorium.

Board of Education Members

Noel Eisenmann - President
3308 1/2 Blissfield Highway
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-4522
ned1991@hotmail.com

Scott Abbott - Trustee
411 W Adrian Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-3552
abttscott@aol.com

JoDee Friess - Vice President
8500 Driggs
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2203
jodee@blissfieldinsurance.com

Robert Beckey - Trustee
7312 E. Gorman Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-403-7163
rsbeckey@frontier.com

Vicki Lombard - Secretary
221 Russell Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-4097
lombardvicki@yahoo.com

David Brewer - Trustee
8472 Driggs Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
734-260-9319
dave.brewer@vanston.com

Brian McEwan - Treasurer
208 Jefferson
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-3018
bmcewan@frontier.com

Attendance Procedures

Please call the appropriate school office as soon as possible if your child will not be in attendance on a particular day. If you need to call before office hours, please leave a voice mail message at ext. 200 stating the student's name, grade, and reason for not attending school.

Arriving late or leaving early

If your child arrives to school late, please go to the building office and sign in. If your child needs to leave school early, please call before school or send a note with your child stating the time your child needs to be excused and the reason why your child will be leaving early. All students must sign out in the office before leaving school.

Contact Information

Blissfield Community Schools

Scott D. Moellenberndt, Superintendent
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2205 Fax: 486-5701
Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Blissfield Elementary School

Dee Crane, Principal
640 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2811 Fax: 486-3348
Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Blissfield Middle School

Cris Rupp, Principal
1305 Beamer Road, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-4420 Fax: 486-4758
Hours 7:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Blissfield High School

Jerry Johnson, Principal
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2811 Fax: 486-4749
Hours 7:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Athletics, Steve Babbitt, District Athletic Director 486-4725
Food Services, Melissa Ward, Director 486-2148 ext 222
Operations, Tom Kasefang, Director 486-2148 ext 219
Student Services, Mark Willson, Director 486-2148 ext 217
Technology, Matthew Cook, Director 486-2148 ext 302
Transportation, Tom Kasefang, Director 486-3803

Medications at School

Written permission from a parent/guardian and from the student's physician is required before school personnel may administer medication. The necessary forms are available at each school office for parents/guardians/physicians to fill out. The forms state the medication that is required, the exact dosage of the medication, and the time and dates medication should be taken. All medication is stored and given to the child in the office. No medication, including aspirin, will be given to any student without the necessary forms. Michigan law requires that new forms be filled out each school year. If you have any questions, please contact the office of the school your child attends.

Drug and Weapons Free Schools

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs and weapons on school grounds, in school, school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for anyone on school premises. Students who violate this policy will be subjected to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by Michigan law, Blissfield Community Schools will also notify law enforcement officials.

Athletic Schedules

Community members are encouraged to visit our district website at www.blissfieldschools.us for all of our 2011-12 athletic schedules. Click the Online Resources button then move to the bar labeled "HighSchoolSports.net", where you will find all Middle and High School sports schedules.

Athletic Tickets

Ticket prices for athletic events this year are as follows:

All Varsity sports - \$5
All Junior Varsity sports - \$4
All Middle school athletic events - \$3

Season sports passes are available in the high school athletic office. Senior citizens 62 years and older are admitted free to all athletic contests.

School Visitations

All parents and guardians are welcome at Blissfield Community Schools at any time. For the safety of our entire school community, parents and visitors entering the building **MUST** sign in at the main office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Special Education Act

Public Act 198 of 1971, the mandatory Special Education Act, establishes the right to handicapped person(s) from birth through the age of 25, to equal opportunity within the public schools. **THIS MEANS THAT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE SCHOOL AGE TO BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.** It is important that help be obtained for the handicapped at the earliest possible age. In the State of Michigan, this help is free and is available through your public schools. A team of educational specialists evaluates the child to determine the type and degree of disability and the best kind of program placement. This evaluation often includes a medical specialist. Pre-primary Special Education services are available for:

*Emotionally Impaired - Mentally Impaired - Physically and
Otherwise Health Impaired (POHI) - Hearing Impaired -
Visually Impaired - Speech and Language Impaired - Specific
Learning Disabled*

If you know a preschool child who may benefit from these services contact:

Mrs. Dee Crane
Elementary School Principal
Blissfield Community Schools
640 S. Lane Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2811

Grievance Procedures...

for: **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Of 1973 Section 1**

Any person believing that the Blissfield Community School district or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principals and/or regulations of (10) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (23) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, and (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, he/she may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, to the local Civil Rights Coordinator at the following address:

Mr. Mark Willson
K-12 Student Services Director
Blissfield Community Schools
630 South Lane Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2148

Notification of Asbestos Inspection

The Environmental Protection Agency requires us to perform inspection of asbestos materials every three years. The buildings of the Blissfield Community Schools were inspected and a three-year management plan was compiled on July 21, 2010. We currently have no change in our ACM and we will continue to manage them in place. The results of the inspection are on file in the school's administrative office.

Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of Blissfield Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.

Any questions concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, should be directed to:

Mr. Mark Willson
K-12 Student Services Director
Blissfield Community Schools
630 South Lane Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2148

Inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Mr. Jerry Johnson
High School Principal
Blissfield Community Schools
630 S. Lane Street
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2148

Public Facilities and School Building Act

On December 23, 2002 Public Act 628 of 2002 was signed into law. This law amends the School Building Act, Public Act 306 of 1937 by requiring the inspection of **all** school construction projects, including outbuildings such as storage buildings, bus garages, and athletic facilities, and that the buildings are in compliance with the Stillie-DeRossen-Hale Single State Construction Code Act and the Fire Prevention Code, Public Act 207 of 1941. School projects which are being constructed, remodeled, or reconstructed are subject to inspections and plan review by the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety.

Therefore, all projects involving buildings and grounds must first be fully approved before any work is done. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: new construction, alterations of existing buildings on grounds, moving soil, locating fields, etc. Each specific request must be submitted in writing to the Director of Facilities and Maintenance on a Buildings/Grounds Alteration Request Form. The request must be accompanied by permits, applications, specifications, and any other information important to the project.

Coaches, club sponsors, class mentors, department heads, educational staff, outside organizations, and service groups need to fill out the Buildings/Grounds Alteration Request Form. Request forms may be picked up and submitted upon completion to Mr. Tom Kasefang, Operations Director.

eSchool Home Access

In order to provide our students, parents and teachers current information and services, Blissfield Community School utilizes eSchool Home Access Center. Home Access Center is an Internet service offered by Blissfield Community Schools to help keep parents informed of their child's academic performance at school. Using a simple login, parents have access to grades and assignments for each course their child is enrolled in at school. Access information is available through the office of the school your student attends.

Communication between parents and teachers is vital to student success in the school setting. Home Access Center is one of many tools we use at Blissfield Community Schools to accomplish this task.

Emergency Closings & Delays

If school must be closed or delayed due to inclement weather or other conditions, you will be notified via the AlertNow at your home, work, or cell phone number and computer email address upon request. To enroll or update your information, contact the office of the school your child attends. The school will also notify local radio and television stations.

Bus Route Information

Student bus information for those residing within the Village limits including their bus number, anticipated pickup time, and bus stop location will be posted in the Blissfield Advance on Wednesday, August 24th. Students living beyond the Village limits will be notified by their bus driver as to the approximate time and location of their pick-up. If you have questions regarding your child's bus transportation, please contact the following individuals:

Tom Kasefang, Operations Director
Julie Blochowski, Transportation Assistant
Blissfield Community Schools
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-3803 Fax: 486-4749
Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pest Management Program Advisory to All Parents

As part of the Blissfield Community Schools district pest management program, it is our goal to reduce pesticides as much as possible. While it may be necessary to apply a pesticide, our program **does not** rely on routine pesticide application. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application being made to the school buildings and grounds during the school year. In certain emergencies, (example: bee nests) pesticides may be applied without prior notice; however, you will be notified following any such application. You will receive advance notice of the application of a pesticide, other than bait or gel at your child's school. This advance notice of the application will be given 48 hours before the application. Blissfield Community Schools will post this notice at all entrances and the common areas located adjacent to the building office and on our school web page. Parents are also entitled to receive this notice by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact:

Mr. Tom Kasefang
Operations Director
Blissfield Community Schools
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2148 ext. 219 Fax: 486-5701
Hours: 7:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Food Services Meal Prices

Due to federal compliance requirements and, lunch prices will increase for the 2011-2012 school year and are as follows:

Breakfast - Grades K-12	\$1.50
8 oz. Milk Sold Separately	\$.50
Elementary Lunch	\$2.30
Middle and High School Lunch	\$2.70
Middle and High School Bar Lunch	\$2.95
Adult Lunch	\$3.50

If you have further questions, please contact Food Services Director, Melissa Ward at 517-486-2148 ext. 222.