

From the Superintendent



As the first nine-week marking period comes to a close, we are provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on many of the outstanding achievements, events, and positive enhancements that have occurred since our students return to school.

At Blissfield Community Schools we are proud of the "Commitment to Excellence" that exists throughout our district. Congratulations to the students, staff, and administration at Blissfield Elementary, Middle, and High School for their recognition by the Michigan Department of Education upon achieving EdYES! letter grades of "A" during the 2009-10 school year. This is the first time all three schools received this distinction within the same academic year. Our schools were also honored recently by AdvancED and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) as one of twenty school districts throughout the state to have received K-12 District Accreditation this past year.

While students and teachers in grades 3-8 have been actively involved with annual MEAP assessments during the first quarter, many have also benefitted from recent technology, classroom, and instructional enhancements. This fall students welcomed the addition of two new computer labs and a Fine Arts Wing at Blissfield High School, a revised 7-12 World Languages curriculum and the introduction of "Project Lead The Way" at Blissfield Middle School, promoting integrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction.

We also wish to acknowledge the exemplary efforts of our fall season athletes, coaches, and marching band members for the dedication they demonstrated while serving as outstanding role models and ambassadors for our school and community. Kudos to our Girls Cross Country and Varsity Football teams who qualified for state competition along with the Marching Royals who received all Division I ratings during their MSBOA District Band Festival. Special recognition is also extended to our performing arts students and directors for their showmanship during the Middle School musical, "Aladdin" and High School play, "Dracula."

We hope you will plan to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 18th. Conferences will be held district-wide from 8:00-11:00am, 12:30-3:30pm, and 5:00-8:00pm. Additional information will be forthcoming during the coming weeks; however, please note there will be no school for students on Thursday, November 18 and Friday,

November 19 and also during Thanksgiving Recess, November 25-26.

Lastly, special thanks to the many students and parents who participated in our first *Walk & Roll to School Day*, sponsored by the *Safe Routes 2 School* committee on October 6. We also appreciate the continued support of our Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence, who generously purchased nearly \$10,000 in classroom and curricular materials for our schools this fall through their Teacher Mini-Grant program. Your contributions are encouraged in helping them attain their *Classroom Connection* fund-raising goal of \$25,000 to purchase district technology and computer equipment.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Moellenberndt

Blissfield Community Schools District Calendar of Upcoming Events

Nov 13	Middle School Solo & Ensemble
Nov 15 - 19	American Education Week
Nov 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	No School for Students
Nov 19	No School - Vacation Day
Nov 14	Middle School Solo & Ensemble
Nov 25 - 26	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 9	Second Grade Music Concert
Dec 10	Progress Reports Distributed
Dec 14	Fourth/Fifth Grade Choir Concert
Dec 16	HS Band and Choir Concert
Dec 20	MS Band and Choir Concert
Dec 20	Board of Education Meeting
Dec 22	Winter Recess Begins
Jan 4	School Resumes
Jan 17	No School for Students
	Board of Education Meeting
Jan 20	1/2 Day Student Exams
	1/2 Day Records Day
Jan 21	1/2 Day Student Exams
	1/2 Day Records Day
Jan 24	Second Semester Begins
Jan 28	Report Cards Distributed
Jan 29	HS District Solo & Ensemble
Feb 9	Winter Student Count Day
Feb 18	Professional Development Day
	No School for Students

High School Student Council Officers



The high school student council officers for 2010-2011 are: Laura Goetz Treasurer, Clarissa DuMoulin, President, Jennifer Sell, Vice President, and Rachael Shields, Secretary.

Middle School Adds Journalism Class

Mrs Broderick, who joined the middle school staff this year, is offering a journalism class to 8th grade students. The class publishes a newspaper named the "8th grade Blissfield Beat."

On October 6th, these students had the privilege of participating in a walking field trip to the Blissfield Advance. The Blissfield Advance is the second oldest continually running business in Blissfield, second only to Blissfield State Bank.

Students met with editor Tran Longmoore, who you have likely seen taking photographs at various school events. He was kind enough to talk to the Journalism class regarding his duties and the newspaper industry. Students learned several interesting facts.

Thanks to Mr. Longmoore and members of the Advance Staff for a most enjoyable visit !



Mr. Longmoore showing archives to Nick Soss, Connor Friess, and Jonah Sellick

COLLEGE COUNSELING HANDBOOK

BHS has developed a handbook to assist parents and students through the college selection and application process. The handbook contains timely, information on searching for schools, standardized testing, and applying for college. Specific procedures for requesting transcripts and test scores are also identified along with many valuable websites. You can get your copy of the handbook by visiting the CCC in person or on-line through the CCC website.

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Kindergarten classes are in full 'Fall' swing. What a great group of hard workers they are. With the new school year underway, the students have already completed some pretty awesome work. They are working on proper letter formation and phonics to become independent writers. The classes continue to work hard with science, learning all about their five senses. Math is so much fun – the students get to use math materials and play while they learn. Each of these wonderful students has made some pretty good friends in their first month together and has learned to be a responsible, respectful, and safe Blissfield Pride member. The kindergartners finished off Fire Prevention Week with a visit from our local fire department. They learned all about house fires, safety routes, and how to "stop, drop and roll." These students are well on their way to becoming awesome learners, hard workers, and pretty cool Blissfield kindergartners.



All of the Blissfield kindergarten students had an opportunity to climb inside a fire truck. Here, Kayla Gartee and Emily Bella of Mrs. Head's class take their turn inside the truck.



Mrs. L. Mueller's kindergarten class enjoyed a visit from the Blissfield Fire Department and the Safety Pup mascot as part of Fire Safety and Prevention Week.

Counseling and Career Center News

VO-TECH MEETING FOR SOPHOMORES

Mrs. Kim Dusseau, a Career Prep Representative from the LISD, met with sophomore students to discuss opportunities at the Tech Center and answered questions from sophomore students about the 2011-2012 program. At this meeting, students selected three programs to observe during their visit to the Tech Center on Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

SENIOR INFORMATION

Senior Exit Interviews—Seniors are receiving information regarding their graduation status, the college application process, scholarship and financial aid details. Job shadowing information was also provided during their exit interview with Mr. Willson or Mrs. Judkins. Parents, please ask your senior about their exit interview, and as always, please call the CCC if you need further information at 486-2148 x203.

College Applications—Students are encouraged to apply to college ASAP. All applications to four year schools should be completed no later than December, 2010. Many colleges have an on-line application process that saves time and often is less costly than paper applications.

Docufide—is a resource for students to request transcripts and communicate with the counseling staff regarding information needed for college and scholarship applications. Students who are not registered need to stop in the CCC to find out how.

Scholarships—Information about scholarships for seniors is kept on file in the CCC. Seniors are encouraged to check the file weekly. An electronic file is available on the BHS Website and on Facebook. Three valuable websites for scholarship and school financing are: <http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid> (State of Michigan Paying for College webpage), <http://www.lisd.us/Scholarships/index.aspx> (Lenawee County Scholarships), and <http://www.collegeview.com>

Teacher or Counselor Recommendation Letters—If students need recommendations for colleges or scholarships please allow two weeks for administrators or faculty to complete them. Also, when requesting a recommendation, please complete a "Student Biography" form (available in the CCC) as a reference of your academic and extracurricular activities history.

ACT/SAT—Registration packets are available for the ACT and SAT tests. Students who are currently juniors should already have taken the ACT. Students may obtain forms for retaking the test in the CCC. Remember, due to a change in State of Michigan legislation, students are allowed only one free ACT test at Blissfield High School.

Michigan Competitive Scholarship—Eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program is determined in part by the student achieving a qualifying score on the ACT. Therefore it is critical that seniors who have not taken the ACT be advised to do so, no later than the December 11, 2010 test date.

BCS Welcomes New Faces

Blissfield Community Schools welcomed two new behavioral specialists to our K-12 Student Services department for the 2010-2011 school year. Maria Crane is working with the middle school team while Janet Baker serves in the same role at Blissfield Elementary. Maria, who also works at Tecumseh Place, has a passion for children and the elderly population. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Siena Heights University and went on to receive a Master's Degree in Social Work from Barry University in Florida. Janet received her undergraduate degree from Siena Heights University where she majored in criminal justice and business. Upon getting married she returned to Siena Heights for graduate school, where she will receive her Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling this December. Welcome, Maria and Janet to Blissfield Community Schools.



One Delicious Experiment

The Oreo Project is something that Mrs. Hojnacki and Mrs. L. Mueller's classes have been collaborating on during the last two school years. The book buddies work together stacking cookies without holding onto them to see how tall they can get. Before they begin, 5th grade students ask the kindergartners to estimate how many they can stack. Students complete two different stacks and record their results. They add and divide by two in order to determine an average. They then compare whether their estimate was higher or lower. Lastly, the 5th graders report their data online with Oreo and receive country-wide comparisons and feedback.



What a tower! Alex Rohde carefully adds an Oreo to his stack while Abby Gilmore looks on.

Path to Scholarship Program has Great Potential

In today's economy paying for college can be a daunting task. To help with these expenses many students pursue scholarships to help ease the burden of paying for college. With scholarships being as competitive as ever, the Counseling and Career Center at Blissfield High School will be training students throughout the year through a new program entitled "Path to Scholarship."

Students trained in the Path to Scholarship program gain an advantage on the competition. Students learn how to properly request and obtain letters of recommendation that will help them stand out to a scholarship review committee. They also learn how to best write resumes and scholarship essays that highlight their competencies, activities, and community involvement.

Great results are anticipated as students begin to utilize what they will have learned through the Path to Scholarship program. We look forward to celebrating their successes as students continue to prepare for their futures, while simultaneously pursuing scholarship money.



Melissa Wiles and Mrs. Judkins work on developing a portfolio to maximize scholarship opportunities.

PLAN and EXPLORE

Today, it is more important than ever before that students leave high school with the skills necessary to be successful in college and the workplace. Becoming college-ready does not happen overnight; students develop these skills by enrolling in rigorous courses in high school. EXPLORE & PLAN are assessments that help 8th and 10th graders develop high school course plans that will prepare them for college and work while introducing them to relevant career options available to them. In addition, students also receive feedback on their academic preparedness as compared to the college readiness benchmarks that have been established by the ACT Organization. Blissfield High School will administer PLAN to all 10th graders and EXPLORE to all 8th graders on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Link Crew Has Come to Blissfield High School

Beginning this year, a new Link Crew program was instituted at BHS to help students transition into the high school setting. A great group of juniors and seniors devoted significant time and effort training to become Link Leaders, while also committing to their freshmen crew for the entire school year.

One of the biggest responsibilities of a Link Leader is to help with Freshmen Orientation. Freshmen Orientation was very different this year. Freshmen were ushered into the gym through a tunnel of cheering Link Leaders welcoming them to BHS. Mr. Pooley, a BHS English teacher, led everyone in a series of active warm-up exercises. The Link Leaders then worked with their crew of 10-12 freshmen spending time to learn their names and getting to know one another better. After an interactive tour of the school and a closing assembly, participants were treated to a pizza lunch.

The Link Leaders were selected from a large pool of applicants and serve as outstanding role-models for our freshman class. Leaders are asked to participate in a variety of social and academic follow-up activities during the year to develop relationships and provide continual support to students during their first year at BHS.

If you would like to hear more about the Link crew program at BHS, please contact Jolene Nofzinger or Louise Keinath through the high school counseling office.



Above: Mr. Justin Pooley leads the freshmen in a variety of fun exercises to begin freshman orientation.

Right: Taylor Jacob prepares to take her crew on a tour of the school.



A Special Visit

The fourth graders in Kym Morrison's class had a special visitor on Homecoming Day. Eric Schmidt, a senior varsity football player, and former kindergarten student of Mrs. Morrison, came in and read "T is for Touchdown" to the class. The fourth graders were wonderful listeners who learned more about football not only from the book, but also from the wonderful questions they asked Eric. The students made a banner which they all signed wishing Eric good luck. It must have worked because not only did the Royals get a win that night, but Eric was also selected 2010 Homecoming King.



Homecoming Court

This year's Homecoming festivities were a great success. High school students participated in spirit week activities including PJ day, Camo day, College day, "Fairy Tale" day and Royal day. Spirit week concluded with a pep assembly on Friday that also included middle school students. Students participated in a variety of activities, including a football pass, a volleyball "bump, set, spike," a frozen t-shirt thaw, a tug o' war and a cottage cheese eating race for the court members. The seniors sealed their victory this year by winning the float competition with their theme "Fire up the Royals." Student Council wishes to thank all of the students and staff for making Homecoming 2010 a wonderful week for everyone involved.



Financial Aid Information

Blissfield High School welcomes Mr. Kevin Kucera, Financial Aid Director for the University of Toledo, who will be making a two presentations this school year. On November 16th, Mr. Kucera will focus on the FAFSA and the importance a parent's/guardian's W-2 form plays during the student's 9th - 11th grade years. Mr. Kucera will talk about strategies for maximizing each student's financial aid package. During his second meeting, on February 2, 2011, discussions will be geared toward 11th & 12th grade students on how to complete the FAFSA forms and meeting their timelines.



Blissfield Foundation for Education Excellence (BFEE) is proud to announce the start of its Classroom Connection designed to raise \$25,000 for technology needs throughout the Blissfield Community Schools. This is the first time in BFEE's seventeen year history, the annual campaign will focus entirely on a single item, technology enhancement.

"At our October board meeting, we were provided information explaining the overwhelming need to update and improve technology throughout Blissfield Schools," explains Debbie Kimmelman, BFEE President. "From this need, sprang the idea to commit the entire Annual Campaign toward improving technology." One of the first priorities is replacing the oldest computers in the district, many of which are nine years old. Additional items on the list range from rewiring and replacing network infrastructures, purchasing a new polycom unit for distance learning, replacing computer lab hardware and purchasing additional smartboards.

The Board of Education voted to match the funds raised by BFEE up to \$25,000.00. The BFEE is also planning to pursue grant monies to match those raised throughout this campaign. Everyone is encouraged to support Classroom Connection 2010 and give generously. Community members will be receiving a separate mailing from the BFEE in mid-November. We ask everyone in the community: individuals, families, businesses and organizations to join us in improving technology at Blissfield one computer (\$700.00) at a time. This is a chance for all of us to make a difference for the students attending Blissfield Schools.

A Grade of "A"

Even Blissfield Elementary School's youngest students are proud of their newest report card. For the third year in a row, the elementary school earned an Education Yes! Report Card grade of "A." This also represented the first time all three buildings received "A" letter grades within the same year.



Pictured from left to right are kindergartners: Avrem Thomas, Nevaeh Gates, Kendall Martin, Zoe Bush, and Peyton Rockhill.

Something New In Second Grade

Second graders are changing classes Monday through Thursday each week for 50 minutes of instruction. Mrs. Seidl is teaching Social Studies, while Mrs. Graf provides Science instruction, Mrs. Hibdon works with the children on basic writing skills, as Mrs. Mills offers curriculum enhancement. It has been a very positive experience for everyone involved.



Mrs. Mills paints the bottom of a child's foot to make a lobster.



Aidan Bauer and Zach Eason sort objects according to color.

Walk and Roll to School Day a Great Success

Henry David Thoreau said, "An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day." On Wednesday, October 6, 2010, Blissfield Elementary and High School students joined hundreds of others throughout Michigan and started their day with an early morning walk to school.

This is the thirteenth year for International Walk to School Day, an event sponsored by the Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. But, for Blissfield Community Schools, this was a first time occurrence. It is estimated that locally over 250 children, parents, school staff and community members participated in the beautiful fall morning walk to school. Talking and laughter could be heard along the routes of "Walking Bus" groups that were lead by adult and high school student volunteers, as they walked to the elementary and middle schools. Bike racks were also full at the schools.

Principal Dee Crane said that the students and teachers enjoyed the walking so much that many of the classes took advantage of the wonderful day and weather by taking another walking break during their school day. Middle school physical education students also continued the theme by walking around the estimated 1.3 mile perimeter of the three building school campus. Many of the students asked when they could do it again. It was great to have the students enjoying such a simple, healthy, lifelong activity.

We thank all who participated and helped to make this a safe, fun event for of our students; from the "walking bus drivers," parents, high school students, community volunteers, and police department to the actual school bus drivers and other drivers on the roads who waited patiently for the walking groups to cross streets. The community support was fantastic.

Honor Society Induction

On Thursday, October 21, the Blissfield Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 15 new members during its Annual Induction Ceremony. Mr. Bill Geha was the guest speaker for the occasion and spoke on the importance of the four pillars: service, scholarship, leadership, and character. He emphasized the importance of showing good character in everyday moments, and the importance of taking good care of those around us. The candlelight ceremony was followed by a dessert reception.

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership and to encourage the development of admirable character in the students of Blissfield High School. To be accepted in the NHS, students must achieve a minimum 3.5 GPA and demonstrate activity in the four pillars listed above. Service Projects for this year are already in full swing. The NHS organized Hat Day at the Elementary School, and Pajama Days at the Middle and High School to support Pajama Rama, a countywide effort to benefit the Homeless Education program at all Lenawee County Schools. More than \$700 was raised between the three buildings. The NHS has three additional service programs planned for this year: a fundraiser for Hannah's Socks, a change drive to benefit students in Honduras, and a blood drive with the Red Cross on May 2nd.

This years inductees included Tyler Babbitt, Joel Clark, Nicholas Edwards, Laura Goetz, Curtis Hamann, Audre Hunter, Patrick Jensen, RaeLynne MacBeth, Steven Mattek, Devin Moore, Tony Renwand, Stephanie Salters, Zachary Schaffer, Heidi Schneider, and Alexa Walczak.



Mr. Johnson shakes hands with Audre Hunter during the candlelighting ceremony at the NHS induction. (pictured in front) Emily Scholl, Eric Schmidt, and Ean Sablich.



Guest speaker Mr. Bill Geha shares his thoughts on the importance of character and service to others.

NCAA Clearinghouse

All students interested in participating in Division I or Division II college athletics should align their classes according to the guidelines set up by the NCAA and should register with the NCAA clearinghouse as early as spring of their Junior year. Please see Mr. Johnson, our NCAA Liaison, if you have further questions.

Backpack Buddy Program

Blissfield Community Schools is in the beginning stages of developing a Backpack Buddy Program for students. Realizing that many students depend on our school's food services program to receive free breakfast and lunch during the week, and that some students do not receive adequate meals on weekends led to the creation of this program. Modeled after a successful program in Moberly, Missouri, "Backpack Buddy" aims to provide simple but fulfilling meals for those students who might otherwise go without.

Each Friday, identified students will pick-up a backpack containing various food items they are able to prepare while at home. On Monday, students return the backpack to school, so it can be refilled for use again the following weekend. Backpacks are utilized so participants are not easily identifiable.

Food items may vary, but will usually include the following:
Breakfast: individual cereal containers, cereal bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, pop-tarts, and oatmeal packets.
Lunch/Dinner: microwavable pasta/soups, pre-made sandwiches, chips, fruit, pudding cups, and granola bars.

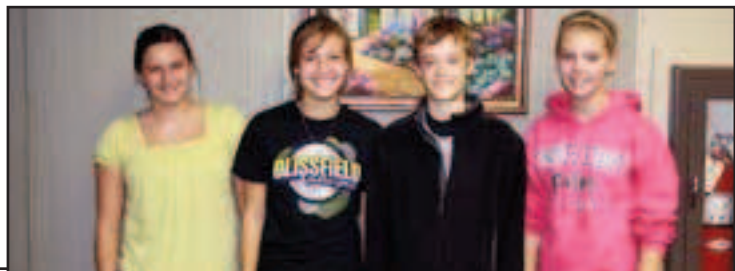
The program is scheduled to begin at the elementary level in January with hopes of expanding to the middle school should resources allow. The program will continue each week through the conclusion of the school year.

Those who wish to support this endeavor by donating food, backpacks, time, or money, are encouraged to contact Aaron Whitmore or Brian Sills at Blissfield Middle School (517) 486-4420 or Principal Dee Crane at Blissfield Elementary School (517) 486-2811.



Middle School Student Council

The Middle School held their student council elections during the first week of October. Left to right below are Aliasha Wickline, Vice President, Quinn Cross, President, Jordan Brenke, Treasurer, and Colleen Willson, Secretary.



Where in the World?

Mr. McVay, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher assists his students, Madison Fisher and Keelie Cairo with a GPS project. Students use the GPS units to locate predetermined items on school premises established by Mr. McVay. This skill is one of many expectations required of 6th grade students through the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.



Blissfield Foundation For Educational Excellence Awards \$10,000

The Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE) awarded Blissfield Community Schools with \$10,000 in mini grant award money during the fall of 2010. Projects ranged from wireless microphones for the music department to listening and reading/writing stations at the elementary. Some of the other awards included Flip cameras, Science Enhancements, headphones, and dramatic play station.

How fortunate we are to have such a great foundation to support our school system. Together, we truly do make a difference.



Blissfield physics students (L-R) Kaitlyn Gibbs, Malachi Riddle, and Patrick Harrigan analyze data taken from a motion sensor that was purchased with funds from the BFEE and The Blissfield Physics Club.

Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches!!

Students in Mr. Geha's 8th grade science classes studied the metric system (SI) and how to convert within the metric system. Prior to the students learning about the metric system they learned about experimental design. Using Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches on loan from the B.E.L.L lab, the students designed an experiment using metric measurements and conversions. One experiment involved the students finding out how many times its own body weight it could pull. A sleigh was attached to the cockroach and mass was put in the sleigh.

The students called this "The Great Tractor Pull." Another experiment had the students calculating the rate at which a cockroach could run in km/h, of course. The students called this "The Cockroach M.I.S." Although no cockroaches were hurt during these experiments, some were really tired!



Helen Pearson & Rebecca Shields weighing their Cockroach "Willy Jr."

Eighth Grade Camp Deposit Due

Eighth grade students will be traveling May 25 - 27, 2011 to Camp Frontier at Pioneer Scout Reservation in Pioneer Ohio. Cost will be \$135 per student.

During camp, co-ed groups of six to seven students and adults live and work together. They soon learn through great activities and interactions (town meetings, canoeing, obstacle course, campfires, night hike, square dance, and the great chili cook off) working together make life much easier. These opportunities help make this one of the richest middle school experiences our students participate in.

To reserve a spot for your son or daughter, a \$65 non-refundable deposit is due to the Middle School office by November 18th with the balance due by April 21.

BECOME A FAN

In an effort to disseminate pertinent information to our students and their parents, the counseling center has created a Blissfield High School Facebook page. Please look for us online and become a fan!

Night Without A Home

Blissfield Elementary School once again teamed up with the Lenawee County Mission for their third annual "Night Without A Home" fundraising event. Our students designed and colored their city stores that were then glued onto the sides of large refrigerator boxes. The Mission collected pledges from individuals/groups who wanted the opportunity to spend the night in one of our boxes. This project helped our students by calling attention to the growing population of homeless in Lenawee County, while putting actions to the words, "hands that share show hearts that care." The proceeds from this event will go toward the expansion projects for the Mission. Several of our students and their families visited the box community held October 15-16 at Evergreen Storage in Adrian.



Staff members and their families, joined residents of the Mission to glue the pictures on (Robin Hibdon and Mary Barks work on a box).



Second Grader, Maggie Evers, proudly displays her class box set up and ready for someone to sleep in.

Board of Education Members

Noel Eisenmann, President
 Chad Horky, Vice President
 Linda Hamann, Treasurer
 Brian McEwan, Secretary
 Scott Abbott, Trustee
 JoDee Friess, Trustee
 Vicki Lombard, Trustee

School Board Meetings are held the third Monday of each month in the High School Cafeteria at 7:30p.m

November 15, 2010
 December 20, 2010
 January 17, 2011
 February 21, 2011
 March 21, 2011
 April 18, 2011
 May 16, 2011
 June 20, 2011

postage
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