



THE BLISSFIELD COMMUNICATOR

Summer 2007 Issue

A Publication of Blissfield Community Schools

“Blissfield Community Schools will provide a learning environment that will challenge students to become life-long learners and productive citizens”

From the Superintendent...

Blissfield Community Schools and our Board of Education are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for each of our 1,300 students. As we prepare for our return to school this fall, many of you will be asked to support our Commitment to Excellence through your participation in one of the many surveys that have been developed to help solicit the perspective of our constituents. Students, parents, community members and staff members alike will be asked to share their perceptions on a variety of topics affecting our schools. These survey results will then be utilized in conjunction with a Strategic Planning initiative to help establish district goals and future school improvement strategies.

You are encouraged to take a few moments to review the enclosed information in this Annual Report. The contents reflect many of the achievements that occurred throughout the Blissfield Community Schools during the 2006-07 school year. As your new superintendent, compiling this data allowed me a wonderful opportunity to evaluate the student achievement and program successes occurring in each of our schools. I am sure you will agree, the Blissfield community has many reasons to be proud of their schools.

I look forward to our working together throughout the future and welcome your participation on behalf of the students of the Blissfield Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Moellenberndt

Scott D. Moellenberndt
Superintendent

District School Improvement Plan

School improvement is a continuous process at Blissfield Community Schools. Throughout the year, our teachers and staff work on improving curriculum and teaching methods and on developing new programs that will challenge and motivate students. The process is achieved through School Improvement Teams at each building and at the district level.

The 2006-07 District School Improvement Team included the following members:

Laurie Isley	District Chair and HS Teacher
Paul Palka	Superintendent
Jerry Johnson	HS Principal
Nancy Breitner	HS Teacher
Erica Devantier	HS Student
Mark Willson	MS Principal
Phil McVay	MS Teacher
Jolene Bills	MS Teacher
Dee Crane	ES Principal
Marcia Hojnacki	ES Teacher
Connie Graf	ES Teacher
Jana Martin	Parent
Elaine Webb	BCS Media Specialist

The district school improvement team met several times throughout the school year. This year we began evaluating our schools using the new State of Michigan School Improvement Framework. This plan outlines 26 different benchmarks for effective schools. This fall we did a preliminary assessment of Blissfield Community Schools in the areas of teaching for learning, resource allocation, staff development, and data management and assessment to determine the needs and direction for school improvement in the future.

Each of the buildings have been working independently to develop building specific goals and have shared those with the District SIT to determine common areas of need. Using this information, we will develop district goals for improvement in the fall.

Accreditation

All of our school buildings are presently accredited. Blissfield was one of the first twelve school districts out of 550 K-12 districts in Michigan that are North Central accredited. North Central Accreditation is voluntary, entails an extensive self-study, visitation and verification from educators throughout the State of Michigan, and maintains the highest accreditation standards that schools can achieve. .

Blissfield Community Schools Enrollment 2006-2007

Grade		Grade		Grade	
Kdg.	92	5th	90	10th	118
1st	97	6th	102	11th	119
2nd	94	7th	97	12th	97
3rd	75	8th	109		
4th	93	9th	111		
TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT 1294					

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Points of Pride

- Fully accredited by North Central Association
- Composite grade of "B" on Michigan School Report Card
- 100% of teachers and Title I paraprofessionals are "highly qualified"
- Blissfield Environmental Life Lab (B.E.L.L.)
- Much dialogue concerning options for 2007-2008 kindergarten program
- Successful 3/4 grades split classroom and classroom looping options
- Staff actively involved in professional development (curriculum mapping, professional learning communities, and designing of a new mission statement)
- Heritage Day
- Two successful fundraisers (Frankenmuth and Katherine Beich)
- QSP magazine drive earned each teacher \$100.00 for classroom library
- Fifth grade Camp Storer Outdoor Education Experience (100% participation)
- Fall and spring Parent-Teacher Conferences (96% attendance)
- Over \$6,300.00 awarded to teachers from Blissfield Foundation for Educational Excellence, Lenawee County Education Foundation and Borchardt Brothers Receipts Program
- Resource and Inclusion Rooms for special needs students
- Fall Migrant Program
- Ident-A-Kid Program
- Blissfield State Bank Royal Accounts Program
- Red Ribbon Week activities
- Reading Recovery, Title I and 31A Programs
- PTO support (financial and family activities)
- Paul McCormack and "critters" visited many classrooms
- John Abbott and "labrador in training" read to students
- Music, physical education, art, library and technology programs for all grade levels
- Junior Achievement Program for grades 3 & 4
- Fourth grade Math/Science Olympiad and Dahlem Center presentation
- March Is Reading Month activities (Rock and Roll Into Reading)
- Very successful Book Fair
- High school ag-science student lessons and Ag Day
- Follow Your Dreams Day
- Hundreds of hours given to the school by volunteers
- Fifth grade Wax Museum
- Lunch Buddies
- Third grade Grandparents' Day and Victorsville School Experience
- Communities In Schools Summer Cool School Program
- Numerous service learning projects at all grade levels
- Enrichment opportunities in band, choir, and recorder ensemble – choir traveled to Channel 13
- Participation and financial support from numerous service organizations
- Field trips to the Toledo Zoo, Stubnitz Environmental Education Center, Blissfield Model Train Museum and Railroad, Sauders Village and Museum, and more
- Fifth grade "Transitions" visit to Middle School
- Purple and Gold Day and School Picnic
- "Quiet Heroes" Program
- A dedicated staff committed to making a difference in the lives of students!

Attendance Rates

2006-2007 attendance rate: 98%
2005-2006 attendance rate: 96%

*For the subgroups categorized as "ethnicity-white" and "students with disabilities," and "economically disadvantaged," all met the state's attendance objective.

School Improvement Plan

Blissfield Elementary School has been a member in good standing with the North Central Association (NCA) since 1977. Blissfield Elementary School, along with Blissfield Middle School and Blissfield High School, has earned the NCA Outcomes Endorsement. In November 2006 both the Michigan Department of Education and NCA signed a formal partnership to provide aligned accreditation and school improvement services to schools/districts across the state. Through the partnership agreement, both organizations agreed to accept each other's processes as evidence of meeting their respective standards. Blissfield Community Schools will be using Michigan's new School Improvement Framework as a basis for school improvement, and in the process, will also be meeting NCA standards for continuous school improvement.

The Blissfield Elementary School staff began this process by completing a very thorough self-assessment. Using the Michigan School Improvement Framework Rubrics, the staff categorized 40 key characteristics/indicators into the categories of "implemented", "partially implemented", or "getting started." In fall 2007, the staff will begin the process of school improvement using 4-5 of the key characteristics classified as "getting started."

School improvement during 2006-2007 focused on complete curriculum alignment of language arts, science, and mathematics, data analysis of MEAP scores, curriculum modifications and enhancements based upon data analysis, and a rewriting of the Blissfield Elementary School Mission Statement.

Core Curriculum

Blissfield Elementary School has developed curriculum in the core content areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and the arts. These are reviewed on a regular basis and have been approved by the Blissfield Community School Board of Education.

Spanning several years, the school has continually been involved with curriculum development, review, and alignment in all core curriculum areas. This is an on-going process with all elementary staff members involved. With the exception of social studies, all core content areas have been aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework Standards, Benchmarks, and Content Expectations. A year-long social studies curriculum review will begin this fall.

Curriculum summaries are provided for parents of all students at Blissfield Elementary School. Planned and executed lessons, units, and assessments are in place at all grade levels in all core academic areas providing students with equal access. The curriculum used by Blissfield Elementary School is equitably applied to all children regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

Student Achievement

Student achievement is measured in all areas of the curriculum in the elementary school. Locally developed and standardized assessments are given in grades K-5 to measure student success in language arts/reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. These assessments are used to measure student progress in relation to the expectations in the local core curriculum. Following are the results of the year-end assessments in core curricular areas with a comparison to the previous year's results (% indicates average of actual raw scores):

CORE CURRICULAR AREA	2006-2007	2005-2006
Language arts/Reading	80%	79%
Mathematics	82%	78%
Science	91%	91%
Social Studies	92%	90%

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Michigan School Report Card

The Michigan Department of Education conducts an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) evaluation, testing/measuring schools in the areas of academic achievement, participation in state assessments and student attendance. In 2005-06, Blissfield Elementary School made Adequate Yearly Progress. For the 2006-07 year, Blissfield Elementary School again met the criteria for making Adequate Yearly Progress.

Michigan has developed vertically articulated performance standards for MEAP and MI-Access. Michigan has also extended the grade range targets with separate targets for each grade.

English Language Arts – All Students – Single Year 2007

Grade Level	Total Students Assessed	State Target - % Proficient	B.E.S. % Proficient
3	73	50%	95.9%
4	81	48%	88.9%
5	84	46%	89.3%
6	88	45%	84.1%
Total	326		89.5%

*MEAP and MI-Access testing were done in October 2006 and measured the previous grade level standards, benchmarks and content expectations.

**Blissfield Elementary School made Annual Yearly Progress; Blissfield Elementary School is a Title I Targeted Assistance building; Blissfield Elementary School has not been identified for improvement

Mathematics – All Students – Single Year 2007

Grade Level	Total Students Assessed	State Target - % Proficient	B.E.S. % Proficient
3	73	59%	100%
4	81	56%	95.1%
5	84	53%	94.0%
6	89	50%	94.4%
Total	327		95.9%

*MEAP and MI-Access testing were done in October 2006 and measured the previous grade level standards, benchmarks and content expectations.

**Blissfield Elementary School made Annual Yearly Progress; Blissfield Elementary School is a Title I Targeted Assistance building; Blissfield Elementary School has not been identified for improvement

In Michigan, a minimum group size of 30 is used to determine whether separate subgroup scores and decisions are to be made regarding AYP. For Blissfield Elementary School, three subgroups met the criteria for separate reporting. For the subgroups categorized as “ethnicity-white,” “students with disabilities,” and “economically disadvantaged” all met the state proficiency objective*.

- * Ethnicity White: 89.6% proficiency in English Language Arts and 95.6% proficiency in mathematics
- Students with Disabilities: 58.9% proficiency in English Language Arts and 85.7% proficiency in mathematics
- Economically Disadvantaged: 83.5% proficiency in English Language Arts and 91.3% proficiency in mathematics

Blissfield Elementary School not only achieved Annual Yearly Progress for 2006-2007 as determined by the state of Michigan in Education YES! and through the federal No Child Left Behind Act, but the school also earned a composite grade of “B” (85%). Student achievement grades were: English Language Arts = C and Mathematics = A. The school’s Indicators of School Performance earned a grade of “B.” For the previous 2005/06 school year, the Education YES! composite grade was a “A” (91%).

For the 2006-07 year, average class sizes for grade levels were as follows:

Kindergarten	24	First grade	24
Second grade	24	Third grade	22
Fourth grade	25	Fifth grade	23

Teacher Qualifications

Blissfield Elementary School teachers hold the following degrees:

Bachelor’s Degree	56%	Master’s Degree of higher	44%
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All classes at the elementary school are being taught by highly qualified teachers. Per federal law, all parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their children. This information is available in the Superintendent’s Office.

The staff of Blissfield Elementary School remains committed to lifelong learning and yearly professional development. This year staff participated in over 2,000 professional development hours. Many of these hours consisted of professional development directly aligned with the school improvement goals and strategies. In addition to state and federal agency meetings and conventions, yearly content/learned society conferences, and higher education coursework, staff members participated in workshops that addressed the following topics:

Michigan Health Model	Blood-Borne Pathogens	Curriculum Mapping	Phonics Dance
MEAP Writing	Differentiated Learning	Website Design	Brain Gym
Love and Logic	Literacy Teams	Professional Learning Communities	Classroom Management
Classroom Accommodations	Compensatory Education		

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Participation in Title I Programs

In accordance with the requirement of Section 1118 of Title I, programs supported by Title I funds must be designed and implemented in consultation with parents of the students being served. The Superintendent shall ensure that the Title I plan contains a written statement of guidelines which has been developed with, approved by, and distributed to parents of participating students. The guidelines shall describe how:

- A. the District expects the parents to be involved in the program, including their participation in the development of the plan;
- B. meetings will be conducted with parents including provision for flexible scheduling and whatever assistance the District may be able to provide parents in order to better ensure their attendance at meetings, and for providing information in a language the parents can understand;
- C. meetings will include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessment, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- D. opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decision-making about the program and revisions in the plan;
- E. parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- F. information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance will be communicated to parents;
- G. parents will be assisted in providing help to their children in achieving the objectives of the program by such means as ensuring regular attendance; monitoring television-watching; providing adequate time and the proper environment for homework; guiding nutritional and health practices; and the like;
- H. timely responses will be given to parental questions, concerns, and recommendation;
- I. the District will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist Title I schools to develop effective parental participation activities to improve academic achievement;
- J. an annual evaluation of the parental involvement plan will be conducted with parents, identifying any barriers to greater parental involvement (such as limited English, limited literacy, economic disadvantage, disability, etc) and devising strategies to improve parental involvement;
- K. the parental involvement plan will be coordinated with other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, and Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters;
- L. other activities will be conducted as appropriate to the plan and State or Federal requirement.

The Superintendent shall also assure that each Title I participating school develops a specific plan, with parental involvement, which:

- A. convenes an annual meeting at a convenient time to which parents of participating children are invited to attend to explain the parents rights to be involved and the schools obligations to develop an involvement plan;
- B. will devise a flexible meeting schedule and describe assistance to encourage parental involvement, such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid;
- C. will involve parents in an organized, on-going and timely way in the development, review and improvement of parent involvement activities;
- D. will provide participating students' parents with: timely information about the Title I programs, an explanation of the curriculum, the forms of academic assessment and the proficiency levels expected, and regular meetings, upon request, to make suggestions and receive response regarding their student's education;



E. develops jointly with parents a school-parent compact which outlines the responsibilities of the school staff, the parents and the student for academic improvement including:

1. the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum, and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment;
2. parent's responsibility for such things as monitoring attendance, homework, extracurricular activities and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom;
3. the importance of parent teacher communication on an on-going basis through at least annual parent teacher conferences to discuss achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to the parents; reasonable access to the staff and opportunities to observe and participate in classroom activities.

Parent Involvement

A strong partnership with parents and the community is essential to the success of any school. The elementary staff and administration promote active parental involvement with the school, teachers and students.

The school puts great effort into informing parents of events/activities, volunteer opportunities, and specific details regarding their children's academic progress and classroom curriculum. All parents receive copies of the Blissfield Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook. An all-district newsletter, "The Communicator," is prepared quarterly and contains information regarding school calendars, upcoming events, and highlights of classroom activities. The elementary school sends home a monthly update, "The Pride," that outlines upcoming events, pertinent school policies, and important reminders. Formal parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring. Report cards are sent home quarterly. In an effort to provide regular and timely two-way communication with school families, teachers use e-mail and voice mail on a daily basis.

Throughout the course of the school year, many events/activities take place where parents are encouraged to actively participate. These events/activities include:

- All-School Fall Open House
- All-School Picnic and Purple and Gold Day
- Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Family Reading Night
- Music Programs (grade levels, choir/recorder, and band)
- Book Fair
- PTO sponsored events (Drive In with Dad, Movie With Mom, Family Fun Night, etc.)

Blissfield Elementary School encourages parents to become involved in the school in some capacity as volunteers. Parents are surveyed at the beginning of the year to determine their interests, availability and willingness to serve as volunteers. Some of the opportunities that exist for parents include:

- assist homeroom teachers for special events and field trips
- serve on school improvement committees
- give input in curriculum/textbook review
- assist in the Blissfield Elementary Life Lab (BELL)
- assist students with reading, makeup work, etc.
- serve as reading or lunchroom buddies
- furnish treats for classroom parties or during MEAP testing

The partnership between school and families is an essential one. When schools work together with families to support learning, student achievement increases. In fact, one of the most accurate predictors of student achievement is parental involvement in the student's education/school experience. Blissfield Elementary School is committed to this partnership and welcomes parents' active involvement!

Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance for 2006-2007: 96%
Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance for 2005-2006: 96%

BLISSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



5th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (tested fourth grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	76%	14%	62%	22%	1%
STATE 2006/07	78%	15%	62%	18%	4%
BES 2005/06	85%	9%	76%	13%	2%
STATE 2005/06	75%	10%	65%	21%	4%

*100% of students were tested (5 students took MI-Access)

5th GRADE MATHEMATICS (tested fourth grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	84%	28%	56%	15%	1%
STATE 2006/07	76%	36%	40%	20%	4%
BES 2005/06	73%	21%	52%	26%	1%
STATE 2005/06	73%	32%	42%	21%	5%

*100% of students were tested (3 students took MI-Access)

5th GRADE SCIENCE (tested fourth grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	92%	48%	44%	8%	0%
STATE 2006/07	83%	37%	46%	14%	3%
BES 2005/06	92%	28%	63%	8%	0%
STATE 2005/06	77%	29%	47%	20%	4%

*100% of students were tested

MEAP TESTS DISAGGREGATED BY GENDER PERCENT MET OR EXCEEDED MICHIGAN STANDARDS (LEVEL 1 OR 2)

	LANG. ARTS		MATH		SCIENCE		SOC. STUDIES	
	MALE	FEM	MALE	FEM	MALE	FEM	MALE	FEM
BES 2006/07	79%	89%	91%	88%	91%	93%	given in 6th grade	
BES 2005/06	79%	91%	86%	84%	98%	85%	given in 6th grade	

MEAP Results

In October 2006, the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests were administered to Blissfield Elementary School third, fourth and fifth graders. Following are the MEAP results for the 2006-07 school year (the middle school report will include sixth grade scores, however it should be noted that those scores reflect proficiency of the fifth grade standards, benchmarks and content expectations):

Level 1: Exceeds Michigan Standards Level 3: Basic Level
 Level 2: Met Michigan Standards Level 4: Apprentice
 3rd GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (tested second grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	92%	35%	57%	7%	1%
STATE 2006/07	79%	20%	59%	16%	4%
BES 2005/06	89%	21%	68%	11%	0%
STATE 2005/06	78%	13%	65%	19%	3%

*100% of students were tested (3 students took MI-Access)

3rd GRADE MATHEMATICS (tested second grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	93%	57%	37%	7%	0%
STATE 2006/07	88%	51%	37%	11%	1%
BES 2005/06	90%	55%	35%	10%	0%
STATE 2005/06	87%	48%	39%	12%	1%

* 100% of students were tested (0 students took MI-Access)

4th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (tested third grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	85%	30%	55%	15%	0%
STATE 2006/07	78%	13%	65%	20%	2%
BES 2005/06	84%	5%	78%	16%	0%
STATE 2005/06	76%	8%	68%	22%	3%

*100% of students were tested (6 students took MI-Access)

4th GRADE MATHEMATICS (tested third grade content expectations)

	%	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
PROFICIENT					
BES 2006/07	92%	49%	43%	7%	1%
STATE 2006/07	85%	34%	50%	13%	3%
BES 2005/06	93%	45%	48%	7%	0%
STATE 2005/06	82%	36%	45%	14%	4%

*100% of students were tested (2 students took MI-Access)



Commitment to Excellence

BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

The Blissfield Middle School achieved Annual Yearly Progress for the 2006-2007 school year in accordance with No Child Left Behind and the State of Michigan's Education YES! The composite grade earned for 2006-2007 was A. The composite grade for the previous 2005-2006 school year was B. School achievement grades in both English Language Arts and Mathematics for the 2007-2008 school year were A, and the middle school's indicators of school performance earned a B.

English Language Arts – All Students – Single Year 2007

State Target	% Proficient	B.M.S.	% Proficient
	43%		83%

Mathematics – All Students – Single Year 2007

State Target	% Proficient	B.M.S.	% Proficient
	45%		90%

B.M.S. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Blissfield Middle School will be using this year's new Michigan School Improvement Framework as a basis for school improvement. This process will also allow BMS to achieve the NCA standards for school improvement. This past year the middle school conducted a self evaluation using the 40 indicators for continuous improvement as determined by the Michigan School Improvement Framework. BMS will choose 3-4 of these indicators with the classification "Getting Started" and then build its school improvement goals and plans around them.

This past year BMS focused on three school improvement goals. They included:

1. All BMS Students will eliminate failure due to not completing assignments
2. All BMS Students will turn in high quality work on a consistent basis
3. All BMS Students will understand the importance and power associated with a positive attitude

As a result of setting these goals BMS developed a tutoring program DRIVE (Developing Responsibility Is Vitaly Essential) that helped 99% of all BMS Students to complete all of their unfinished assignments. The program also served as an incentive for students to consistently turn in high quality work, and the theme for BMS centered on being positive and explored a different character quality each week. Rewards were given weekly for displaying a positive attitude.

BMS also continued its alignment of the State of Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations in each of the major core areas of the curriculum. Focus this year will also be on science and social studies which have recently had their Grade Level Content Expectations approved by the State of Michigan. Best practices will be focused upon as one of the performance indicators, collaboration, is explored. The BMS Steering Committee will also meet during the summer to discuss the other performance indicators and the strategic plan that will be used to help achieve their goals.

CORE CURRICULUM

The past several years have found the Blissfield Middle School developing its curriculum in accordance to the State of Michigan's standards and benchmarks; however the past two years have found the Blissfield Middle School rigorously aligning their curricula to meet the State of Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations for each of the core content areas. This year the state has approved the grade level content expectations for both science and social studies, and the Blissfield Middle School will continue to align accordingly. The science department recently selected a new textbook to aide in the dispensing of their curriculum, and the social studies department finished a year long analysis to

focus in on the selection of their new textbook to help with its curriculum delivery. Best practices will be a major emphasis as BMS explores the performance indicators for its school improvement process, and continued improvement will be stressed in the areas of lessons, units, and assessments as they pertain to each grade level content expectations. School equitably is applied to all BMS Students.

BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As one of its potential 2007-2008 school improvement goals the Blissfield Middle School is focused on improving its communication, engagement, and partnership with its BMS Parents. The middle school will seek to:

- a. Average at least 80% attendance at all parent/teacher conferences
- b. Form parent volunteer groups to assist with:
 1. The MEAP Test
 2. Final Exams
 3. The Writing Lab
- c. Establish a weekly or bi-weekly newsletter to be sent home electronically to help keep parents abreast of upcoming events or activities.

In addition every parent receives a BMS Student Handbook as well as an all district newsletter, "The Communicator". Report cards are sent home quarterly, and progress reports are sent home approximately every four weeks. Formal parent/teacher conferences take place in both the fall and the spring. BMS has also used Ed Line, E-mail, and Voice Mail to help in the communication process with its parents.

The Blissfield Middle School encourages parents to become involved in the school in some capacity as volunteers. Parents are surveyed at the beginning of the year to determine their interests, availability and willingness to serve as volunteers. Some of the opportunities that exist for parents include:

- MEAP and Final Exam Testing
- Steering Committee
- Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
- School Play
- Writing Lab
- Book Fair
- 8th Grade Camp
- Dances
- Field Trips
- Cafeteria Supervision

Research shows that the number one predictor of student success is the involvement of his/her parents in their education. BMS encourages all parents to involve themselves in their child's education in some capacity.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Blissfield Middle School teachers hold the following degrees:

Bachelor's Degree	29%
Master's Degree or Higher	71%

All classes at the Blissfield Middle school are being taught by highly qualified teachers. Per federal law, all parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their children. This information is available in the Superintendent's Office.

The Blissfield Middle School is dedicated to creating a respectful environment where individuals learn and succeed by developing character, intellect, wellness, and a desire for life long learning. This mission statement reflects the focus and dedication of our BMS Staff. Many hours of professional development have kept our staff on the cutting edge of best practices and current technology to best educate our students and foster them to be life long learners.



BLISSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2006-2007 MEAP TEST RESULTS

The following information includes the MEAP test results for the 2006-07 school year.

Level 1: Exceeds Michigan Standards
Level 2: Met Michigan Standards

Level 3: Basic Level
Level 4: Apprentice

7th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

(tested sixth grade content expectations)

	% PROFICIENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
BMS 2006/07	80%	7%	73%	16%	4%
STATE 2006/07	75%	9%	66%	17%	7%
BMS 2005/06	74%	3%	71%	22%	4%

8th GRADE SCIENCE

(tested seventh grade content expectations)

	% PROFICIENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
BMS 2006/07	84%	41%	43%	14%	2%
STATE 2006/07	75%	36%	43%	17%	8%
BMS 2005/06	71%	27%	44%	21%	6%

8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

(tested seventh grade content expectations)

	% PROFICIENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
BMS 2006/07	84%	33%	51%	2%	4%
STATE 2006/07	74%	29%	45%	20%	6%
BMS 2005/06	79%	28%	51%	18%	3%

8th GRADE MATHEMATICS

(tested seventh grade content expectations)

	% PROFICIENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
BMS 2006/07	80%	34%	46%	17%	4%
STATE 2006/07	68%	29%	39%	25%	7%
BMS 2005/06	64%	38%	26%	22%	14%

MEAP TESTS DISAGGREGATED BY GENDER

PERCENT MET OR EXCEEDED MICHIGAN STANDARDS
(LEVEL 1 OR 2)

	8th Gr. Math		8th Gr. Science		8th Gr. Soc. Studies	
	MALE	FEM	MALE	FEM	MALE	FEM
BMS 2006/07	86%	74%	88%	81%	82%	88%
BMS 2005/06	64%	64%	64%	60%	28%	22%

ATTENDANCE RATES

2006-2007 attendance rate: 98%
2005-2006 attendance rate: 98%

BMS Points of Pride

- 100% of all BMS Students were promoted to the next grade level
- 0% of BMS Students attended summer school
- 2316/2339 (99%) of all incomplete assignment referrals were completed by BMS Students attending DRIVE (Developing Responsibility Is Vitality Essential)
- 51% of BMS Students made the A/B Honor Roll
- The Blissfield Middle School received an AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) grade of A
- 32 character traits were focused on throughout the year
- 32 BMS Students were awarded with the Awesome Attitude Student of the Week Award
- 9 BMS Students were awarded with the Awesome Attitude student of The Month Award
- 1 BMS Student was awarded with the Awesome Attitude Student of the Year Award
- 87% (14/16) of all of the classrooms in the Blissfield Middle School are equipped with smart board technology
- 6 Character Traits (Positive Attitude, Responsibility, Empathy, Work Ethic, Integrity, and Respect) made into signs and posted throughout the middle school
- The BMS Mission Statement was revised and then posted on banners throughout the school
- Several hundred dollars were raised for local charities including: The American Heart Association, The Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Center, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital
- First Annual BMS Open House
- Red Ribbon Week
- Entrepreneur Day
- Great Pumpkin Caper and the Iditarod Project...Math/Science/English team teaching
- 8th Grade Camp Pioneer
- Postponing Sexual Involvement Series
- BMS/Blissfield Community Career Day
- BMS/Siena Heights Practicum Partnership
- Japanese Exchange Program Workshop
- Intramural Sports Program and Interscholastic Sports Programs
- BMS Band Program
- Terrific Staff & Support Staff who deeply care about kids

School's In!



SCHOOL VIOLENCE HOTLINE: 1-800-815-TIPS

The School Violence Hotline provides a means for students to anonymously report specific threats of imminent school violence or suspicious or criminal conduct. The toll-free hotline number is operational 24 hours each day by the Michigan State Police. A trained officer will document the problem and report it to the appropriate individuals immediately.

ANY SITUATIONS WITH IMMINENT HARM INVOLVED SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE 911 EMERGENCY NUMBER.

BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

BHS School Improvement

The BHS School Improvement team meets monthly to coordinate school activities and facilitate the implementation of goals and strategies to improve learning. The team consists of the following members:

Laurie Isley	Co-chairperson
Nancy Breitner	Co-chairperson
Jerry Johnson	Principal
Carma Roesch	Teacher
Nick Angel	Teacher
Heather Walkowe	Teacher
Chris Jones	Teacher
Elaine Webb	Media Specialist
Cheryl Bausman	Counselor
Jacob Isley	Student
Joyce Prielipp	Parent

In 2006-07 we began exploring the State of Michigan School Improvement Framework. A number of teachers were sent to the MIEM Conference in Lansing for training on how this will be utilized by the state and individual schools now and in future years. In the fall our in-service time was used to familiarize staff with the structure of the School Improvement Framework, its purposes, and how it will be applied to guide the school improvement process. We used in-service time to examine and assess our school using the 36 Key Characteristics that the state will be using to evaluate our school for ED YES and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). We surveyed staff and used the Framework rubrics to clarify our needs for improvement at the high school. This information will be used to refine and set improvement goals for the coming year.

Sports schedules on-line

Community members are welcome to look on-line for all of the athletic contests scheduled for Blissfield Schools. Go to the Blissfield home page at <http://scnc.blissfield.k12.mi.us> and click on the black bar "HighSchoolSports.net" at the bottom of the page. All of the various sports can be accessed with scheduling information.

Ticket prices for all athletic events this year are as follows: All Varsity sports - \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students; All Junior Varsity and Freshmen sports - \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. Tickets for middle school athletic events are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Season Sports Passes are available in the high school athletic office. Senior citizens 62 years and older are admitted free to all athletic contests.



In addition, time was spent examining the new Mandatory Curriculum put in place by the State of Michigan and determining how that will impact students and curriculum at BHS. This resulted in the development of two new freshmen level courses: Biology and World History. This also raised concerns for how our students will be able to meet the demands of the new curriculum within the configuration of our current six-period schedule. A committee is currently in place to consider other schedule options, including trimesters and seven periods, that might provide more flexibility and opportunities for students to take elective courses while still meeting the state requirements.

The spring in-service was used for school visitation. Staff members attended other schools to observe alternative schedules, meet with teachers in their content areas, and experience innovative teaching practices.

We followed with interest the development of the DRIVE Program recently implemented at the Middle School. Following the same concepts, and hoping to build on the success experienced at the Middle School, we created the Homework Academy which will be in place for freshmen in the fall. This program emphasizes the importance of completing assignments and its correlation to school success. In an effort to educate parents and students on these changes, we held a Freshmen Orientation Meeting on June 5.

The SIT also took on the Service Learning Day project that has been done for many years. This cooperative project with the Blissfield Rotary Club allows students to provide service to the community and school. This year a motivational speaker set the tone of the day by challenging students to take acceptable risks and to celebrate their individuality. He also provided a leadership seminar attended by approximately 50 student leaders. The presentation was well-received by both students and staff.

BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL POINTS OF PRIDE

- The addition of three AP courses at the high school curriculum
- 150 participants in the first ever Shakespeare Recitation Contest
- The high school band received all ones at the District and State Festival
- BHS students earned credits in 19 college courses through dual enrollment
- 55% of the class of 2007 earned scholarships towards post-secondary studies
- The addition of three more smart boards to BHS classrooms bringing the total to eight
- Service Learning day in conjunction with the Blissfield Rotary Club

BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

TEST DATA:

ACT Mean Scores	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Composite	21.2	21.8	21.3	21	21.1	20
Number tested	76	69	53	64	79	69

Blissfield MEAP Passing Rates: (116 students tested)

MEAP Scores-Class of 2006	# Passing	% Passing
Math	96/116	83%
Science	84/116	72%
Reading	106/116	91%
Writing	110/116	95%

Assessment	Level 1	Level 1&2	Level 1,2&3	Level 4
Math	2%	59%	72%	28%
Science	2%	60%	80%	20%
Reading	2%	76%	97%	3%
Writing	3%	59%	94%	6%

Michigan Merit Awardees:	Class of 2006	Percentage
	59/116	51%

High school enrollment

9th grade-	111	11th grade-	129
10th grade-	117	12th grade-	110

Class of 2006 profile

- *117 graduates
- 58% Enrolled in 4-year colleges
- 19% Enrolled in 2-year colleges
- 8% Enrolled in vocational/technical education
- 1% Enrolled in the military
- 25% Employed, etc.
- 2% Undecided

*Foreign exchange students not included

FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

	Wed. Afternoon	Wed. Eve.	Total	# in Class	%
9th	31	24	55	109	50%
10th	32	33	65	120	54%
11th	33	38	41	127	56%
12th	23	25	48	96	50%

Total for both sessions – 187 out of 437 = 43%

SPRING PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

	Wed. Afternoon	Wed. Eve.	Total	# in Class	%
9th	37	22	59	110	54
10th	26	26	52	117	44
11th	23	23	46	116	40
12th	16	14	30	94	33

2004 - 2005 Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application

Blissfield High School (00353)

Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
100%	0%

2005 - 2006 Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application

Blissfield High School

Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
99.4%	0.6%

2006 - 2007 Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application

Blissfield High School

Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate
97.22%	0.64%

Assets for Success

The 40 developmental assets are the essential building blocks that help all youth make positive choices, and grow into confident, responsible, healthy, and caring citizens. The *more* assets young people have, the *less* likely they are to engage in risky behaviors, and the *more* likely they are to succeed in school. **Asset #16 is: High Expectations-Set goals.** Expect the best from young people. When expectations are high yet still within reach, young people will stretch to achieve them. **Ask** what they expect of themselves **and listen** to what they say.

eSchool Home Access for Parent and Students

In order to provide our student, parents and teachers with additional information and services, the EdLine parent/student system is being replaced with the new eSchool Home Access Center.

Your access information will be provided by your campus at the appropriate time

eSchool 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.

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

SCHOOL VISITATIONS

All parents and guardians are welcome at Blissfield Community Schools at any time. However, with concerns for school safety,

WE REQUEST ALL VISITORS REPORT TO THE OFFICE UPON ENTERING.

Thank you for your cooperation

BLISSFIELD SCHOOLS

Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the 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 the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, should be directed to:

Ms. Donna Bunde, Middle School Counselor
Blissfield Community Schools
1305 Beamer Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
486-4420

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 at Blissfield Middle School, Section 504 Coordinator.

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 principles 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:

Ms. Donna Bunde
Blissfield Middle School
1305 Beamer Rd.
Blissfield, MI 49228
486-4420

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 medical specialists. 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 St. Blissfield, MI 49228
486-2811

Emergency Closings & Delays

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations:

WABJ – 1490 AM Radio
WQTE – 95.3 FM Radio
WLEN – 103.9 FM Radio
WTVG – 13 ABC Television
WTOL – CBS 11 Television



If you have concerns...

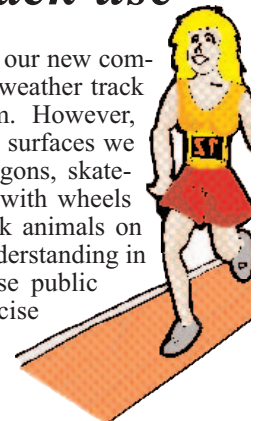
For new families and those presently in the district, the following may be helpful. What to do if you have a problem? Take your concern to the person closest to the problem. In athletics situations, go first to the coach, then the athletic director, then the principal. In school settings, first talk with the teacher and then the principal. For transportations concerns, see the bus driver first, then the transportation supervisor, then the administrative assistant. If your concerns are not resolved after going through the appropriate channels listed above, please feel free to contact the Superintendent. The following phone numbers will help you contact the appropriate individuals.

Dee Crane	Elementary Principal	486-2811
Mark Willson	Middle School Principal	486-4420
Jerry Johnson	High School Principal	486-2148
Cris Rupp	H.S. Admin. Assistant	486-2148
Cris Rupp	Transportation	486-2148
Steve Babbitt	Athletic Director	486-4725
Scott Moellenberndt	Superintendent	486-2205

Communication is essential for peak functioning of any school. The administration and staff work hard at communicating and keeping parents informed. We will strive to continue to do that. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us as the school partners with parents to make each child the very best.

Community tennis courts and all weather track use

The community is welcome to utilize our new community tennis courts along with our all weather track between the hours of 6:30a.m. -11:30p.m. However, please note that in order to preserve its surfaces we ask that bikes, strollers, golf clubs, wagons, skateboards, remote control toys, or objects with wheels be prohibited. Also, please do not walk animals on school premises. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and hope you will use these public facilities to enhance your daily exercise regime.



All projects must adhere to the Public Act and School Board Policy

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, athletic facilities, and that they are in compliance with the Stillie-DeRossett-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 would all need to fill out the Buildings/Grounds Alteration Request Form. These forms may be picked up at the office of the Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor located in the Elementary Building, 640 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, Michigan, 49228. Completed forms must be submitted to Mr. Thomas Kasefang, Director of Facilities and Maintenance.

Attendance Procedures:

Reporting an absence

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 stating the student's name, grade, and the 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.

Medications at school

Written permission from the parent/guardian and from the physician is required before school personnel may administer medication. The necessary form is available at each school office for parents/guardians/physicians to fill out. The form states 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 from the office. No medication, including aspirin, will be given to any student without the necessary form. Michigan law requires that a new form be filled out each school year. If you have questions, please contact the office of the school that your child attends.



Pest Management Program: Advisory to all Parents

As a 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 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. The Blissfield Community Schools will post 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 fill out the form below and return to the Facilities Department with attention to:

APPLICATION OF PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

Student _____
Parent/Guardian _____
Street Address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone: _____

Tom Kasefang
630 South Lane
Blissfield, MI 49228

Please contact Tom Kasefang at 486-2811 ext.3203
with any questions or concerns.

BLISSFIELD
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
MISSION STATEMENT

Blissfield Community Schools will provide a learning environment that will challenge students to become life-long learners and productive members of the community.

Advisory to all parents...

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school, or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any students who violate this policy will be subject 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 State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which he/she receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Blissfield Community Schools
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2205 Fax: 486-5701
Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blissfield Middle School
1305 Beamer Rd., Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-4420 Fax: 486-4758
Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blissfield High School
630 S. Lane Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
Phone: 486-2148 Fax: 486-4749
Hours: 7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

Athletic Dept. 486-4725

Transportation Dept. 486-3803

Website: www.blissfield.k12.mi.us

School Boards Make Stars Out of Students



Board of Education Members

President – Norris Klump
Vice President – Larry Bausman
Secretary – Matthew Schroeder
Treasurer – Linda Hamann
Trustee – Chad Horky
Trustee – JoDee Friess
Trustee – Noel Eisenmann

School Board Meetings will be held the third Monday of each month in the High School Cafeteria.

July 16, 2007

August 20, 2007

September 17, 2007

October 15, 2007

November 19, 2007

December 17, 2007

January 21, 2008

February 18, 2008

March 17, 2008

April 21, 2008

May 19, 2008

June 16, 2008

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