



# THE COMMUNICATOR

# Reflecting Excellence in Blissfield Community Schools



Scott Riley Superintendent

As we are approaching the end of the 2022-2023 school year, I'd like to congratulate the Class of 2023. They have found a way to thrive, through their drive, determination, and an overall desire to be successful, despite all of the challenges thrown at them. I am looking forward to watching each one of them become successful in whichever path they choose after high school. Congratulations to the Class of 2023!!

I'd also like to send out a special thank you to the entire BCS staff. They have

demonstrated, through their hard work, what can happen when an organization comes together as one team. They have maintained a positive outlook and continue to make BCS a great place to learn and grow! The future looks bright for BCS!

Scott Riley
Superintendent

#### **District Calendar**

May 15 - May 18 ES 3rd Grade to Victorsville

May 17 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

HS Awards Program for Grades 9-11

May 18 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Senior Baccalaureate

May 18 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Senior Honors Night

May 19 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Senior Breakfast/Walk/Graduation Practice

May 19 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

ES 3rd Grade Grandparents' Day

May 21 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**HS Commencement** 

May 24 - May 26 MS 8th Grade Camp

May 24 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**ES Art Show** 

May 25 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM

MS 7th Grade Solar Cookout

May 26 ES Picnic Lunch for all DK-5th Grade Students

May 29 Memorial Day - No School

May 31 MS 8th Grade Civil War Camp

May 31 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

MS Fine Arts Night - Band / Choir / Art

Jun 1 8:45 AM to 9:30 AM

5th Grade Transition Visit

Jun 2 ES PTO Movie Night at the HS Football Field

Jun 2 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM

MS 8th Grade Farewell

Jun 6 ½ Day of School for Students & Staff

Jun 7 ½ Day of School for Students

Semester Exams/Staff Records Day

Jun 8 ½ Day of School for Students

Semester Exams/Staff Records Day

MS/HS Athletic Eligibility Grade Check

Jun 8 Last Day of School

# THANK YOU, COMMUNITY!



BLISSFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOND PROPOSAL - PASSED!

# Thank you, Blissfield Community Schools community!

With voter approval of the school bond proposal, we begin an exciting new chapter for Blissfield Community Schools. These projects will have a long-lasting impact on our students, community, and staff so we can best meet our mission to "provide the programming, culture, and climate necessary to create well-rounded, creative, critical thinkers."

I encourage you to review the major projects in the bond proposal by visiting www.bcs-bond.com. We will continue to keep the community informed as implementation begins.

Again, thank you for voting and for your continued support of the Blissfield Community Schools.

Go, Royals!

Scott Riley Superintendent

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# Building a Community of Readers at Your Library this Summer!

The Schultz-Holmes Memorial Library stays busy all year long, but during the summer, the library is practically bursting at the seams! The building isn't big enough to hold all our summer events, so we take some outside on the lawn and some to the parking lot. At the end of summer, the library takes Art at Your Feet a couple of blocks up (and ON) the street! Indeed, the library has always been more about project and purpose than about place. Our summer project is a summer reading program that features two components: reading challenges and events.

Summer Reading Challenges for all ages offer opportunities to win gift certificates to local eateries just for meeting the challenge. Summer reading challenges not only help to prevent the "summer slide" that keeps students from staying at grade-level over the summer, but they are also lots of fun and offer mental and emotional benefits for all ages while building a community of readers.

Registration for all challenges begins June 1. Adults automatically register with the completion of the first reading task. Teens and younger children register in person at the library or online. As an added early-bird bonus, all registrations for the teens' and kids' programs received by June 12 get an automatic entry into the drawing for a season pool pass courtesy of the Village of Blissfield. Information about all the challenges, including registration, is available at the library, by calling the library at 517-486-2858, by emailing info@blissfieldlibrary.org, or by clicking the Summer Reading tab at blissfieldlibrary.org.

Summer Reading Events feature the theme "All Together Now!" Thanks to our sponsors, all library events are free and open to the public. You do not have to register for a reading challenge to

attend events (but it'll be more fun if you do). We average six events a week during program weeks with alternate schedules for the weeks of July Fourth and the River Raisin Festival. A complete schedule of events will be available in the library, at blissfieldlibrary.org, on the library's Facebook page, and in the Blissfield Advance.

DULE

Biology

Band

Spanish Algebra



SCHULTZ-HOLMES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

#### Student schedules

The scheduling process for the 2023-2024 school year is proceeding at a steady pace. All of the student requests have been put into Infinite Campus and the master schedule is being built. Students can expect to get their schedules toward the end of the school year or at the beginning of their summer break. There will

also be designated times when students will be

able to explore the possibility of changing their schedules. Worth noting is that Blissfield High School will again offer dual enrolled courses on its campus. Spanish I & II and Calculus/Analytic Geometry will be offered at BHS through Siena Heights University.

#### It's May — Come see the Art!

In May, each building will be hosting an arts show that honors and promotes the creative work of many students. The high school began the month with a show on the 10th, the elementary follows with their night on the 24th, and the middle school hosts their Arts program with a big night on the 31st which will include performances by the band and choir!

**Derica Sisung** (ES) — Our youngest artists have had a COLORFUL year! We have:

- Learned about careers in art through an engaging multigrade field trip to the Toledo Museum of Art
- Grown closer and deeper in our understanding of our visual world through art clubs
- Traveled the world in our art studies in an effort to gain an understanding of/and an appreciation for artists who live around the world



Zariah Blackmon

Please join us in celebrating my talented artists on Wednesday, May 24th from 6-8 pm for our Elementary Art Show!

**Ryan Bills** (MS) — Cameron Jordan's digital media project

was done with typography. Students select an image and recreate the image using words. This is a very time consuming project as they are changing the colors, sizes, directions, and fonts of each word inserted.

During another unit, students created an image based on the concept of an artist called 'Panhandle Slim'. Students located a quote from a significant person and drew the contour lines of their faces and finished by adding color.

We also had outstanding results from a magazine cover project.



Cameron Jordan

**Tracy Pixley** (HS) — This school year turned out to be another artistic success! Art 1 had a wonderful year exploring two and three dimensional art projects such as masks, ceramics, oil pastels and paintings!

During the ceramics section, several stepped up and created several lovely bas reliefs, leaf bowls, mugs and wind chimes.

In a painting module, students explored not only acrylic and watercolor paintings, but also experimented with animal portrait drawings, reverse method scratch art along with many other fun projects!

At right, Emily Bella won acceptance into the *Region 3 Art Exhibition* with her detailed rendition of her pet cow, 'Odie.' This was an exceptional effort!



Cameron Jordan

# **New Staffing Roles**

# **High School History**

Andy Ford has agreed to finish the year at the high school, a transition from our middle school history department, and now has accepted a position with the high school for next year as an instructor in government, economics and AP US History.

He and his wife Danielle are teaching in the district and have three children. Andy graduated from Adrian College in 2010 and Blissfield in 2006. In addition to teaching history,

he has lead an aggressive agricultural program and coached wrestling.

#### **Fifth Grade**

Ryan Love will move to a fifth grade teaching position this fall. He graduated from Siena Heights University and has been teaching for 13 years. He has also coached football and basketball for 19 years. He and Shana have been married for 18 years and have three children ages 13, 12 and 10. The entire family enjoys playing and watching sports and taking road trips.



Fifth Grade Teacher

# **High School Health / PE**

Alex Lipka is a resident of Blissfield and will be coming to us from Summerfield High School. Alex was a Health/PE teacher at Summerfield as well as their head football and head softball coach at the varsity level. Alex graduated from Wayne State University in 2017. Alex is planning on coaching football at Blissfield and enjoys working out in his spare time. Alex graduated high school from Allen Park Cabrini.



Health / PE Teacher

# **Middle School Agriculture**

Jody Prime grew up among two generations of local farmers in the Blissfield countryside and enjoys teaching English in her own middle school. She welcomes the opportunity to share her love and appreciation agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry this fall. The role will allow her to develop students interested in FFA by sharing the agronomic background of southeastern Michigan and current trends in agribusiness. She has great



Jody Prime English / Intro to AG

memories of attending the Lenawee County Fair each summer with her 4-H projects.

### **Bell Lab Refines Biome Displays**

Mrs. Davis in the elementary building continues to add creative educational components to the BELL lab. Our district science classes continue to use this area for multiple interests. This summer's agenda will build on a major overhaul that took place last year.

- General repairs maintenance
- Rebuild distinctive biomes adding a larger variety of animals for study with a special focus on tropical, desert and marine biomes
- Add a small hydroponics display and a tropical succulent garden
- Develop new activities that will coincide with curriculum



The refurbishment from 2021-22 continues to offer our district a centerpiece of botanical learning.

#### Test Results to be announced

Results of the SAT, PSAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP tests will be available to the student body later early this summer. The CCC will announce their availability when they are released.

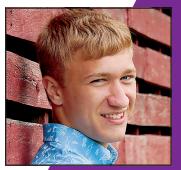
# K-8 In-Person **Summer School and Tutoring**

Blissfield K-8 summer school programs for eligible students are being scheduled for the summer of 2023. The programs will run on a morning schedule (M-Th) from June 12 through June 29. Students can expect innovation, fun instruction and activities that will keep them engaged, moving and learning during the summer break.

Families of qualified students will be contacted during May. Qualifications include: elementary students who have an IRIP and/or qualify for Response to Intervention; and middle school students based on the BCS Summer School and Retention policy. (Handbook p.11). Transportation and snacks will be provided.

#### **Landon Abbott**

Landon was honored as Homecoming King, served as president of the National Honor Society and received the Scholar-Athlete Award all four years while playing soccer. Landon is the son of Scott Abbott and Stacy Brower and wants to pursue a degree in finance at Grand Valley State.



Landon Abbott

Sunna Cun Laude

#### **Emily Bella**

Emily is grateful for what God has done throughout high school and looks forward to His guidance toward becoming a grant writer for Christian nonprofit organizations. She would like to thank her parents Jeff and Holly Bella for all of their support as she pursues Public Relations and English degrees. The camaraderie in the AP classes and fun in after-prom events are special memories.



Emily Bella Adrian College

#### **Sarah Bettis**

Walking onto the court for state basketball finals is Sarah's top memory. She has been honored with the Michigan Outstanding Senior Scholar Athlete Award for basketball, and named MIVCA Academic All State for volleyball. Sarah is the daughter of Amy and Brad Bettis and takes four district titles and a regional title to the volleyball courts in Akron where she hopes to play.



#### Sarah Brewer

Sarah recalls Italy with the Geography Club and her best friends and is proud of the honors Chemistry Excellence Award and the MHSSAA Sportsmanship Award in her junior year. She is the daughter of Rebecca and David Brewer and plans to pursue a degree in bio-medical science at Grand Valley State.



#### **Anna Bris-Bois**

Anna especially recalls going to Puerto Rico with the Spanish Club. She has also been on Principal's List each year, earned the Scholar Athlete Award, English 10 Award, and Royal Fitness Award. She is the daughter of Tracy Bris-Bois and will be attending the University of Toledo to study exercise science. Other great memories include her basketball and soccer teams.



Anna Bris-Bois

# **Riley Buckmaster**

Riley has received the LISD Tech-Center Excellence Award. is a two time LISD Tech-Center TRADES Work Habit Award recipient and a seven star Honor Thespian. She is the daughter of Susie Kiptin and Michael Buckmaster and will pursue pre-med courses at Northern Michigan University. Prom, participating in musicals, and sideline cheering with her friends endure as memories.



Riley Buckmaster

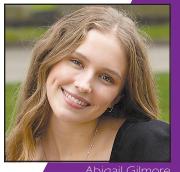
#### Mariela Cueto

Mariela enjoys looking back on the moment in 2022 when the cross country team made it to the state competition. She is the daughter of Aimee Weeber and Carlos Cueto and plans to pursue engineering studies in California. She is grateful to teachers and friends who supported her academic work at BHS and is pleased to be among the Summa Cum Laude honorees.



### **Abigail Gilmore**

Abigail has been on the Principal's List for all four years and has won academic awards for English, AP World History, and Psychology. She is the daughter of James and Kelly Jo Gilmore and will study political science and Spanish in Kalamazoo. The student section during football games as well as serving as a counselor at 5th grade camp with her best friends are standout memories.



#### **Kendall Martin**

Kendall will take memories of cheering on her best friends during their volleyball and basketball seasons to Central Michigan where she plans to major in psychology. She is the daughter of Tammy and Todd Martin and has been part of the National Honor Society, Interact and Big Buddies. Consistently being on the *Principal's List* has been a source of significant pride.



Kendall Martin Central Michigan

Somma Com Laude

#### **Clayton Retter**

Clayton received State recognition from the brass quintet performance at State Solo & Ensemble and hopes to secure a position with the Michigan Marching Band while attending U-Mich Dearborn. He is the son of Shane and Laura Retter with plans to choose a major in engineering. He recalls "busting it down on the dance floor at prom."



Clayton Retter I-Mich Dearborn

#### **Elliot Strahan**

Elliot has been a leading fund raiser for the National Honor Society and listed on the *Principal's List* every year. He is the son of Brad Strahan and Ali Kruszewski and intends on majoring in finance at Butler University. His best memory is of winning regionals in golf and competing in the state finals. He also participated in varsity basketball and football.



Elliot Strahan Butler University

#### **Kendall Sullivan**

Kendall recalls many laughs shared during AP Chemistry and World History and her favorite memory was cheering at football and baseball games. She is the daughter of Michelle and Gary Sullivan and anticipates playing volleyball for Adrian College while pursuing pre-medical interests. She is in the National Honor Society, Leaders Creating Leaders and has lettered in volleyball for three years.



Kendall Sullivan Adrian College

# **Shelby Vandenbusche**

Shelby will carry memories of cheering on her best friends at the Breslin Center during their basketball season to Michigan State where she will major in business. She is the daughter of Kim Norris and Troy Vandenbusche. She is particularly proud of standing with her volleyball teammates to receive the MIVCA Academic All-State Award.



Shelby Vandenbusche Michigan State

#### **Violet Hunt**

Violet received State recognition from the brass quintet performance at State Solo & Ensemble and recalls the great time she and her closest friends had at the Winterfest Dance. She would like to thank her parents Amber and TJ Hunt and the rest of her family for always supporting, helping, and advising her. She plans to major in accounting at Michigan State.



Violet Hunt Michigan State

#### **Amelia Walczak**

Amelia received the Scholar Athlete Award all 4 years of high school and is proud to be a part of the National Honor Society. She thanks her mom, Sandy Walczak for all the support she has given her and looks forward to concentrating in marine biology at Michigan State where she will major in zoology. She loved having a shaved ice food truck come to the school her junior year.



Amelia Walczak Michigan State

#### **Julia White**

Julia received the 2023 Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete Award and has been awarded the Scholar Athlete award each season during varsity basketball, volleyball, and softball. She is the daughter of Ryan White and Heather Miller and looks to major in education. Her unforgettable memory is taking the court to play in the State Championship game at the Breslin Center.



Julia White Central Michigan

Chromebook & Charger Collection

Students 6th - 11th Test and Turn-in June 8

Students in 6th - 11th grades will turn in Chromebooks and chargers after their last test. Everything must be left in the

#### Student's **Final Classroom**

with no existing damage.

If chargers are lost, not working, damaged or without the original BHS label it must be noted.

Chromebook damage and loss must be declared and resolved with complete payment by June 8.

#### **Graduating Seniors**

Senior Chromebooks and chargers were due May 11 after the completion of the student's last exam. Before graduation events, damaged or missing equipment must be resolved with the technology office.

# Canine Helmet **Update**

The middle school continues to enhance the helmet for Maco, the Toledo police dog. When the PLTW program receives the specs for a super lightweight high definition camera they will add a mount and reprint the helmet before meeting with Toledo for testing.



PLTW continues to digitally print improvements to their canine helmet project.



# All Books Returned by June 2

Thanks to each of our Media Center leads for a books or resources that belong in our media great year of support! Our educational programs are reinforced by the efforts and tools that are found in each center. Each media center has offered assistance to students and teachers with wonderful efficiency.

**Lost Books** 

Please renew your efforts to find any lost the end of the year.

centers. Your help is needed! Spring cleaning is under way. Thanks for watching for books that are missing from our media centers. We would love to have them back on our shelves to share with others.

Each building has announced deadlines for

#### High School

PH - x312

May 26 Last day to check out books for 9-11th

June 2 ALL RETURNS

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

PH - x212

May 19 Last day to check out books

June 2 ALL RETURNS June 2 FINE\$ will be sent

out to cover costs

#### ELEMENTARY

Ph - x112

May 19 Last day for classes to visit library

May 22 Story time week / book drop offs

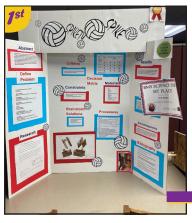
May 26 Library closes

# **Eighth Grade Science Curriculum Projects**

curriculum, projects, both individual and

At two points during this collaborative, highlighted the cross-curricular applications. student efforts of teachers to apply cognitive learning to hands on,

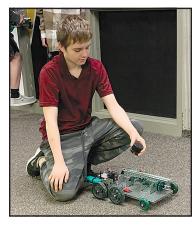
There were many successful efforts!



A. J. Cantu scored top honors for his machine that supported another student's project to analyze the behavior and performance of volleyballs which were filled to different pressures. Part of his challenge was to succeed early so that his 'customer' could run/test/ complete their project. "On Time Cantu" came through!



Carley Watson was honored for her demonstration that the p.s.i. of volleyball inflation creates measurable differences in performance. Watson used the 'Cantu Spiking Machine' to reveal that under/over inflated balls were significantly inaccurate and unreliable when given the goal of landing in a specified area in the test lab.



Aaron Goodfriend and Blake Gruenwald (not pictured) were successful in making a 'pull toy' from a VEX<sup>TM</sup> kit that are used in the PLTW learning center for differing levels of robotic/mechanical projects. Aaron and Blake's model was immediately successful but revised twice to improve performance.

### Spanish Club / FFA Chapter Plan Costa Rica Trip

The Spanish Club and FFA Chapter are planning a cross-curricular service/learning trip to Costa Rica for June 2023. In Costa Rica they will spend 9 days working with a company called Green Communities (https://greencommunities-cr.org/). This is a unique program and experience, unlike any other offered through student travel

companies, will encourage students to:

- Interact with Costa Rican natives through service and learning projects on organic coffee farms seeking to make improvements in the
- local community.
  Learn about strategies for sustainability in farming and other industries.
- Meet residents in a small town community and practice Spanish speaking skills.
- Learn strategies to enact community change and development at the local level.
- Talk with local artists about their handcrafts, dances, and foods through dance and cooking classes, soccer, and other genuine exchanges.
- Explore Costa Rica's natural beauty with hikes through the rain forests and interactions with unique marine life.

We would like to thank the Blissfield Rotary, and several anonymous donors from the community who donated money to help offset some of the costs for students associated with the trip.

Congratulations Abigail Gilmore who was the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from Wayside Publishing to support her trip to Costa Rica. Abby was selected from a national pool of students to receive the Student International Scholarship for the connection between the trip and her future interest in a career in political science, international studies as well as Spanish.



Scholarship, Abby Gilmore

# **National Honor Society**

On Monday, March 20, the BHS National Honor Society hosted the 2nd annual Cupcake Wars. This was a K-12 competition with 4 age brackets (k-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). There were 33 contestants who prepared and decorated 2 dozen cupcakes - that's 792 cupcakes!! Awards were given for creativity, flavor, and presentation as well as a *Cupcake Boss* award for the best in each division who received a gift card to *Emmy's Kitchen*.

There were so many amazing cupcakes, the judges had a really difficult time deciding on a winner! Zariah Blackmon won top

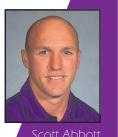


Blackmon won top *There were many* cake boss of all of *clever designs in* the categories and *this year's cupcake* received a cupcake *competition!* decorating lesson

for herself and some friends from *Emmy's Kitchen*. Thank you *Emmy's* for supporting the Blissfield Schools as always! Proceeds from the event will be donated to *Hope and Encouragement for Humanity* (HEH).



# **Board Approves Parking/Traffic Improvements**



Scott Abbott **Operations** 

Summer projects this year will extend our each building. If you know members of our operational staff, please thank them for their they can do the work safely. consistent and dedicated efforts!

#### 2023 Asphalt Replacement Project

In addition to our regular assignments the school board has approved a well planned transformation of the traffic flow and parking configurations for our campus. This

challenge has been guided by months of careful consideration and will be accomplished by using our sinking fund as the source for this project. Our gratitude endures for the steadfast support of our BCS community which makes this possible.

- . We look forward to guiding these changes and upgrades:
- Remove all the parking lots and install new asphalt
- Improve the middle school entrance
- Revise the traffic flow in front of the elementary school
- Add new parking spaces in front of the high school
- Create a new bus lane traveling behind the high school to the back of the elementary.

Kudos to our awesome custodial staff which has been working hard to keep the buildings clean and presentable during this extra wet and muddy spring. Again, if you know our staff, encourage and thank them for their commitment.

Also you may have noticed that the maintenance team is maintenance and custodial efforts to refresh mowing and make improvements to the grounds. If you see them mowing, or trimming trees, please give them the space needed so

#### FFA Planter Boxes at each building

We will also be placing the planter boxes around the entrances again. With the help from the FFA we will be adding some enjoyable, fresh color to our entrances.

Finally, let's finish the year safely! Please join our guests and regular drivers who remain extra cautious and give our team room to perform their jobs safely.

#### Steadily adding bus drivers

The transportation department has been working hard to make sure all bus runs are filled every day. Spring time is always a challenging time with field trips and sporting events. We will make sure to transport all of our students every day.

Several new bus drivers have been recruited and more are needed to meet our annual needs. If you know anyone, or are interested yourself, please feel free to contact us at (517) 486-3803.

On our website: New Transportation Requests

blissfieldschools.us/departments/transportation/ is home to the online form for NEW transportation requests. Please select the link **Bus Transportation Request Forms** to start this process.

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#### No internet access? Call 517.264.5324







# 9-11 online via Edgenuity™ **Summer credit recovery**

Eligible high school students will be offered credit recovery through on-line sessions for this summer based on their academic needs. These students (and their homes) will receive a letter detailing the specifics of the classes being offered, their times and their cost toward the end of the year.

Parents can anticipate that the on-line sessions will run from the third week in June and through mid-August.

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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\*\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*\*

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