Blooming Prairie Intermediate/High School

2026-2027

Student Handbook



Blooming Prairie Public Schools prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The notice of Nondiscrimination is located at https://www.blossoms.k12.mn.us.

Updated 8/13/26
Approved by the School Board 9/17/26

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Intermediate/High School Information

This information pertains to both the Intermediate School and the High School

District Policies

Click the following links to read the policies.

102 - Equal Educational Opportunity Policy

413 - Harassment and Violence Policy

413 – Harassment and Violence Form

502 - Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy

514-Bullying Prohibition Policy

516 - Student Medication and Telehealth

521 – Student Disability Nondiscrimination Policy

521 – Student Disability Discrimination Grievance Report Form

522-Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process

522 – Title IX Coordinators

Primary Title IX Coordinator
Christopher M. Staloch – Superintendent
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Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
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Alternate Title IX Coordinator
Allison Mach
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202 4th Ave. NW
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
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526 – Hazing Prohibition Policy

534 - School Meals Policy

709 – Student Transportation Safety Policy

General Policies and Guidelines

Academic Lettering Policy – Applies to High School only.

AI in the Classroom – **AI Guidelines**

Attendance Policy and Procedures

Cell Phone Policy

Discipline Policy

Dress and Grooming Policy

Bluetooth Headphones Policy

Social Media Guidelines

Transportation Policy (addition – August 2019)

2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Daily Schedules

Regular and Advisory School Hours are from 8:10 - 2:46, Monday through Friday.

A. 7th – 12th grade students
   a. Frequently arrive early for practices/meetings and will meet in the designated areas at the designated time.
   b. Students who arrive early may enter the building.
      I. Stay in the Commons until the 8:00 AM bell rings.
      II. Students are expected to be in good behavior.
      III. No student should be in the hallways or at their locker before 8:00 am.

B. 5th and 6th grade students
   a. Should not arrive prior to 8:00 am unless they are coming for school breakfast which begins at 7:50 am.
   b. Monitor the time your child leaves for school. If he/she arrives too early, there is the possibility of too much unsupervised activity.
   c. should gather in the lobby outside the new gym. (Senior Commons)
   d. Lunch time for Regular days is 12:10 – 12:35
   e. Recess
      - 5th grade will have recess from 11:45 -12:10.
      - 6th grade will have recess at 12:35 – 1:00.
   f. At the end of the day Intermediate students will be dismissed prior to the High School students.
   g. Parents should expect their children to come home immediately after school. If it is necessary for the child to stay after school, he/she will call home and give such notice.

2-Hour Late Start Hours are from 10:10 - 2:46

A. 7th – 12th grade students
   a. Frequently arrive early for practices/meetings and will meet in the designated areas at the designated time.

B. 5th and 6th grade students
   a. should not arrive prior to 10:00 am.
   b. should gather in the lobby outside the new gym. (Senior Commons)

12:45 Dismissal Hours are from 8:10 – 12:45

General Information

Accidents – Students are to immediately notify supervising teacher or coach if injured at school or while participating in a school. activity. In spite of our caution and vigilance, accidents sometimes happen at school. If an accident occurs, the parents are called and asked to come for the child. If it is not possible to contact the parents, the person designated by parents at the beginning of the school year will be called. It is important, therefore, that this information be accurate. If at any time during the school year it becomes necessary to change the name of the person to be called when you are not available, please be sure to call the school secretary. It is very important for us to have correct information should an emergency occur.

Bicycles – Bicycles should be locked in the racks provided. Bicycles should be walked on and off school grounds for the safety of all.

CONTACT INFORMATION - Any change in a student's address or telephone number must be reported to the office as soon as possible after the change. The parent/guardian must provide a telephone number where they can be reached during school hours.

HALL TRAFFIC – Students should not verbally harass other students, run, push, shove, or engage in horseplay when in the school building or on the school grounds. Please use good judgment so disciplinary action need not be taken.

Health Service/School Nurse – Although the primary responsibility for student health rests with the parent/guardian, the school assists students in protecting and improving their own health and developing competence in dealing with health problems they will face during the school years and in the future.

- **The school nurse.**
  - divides the workday between the elementary and the intermediate/high school.
  - If you have a question regarding your child's health, feel free to call the school.
  - Students wishing to see the school nurse may contact a secretary the nurse will arrange to see you as soon as possible.
- **Health Screenings**
  - Hearing & vision screenings are administered to students in various grades based on MDH guidelines.
  - The nurse will send a letter to parents if concerns are noted, and a professional evaluation is recommended.
- **Note: Ill students** must report to the office, if parents need to be contacted, the office will do this – NOT the student.

Hot Lunch Program – The hot lunch program is open throughout the school year to students.

1. Starting school year 2023-24, we are joining Minnesota's Free School Meals Program.
   a. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school.
   b. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the **Application for Educational Benefits** is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs.
2. Menus will be posted on the school website and outside the kitchen.
3. Students who bring their own lunch may purchase milk for an additional charge.

Extras may be purchased if the student has money in their account or has cash to pay for the purchase.

LOCKERS – School lockers are the property of School District No. 756 and are loaned to students for their use. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. School authorities may inspect the interior of lockers at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The lockers are in working order, and if repairs are needed, please notify the office at once. School locks are available for use on school lockers. Students are required to use their assigned lockers. Locker signs are limited only to signs regarding co-curricular activities approved in advance by the activities director and/or principal. No other signs will be permitted

Nuisance Articles Guidelines - The Administration and Board of Education, in order to provide and maintain an appropriate educational learning atmosphere and to insure the safety and security of all its students, restrict the use by students of: *skateboards *squirt guns *water balloons *laser pens *beepers *rollerblades and any other devices administration deems inappropriate and distracting during school hours on school property. The administration reserves the right, if necessary, to add other items to this list, especially any items which may affect the safety and security of the school and its properties.

Physical Education - The physical education program is a required part of the educational curriculum. Therefore, the school requires that all pupils participate in and are dressed for the physical education program unless there are sufficient medical reasons to prohibit such activity. A note from a physician is required when this is necessary.

POP, SOFT DRINKS, FOOD - Students are not permitted to carry anything but a water bottle. Snacks are not allowed during class time or in classrooms.

RULES FOR RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR – As a student of Blooming Prairie, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

1. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
2. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
3. I will respect the property of others.
4. I will show respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.
5. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.
6. I will at no time use ethnic slurs or profane language.

Safety Drills

By state law, each school district has a crisis management plan in place. Blooming Prairie Public School's Crisis Plan includes procedures to work with any crisis including fire, severe weather, assault/violence, hazardous material, intruders, serious injury, and death of a teacher or a classmate. Our policy has been designed by a committee of educators and counselors and is compatible with the state and federal guidelines.

Our first and foremost concern is the emotional and physical safety of the children.

Intermediate School - Because children react differently to practice drills, we prepare them for all drills by informing them about the drill (before it takes place), and we do a debriefing following each drill to encourage thoughtful discussion.

It is the recommendation of the Department of Public Safety Emergency Management that we do practice for emergencies. The philosophy is that practice will facilitate the building of knowledge and skills needed to protect everyone during an emergency. These skills create an automatic response to a crisis drill. Practice also demonstrates to the children that the adults DO know how to protect them, and that we ARE ABLE to protect them in crisis situations.

The only exception to giving prior notice of the drills is during fire drills. It is the expectation of the State Fire Marshal that fire drills be conducted without prior warning. We do inform the children after the fire drills that it was a drill and how quickly we exited the building. Fire drills are limited to the fall and spring to avoid taking the children out during inclement weather.

Storm Policy

When it is determined by those in authority that the weather is severe enough to endanger safe transportation to school, school will be dismissed for the entire day or school will have a two-hour late start. Should bad weather conditions arise during the day a decision may be made to have an early dismissal.

Announcements of such dismissals will be made online at our website: www.blossoms.k12.mn.us, Facebook and on radio and TV stations listed below. We urge parents to listen to their radios when it seems likely that such a dismissal will be made; otherwise, school will be in session during each day it has been scheduled according to our annual calendar. The building will be open and warm, and teachers on duty. If parents feel they do not wish to send their children to school because of bad weather that is their responsibility and privilege.

Should it become necessary to cancel school or dismiss school early the announcements will be made on the school website: www.blossoms.k12.mn.us, on the automated school messenger phoning system, and on the following radio stations:

KAAL – TV Channel 6, Austin	KARE – TV Channel 11. Minneapolis/St. Paul
KIMT – TV Channel 3, Rochester	KMSP – TV Channel FOX 9, Minneapolis/St. Paul
KOWZ – (FM 100.9), Blooming Prairie	KRFO – (FM 105 & AM 1390), Owatonna
KROC – (AM 1340 & FM 106.9), Rochester	KSTP – TV Channel 5, Minneapolis/St. Paul
KTTC – TV Channel 10, Rochester	WCCO – TV Channel 4 and AM 830, Minneapolis/St. Paul

Please try to refrain from calling the school in early dismissal situations because of the need for the school to have the phone lines available to reach bus drivers and to maintain phone communications between the buildings in the district.

There may be occasions when road conditions on a bridge or off the blacktop are not known until they are checked out. This could be a last minute situation and there may not be time to get information on the radio. If sometimes your child is not picked up, please rest assured that it is the safety of your child that concerns us. If we think there may be problems, we do not want to risk anything unnecessarily. If we feel it is reasonable and safe to bus your child, we will do so. If it is felt to be unsafe, the driver will not pick up your child.

STUDENT RECORDS -
The school maintains a cumulative record file on each student. The file contains grades, attendance, standardized test scores, anecdotal records, and other items pertaining to the child's history in school. Cumulative records follow a child from school to school.

These records are confidential and used for professional purposes only. Parents of children under 18 years of age have the legal right to see the contents of these records by making an appointment to do so with the principal. Copies may be made of items in the record at minimal fee, but the original records may not be removed from the building. The school has 10 days to comply with the parental request. Parents may place statements in children's records if they desire and if the statements pertain to the school record.

Parents may also request that items be removed from the child's file. The school may or may not comply with the request. In case of such an impasse, parents may appeal the decision to the next highest school official, and ultimately the school board.

All student's records will be treated in accordance with the provisions of 13.32 Educational Data, passed by Minnesota's Congress

TECHNOLOGY USE - Students who use technology inappropriately may be suspended from technology use until further notice. Further misuse will result in suspensions from school by administration. Inappropriate use may include activating inappropriate sites, misusing e-mail, and any other activity that staff has deemed poor use.

TELEPHONE USE - Students should use the telephone provided for them in the office. Students will not be interrupted during classes for messages, with the exception of an emergency.

Visitor Policy –
The teachers and administration encourage parents/guardians and patrons to visit our school. For the safety of our students and staff all doors leading to the interior of the building will be locked from the start of the school day until the end of the school day.

1. All visitors **MUST** check in at the High School Office prior to admittance to the interior of the building.
2. All visitors should have a visitor badge.
3. **Student visitors will not be permitted.**
4. Strangers in the building should be referred to the office for authorization.
5. Visitors wishing to have lunch with a student:
    a. Senior High - may do so if a room is available in the office. Visitors are not allowed to eat in the commons area.
    b. Intermediate School – please contact the office prior to your visit.

The week preceding and following Christmas and Easter vacations, and the two weeks at the beginning and end of the school year tend to be very busy. We would discourage you from visiting our school during these times. A visitation at any other time of the school year would be more valuable to you.

Water Bottle Policy:
Students are permitted to have a water bottle in class. Water bottles must have a cover and water is the only beverage allowed.

Withdrawal from School - A student withdrawing from school needs to obtain a withdrawal form from the office. High School students must return the form, signed by their parent/guardian to the guidance office. A clearance form will be issued that must be signed by all teachers. Intermediate students will return the form to the High School Office.

Prior to withdrawal the following items need to be

Turned in

- iPad/MacBooks, cords and chargers
- library books
- textbooks, etc. to be paid -negative lunch balances. outstanding fees, cost of lost books/locks
- hall locks/gym locks

Paid for

- Outstanding negative lunch balances
- Outstanding fees
- Lost library books or textbooks
- Lost hall/gym locks
- Lost iPad, cords and chargers

High School (7th – 12th grade) Information

AI in the Classroom Guidelines

CHEATING STATEMENT

Cheating involves one or more of the following actions:

1. To use the work of another person as your own.
2. To copy information from another student's test, examination, theme, book report or term paper.
3. To plagiarize – plagiarism means using another person's idea, expression or words without giving the original author credit.
4. To prepare for cheating in advance. Such actions involve (1) having in your possession a copy of a test to be given or having been given by a teacher, (2) using a test or notes during an examination, (3) talking while taking quizzes, tests, or examinations.
5. To fail to follow test procedures or instructions announced by the teacher.

No student shall cheat on a test or assigned work or knowingly allow his/her work to be used by others. Each classroom teacher will have a policy regarding cheating and the consequences for such behavior. Administration will become involved if needed and may add additional consequences.

DRIVER EDUCATION – All students will have an opportunity to take behind-the-wheel driver training after they have successfully completed the classroom driver education and obtained an instruction permit. Behind the wheel will be taught by arrangement with the driver education instructor. Students are reminded that they must have a certificate of enrollment signed by the instructor and be accompanied by a parent/guardian in order to take the permit test. The cost is $330.00, which covers both classroom and behind the wheel.

FEES – Students should be aware that although most classes and activities in which they participate will be provided without cost, there are certain others that will require fees. Basically, the only fees will be for those items or projects that become the property of the student. All fees must be paid before report cards will be issued.

e-LEARNING DAYS (elementary are links not general info)

In the event of an e-Learning Day, the details are listed below.

1. Staff will have an e-Learning assignment posted on their website/Schoology no later than two hours after the normal start time. (10:10)

2. The staff will have a plan to take attendance for each class. Some ways attendance could be verified include:
   a. Logging in to class page(s) on the school's learning management system (Schoology).
   b. Email exchange to the teacher.
   c. Activity in classes (pages accessed, discussion participation, formative assessments completed).
   d. Work submitted during the e-Learning Day.
   (google doc, 365 doc, comment on discussion thread)

   * If a student does not have internet access and is unable to do the assignments the teacher's post on Schoology, a parent will call the high school office and leave a message.

3. If the student was absent (see below) or if the student communicated ahead of time with technology issues, the staff will allow students up to two days to make-up work administered on an e-learning day.

Attendance: Attendance will be monitored. After students log into the classes, their attendance will be verified. If a student fails to communicate with any teachers on an e-Learning Day, he/she will be considered absent. **A note and/or phone call will be required from the parents.** The teachers will inform the absent student of the assignments for the day and give them appropriate time to complete the assignments. The teacher will have adjusted/accurate attendance entered into JMC by noon on the following school day.

Devices: Blooming Prairie High School is a 1:1 technology school. Each student has been issued an iPad for educational use. If for some reason the student does not have a school issued device, it is their responsibility to contact the teachers to come up with an alternative for receiving the assignments.

Internet Access: We understand not all households have internet access. If this is the case, students will have reasonable time to turn in their assignments. Once they walk into our building, they will have access to the internet, therefore, the ability to complete their assignments.

Lunchroom Rules: Lunchroom supervisors will enforce rules and establish a policy conducive to a school lunchroom.

1. Students will eat in class order (starting with seniors). Other students will be seated at tables until called to line by the supervisor.
2. When finished eating, students will return trays and return to seats.
3. Each student is responsible for his/her area at the table (must be cleaner than when they came to lunch).
4. Each student must push in chairs when leaving the lunch table.
5. Each student reserves the privilege of bringing his/her own lunch and buying milk in the lunchroom.
6. A microwave is available for students to use.
7. Seniors will have the option of going outside during adequate weather conditions. (ONLY seniors will be allowed outside)
8. Administration/Supervisors have the right to remove students from the lunchroom for any amount of time if behavior warrants that consequence.

MEDIA CENTER –The Media Center has 8,000 books, an automated catalog and access to four electronic databases. We also cooperate with the public library, so the students have the advantage of using materials from a multitude of libraries. The Media Center collection supports the curriculum and besides fiction books, the nonfiction collection is designed to assist students with assignments and papers. The Media Center is open during school hours.

PARKING LOT PROCEDURES - Parking at the Blooming Prairie High School is a privilege.

1. Prior to parking in the school parking lot, you and your Parent/Guardian must complete and sign a Student Parking Permit Request. You will then receive a numbered pass to keep in the dash of your car.
2. Please park your automobile in the proper places and in the proper manner.
3. Do NOT park in the "Handicapped" areas, "Visitor", "Traveling Teacher" or other marked areas, or in the driveway. Automobiles parked in these areas will be towed at the student's expense without warning.
4. Speed limit is 15 MPH.

Search of vehicles - By entering the school parking lot, the person driving any vehicle is deemed to consent to complete search of the vehicle for any reason. Such search may be conducted by school officials or by law enforcement officers at school request. If any person in the car other than the driver is the current custodian of the vehicle, consent to search is deemed given by the custodian also. The area of search will include the entire vehicle inside and out.

REGISTRATION - Preliminary registration will be held some time in February under the direction of the counselor and the principal. The office will register any student failing to turn in a registration form. When school begins, it will be difficult to change the schedule because of class conflicts. Schedules will be changed only after the principal has discussed the matter with the student, the teacher, and the parent/guardian.

GOLD CARD PROGRAM & INCENTIVES

The Gold Card Program is a program designed to help schools promote and achieve academic excellence.

Standard points are awarded based on:

- GPA 3.0 and above for the quarter
- Community Service 6+ hours for the quarter **(You are responsible for handing these into the office before the end of the first week of the next quarter)**
- **No** Unexcused absences or tardies

Gold Card Requirements:

- . Meet all 3 standard points.

Note: **An office referral dismisses you from obtaining a Renaissance Card**

Blooming Prairie High School Renaissance Benefits:

Gold Card – Free admission to all home BPHS athletic events & dances

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC LETTERING Policy

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - To graduate from Blooming Prairie High School, each student must enroll in a minimum of six credits per year and have earned a minimum of twenty-five credits in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. The credits are a combination of required and elective courses as outlined by the State Department of Education and the Board of Education. The minimum twenty-five (25) credits **must include** the following credits,

Math……	3.0 credits
English	4.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Social Science	4.0 credits
Physical Education	1.0 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Personal Finance	0.5 credit
Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Elective	8.0 credits
Total……	25.0 credits

GRADING SYSTEM

CLASSROOM GRADING - Each teacher determines the grades for students in a different fashion. The manner in which the teacher arrives at the grade is a matter that will be explained to the students during the early days of the course.

HONOR ROLL - At the close of each quarter, an Honor Roll is published. The standards for the Honor Roll are as follows:

A Honor Roll	achieve a 4.0 GPA for that quarter	A=4.00
A- Honor Roll	achieve a 3.66 or above	B=3.00
B+ Honor Roll	achieve a 3.33 or above	C=2.00
B Honor Roll	achieve a 3.00 or above	D=1.00

POLICY FOR DROPPING CLASSES - All policies already in the handbook supersede this, such as, must have six classes, etc. No schedule change will occur once the academic year has begun, unless by administrative directive. The first two weeks of the first quarter of class, a student may drop and take another class only with administrative approval and direction. Parent/guardians will also need to approve the change. After first week of the quarter of class, a student may drop with NO CREDIT and go into a study hall if they don't already have a study hall. After first quarter of class is completed, student may drop but a grade of F will be recorded as a semester grade. For yearlong classes, if a student drops at semester time NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN for that class, and grade will be recorded. At no time will credit be given for a yearlong course that is not completed. **Policy for dropping a Southwest State University class deadline is 2 weeks from the first day of school.**

PROGRESS REPORTS - The parent/guardian will be notified by mail/email if a student is doing failing or near failing work at the end of the fifth week of each quarter. A deficiency report may be issued at a later date in the quarter if a student's work begins to drop to a point near the failing level. In addition to the level of achievement being indicated on the report, other problems may also be stated.

PROGRESS TOWARDS GRADUATION - For a student to be classified in a particular grade level, he/she must have earned the following credit amounts before the beginning of a school year: Grade 12 – Must have earned 18 credits; Grade 11 – Must have earned 11 credits; Grade 10 – Must have earned 4 credits; Grade 9 – Must have passed half of all core classes as an 8th grader; Grade 8 – Must have passed half of all core classes as a 7th grader. (Core Courses: Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Studies.)

REPORT CARDS - Report cards are available at the close of each nine-week period to inform both the student and parent/guardian regarding the progress in each subject. Report cards can be viewed and printed in JMC. If you desire a printed copy, please contact the high school office.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are many clubs that provide opportunities for participation and leadership on the part of Blooming Prairie High School students. Membership in an organization enriches one's school life. In addition, such activities provide students with an opportunity to serve one's school and community. These things are often mentioned in recommendations for jobs, colleges, scholarships, etc. An organization, with general guidance from its advisors, will police its own ranks in instances of unacceptable behavior, absenteeism, etc. Minnesota State High School league (MSHSL) rules and regulations apply to all organizations and activities.

ANNUAL - The function of the school's yearbook, "The Prairie Schooner", is to give a full account of the current year's activities through pictures and text material.

CO-CURRICULAR ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY - It is the belief of the Board of Education, Administration, and Faculty that co-curricular activities are an important part of a student's development. For a student to develop properly, he/she must be performing in a positive manner in the classroom. Therefore, the following standards must be met for a student to participate in co-curricular activities.

One or more failing grades, quarter or semester, will result in:

1. Ten school days and nights of probation from activities (no game, contests or events/only practices) from the date report cards are issued.
2. After ten school days and nights, progress is reviewed. At the time of the review, if the student is receiving a failing mark, he/she will be put on probation until the student is making positive progress.
3. For all fall activities (football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, etc.), previous fourth quarter and semester grades will determine eligibility.
4. Incomplete grades (marks) must be completed within ten school days following the issuing of report cards. After ten days, the incomplete grades (marks) will be viewed as a failing grade.

Students receiving mid-term deficiency reports will have courses monitored for the remainder of the quarter. The guidance counselor will provide mid-term reports to all coaches/activity advisers.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON NO-SCHOOL DAYS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY –

Practice Policy: Scheduling of practices will follow MSHSL rules. No practice is to be held on major holidays unless a game would follow the next day. Practice should be held on school days. if possible. Practice on vacation days should be scheduled with the consideration of family commitments, preferably earlier in the day. Many fall and winter practices may have to be split. The head coaches are responsible for establishing the practice schedules. A copy will be provided to the principal, activities director, and high school office.

Inclement Weather Policy: No contest or practice can be held if school is dismissed early due to weather conditions. The superintendent may approve optional practices and some events in special circumstances. When school is not in session due to weather and the conditions change, the head coach may call an "optional" senior high practice with approval from the superintendent, principal, or activities director prior to contacting any students. Attendance at these "optional" practices is still left to the discretion of the parent/guardian. In case of tournament games sponsored and scheduled by the MSHSL at the Sub-Section, Section, or State level, school administration may allow Blooming Prairie teams or individuals to participate, as long as individual safety is not jeopardized. Board Adopted: March 18, 1996.

MSHSL Eligibility/Registration - The athlete and parent/guardian shall examine the MSHSL rules as set forth in the MSHSL eligibility guidebook. The activities director will also explain the basic rules before the season begins. This form shall be electronically signed by the student and parent/guardian and submitted online prior to the 1st week of practice. The parent/guardian is required to attend a general rules meeting, or meet with the activities director, concerning rules interpretation prior to the student's participation in an athletic event.

FCCLA - The Future Leaders of America is an incorporated, non-profit, national organization for students in grades 7-12. FCCLA provides an opportunity for students to participate in social and educational activities that relate to home, community, and leadership.

FFA - The Future Farmers of America is an incorporated, non-profit, national organization for students in grades 7-12. FFA provides an opportunity for students to participate in social and educational activities that relate to home, community, and leadership.

HOMECOMING - Homecoming is one of the major school functions that promote school spirit. The following procedures will be used:

1. The senior class will elect five male and five female King and Queen candidates; students in grades 9-12 vote for the final choices.
2. The coronation will be held in the high school gym on Monday morning.
3. Rude, disruptive, and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
4. The parade will be held on Friday afternoon. Responsible organizations may, upon the approval of the administration, enter the parade.
5. The Homecoming Dance, for grades 9-12, follows the game on Saturday evening.

JUNIOR HIGH ACTIVITIES - It is the position of the Blooming Prairie School District that criteria used in determining eligibility, rule violation, proper conduct, and sportsmanship also are administered uniformly at the junior high school level. It seems logical that if the aforementioned items are deemed appropriate for our high school, it is also appropriate for the junior high.

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (MSHSL) - The Blooming Prairie School District will adhere to and otherwise strictly enforce all policies and/or penalties set forth via the MSHSL. Blooming Prairie Jr./Sr. High School will use the following policy to enforce the MSHSL rules regarding chemical usage:

1. It shall be a violation of this policy for Blooming Prairie Public Schools to solicit or accept any contributions, gifts, money, curricula, or materials from the electronic cigarette industry, tobacco-industry, tobacco-related device industry or from any tobacco products shop. This includes, but is not limited to, donations, monies for sponsorship, advertising, promotions, loans, or support for equipment, uniforms, and sports and/or training facilities. It shall also be a violation of this policy to participate in any type of service funded by any of the industries listed above.

2. A student shall not at any time, regardless of the quantity:
    A. Use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
    B. Use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or,
    C. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
    D. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away products containing, or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals.
    E. Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances or products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substance addressed by Minnesota or Federal Law.
3. Definitions
    A. “Administrator” means any person who has disciplinary and managerial authority to enforce school policies and penalties in Blooming Prairie Public Schools, including but not limited to principals, vice-principals, or office personnel.
    B. “Any time” means during normal school and non-school hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
    C. “Electronic cigarette” means any oral device that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine, lobelia, and/or other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such devices, whether they are manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or under any other product name or descriptor.
    D. “Electronic cigarette industry” means manufacturers, distributors or wholesalers of e-cigarettes. This includes parent companies and subsidiaries.
    E. “Imitation tobacco product” means any non-tobacco product designed to resemble a tobacco product including any edible or non-edible, non-tobacco product designed to resemble a tobacco product that is intended to be used by children as a toy. Examples of imitation tobacco products include but are not limited to: candy or chocolate cigarettes, bubble gum cigars, shredded bubble gum resembling chewing tobacco, shredded beef jerky in containers resembling snuff tins, plastic cigars, and puff cigarettes.
    F. “Lighter” means a mechanical or electrical device typically used for lighting tobacco products.
    G. “Off-campus, school-sponsored event” means any event sponsored by the school or school district that is not on school property, including but not limited to, sporting events, day camps, field trips, entertainment seminars, dances or theatrical productions.
    H. “Parent/Guardian” means any person that has legal guardian status over a student enrolled in Blooming Prairie Public Schools.
    I. “School” means any public nursery, day care center, childcare facility, Head Start program, kindergarten, elementary, secondary school, alternative learning center or adult education center operated under the control of Blooming Prairie Public Schools.
    J. “School property” means all facilities and property, including land, whether owned, rented, or leased by Blooming Prairie Public Schools, and all vehicles owned, leased, rented, contracted for, or controlled by Blooming Prairie Public Schools used for transporting students, staff, or visitors.
    K. “Signage” means signs declaring that all Blooming Prairie Public Schools school property is tobacco-free.
    L. “Smoking” means inhaling exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, in any manner or in any form. “Smoking” also includes the use of an e-cigarette that creates a vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking.
    M. “Staff” means any person employed by Blooming Prairie Public Schools as full or part-time, or any position contracted for or otherwise employed, with direct or indirect monetary wages or profits paid by Blooming Prairie Public Schools or anyone working on a volunteer basis. This term includes, but is not limited to faculty, service personnel, volunteers, chaperones, and others working for the Blooming Prairie Public Schools.
    N. “Student” means any person enrolled in Blooming Prairie Public School’s educational system.
    O. “Tobacco industry” means manufacturers, distributors, or wholesalers of tobacco products. This includes parent companies and subsidiaries.
    P. “Tobacco industry brand” means any corporate name, trademark, logo, symbol, motto, selling message, recognizable pattern of colors, or any other indication of product identification identical or similar to those used for any brand of tobacco product, company, or manufacturer of tobacco products.
    Q. “Tobacco product” means any products containing, made, or derived from tobacco that are intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other

means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to, cigarettes; cigars; little cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour,; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco products exclude any tobacco product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

R. "Tobacco products shop' means a retail establishment with an entrance door opening directly to the outside that derives more than 90 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of loose tobacco, plants or herbs intended for inhalation, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, or other smoking devices for burning tobacco and related smoking accessories in which the sale of other products is merely incidental. This does not include a tobacco department or section of any individual business establishment with any type of liquor, food, or restaurant license.

S. "Tobacco-related devices" means ashtrays, cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or electronic cigarettes or any components, parts, or accessories of electronic cigarettes, including cartridges.

T. "Tobacco-related devices industry" means manufacturers, distributors or wholesalers of tobacco-related devices. This includes parent companies and subsidiaries.

U. "Visitor" means any person subject to this policy that is not a student, staff, or administrator as defined above.

4. Penalties and Recommendation for Category I Activities are stated in the "Official Handbook of the Minnesota State High School league".

Category I – All Athletes – Accumulative Penalties

Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first participation on either junior high school or senior high school team or activity and continuing throughout the student's complete high school career (7-12).

First Violation: 2 weeks or 2 contests plus 2 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Second Violation: 5 weeks or 10 contests plus 4 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Third Violation: 1 calendar year plus completion of approved treatment program

5. Penalties and Recommendation for Category II Activities

Category II – Fine Arts and Co-Curricular Activities

Band, Choir, Speech, One-Act Play (MSHSL sanctioned events).

First Violation: 2 weeks or 2 contests plus 2 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Second Violation: 10 weeks or 2 contests plus 5 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Third Violation: 1 calendar year plus completion of approved treatment program

6. Penalties and Recommendation for Category III Activities

Category III – All other students

First Violation: 2 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Second Violation: 10 weeks from ALL school-sponsored activities
Third Violation: 1 calendar year plus completion of approved treatment program

Category I, II, and III penalties must be served independently. Following all violations, students and parents must meet with the coach/advisor and principal/activities director before returning to an activity. Should a violation occur after the last day of the 8th grade year, the student would not be eligible for the following for the rest of their high school career unless the student decides to work to change his/her behavior. The requirements for this is completing 5 hours of community service. This opportunity is only for first-time offenders. Repeat violations would make the student ineligible for these leadership positions:

Minnesota Honor Society	Homecoming Royalty	Team Captain
Student Council	Activity Officer	MVP Award

In addition, any student who wants to be eligible for the activities listed below (formerly category II activities) must also complete the 5 hours of community service. If a student earns a second violation, he/she must complete 10 hours of community service to be eligible to participate and if a third violation occurs, a student is no longer eligible for these activities.

FFA	Trap Team	Robotics	Academic Triathlon
Musical	FCCLA	Hand in Hand Club	

MINNESOTA HONOR SOCIETY (MHS) - Blooming Prairie High School has an active chapter of the MHS. Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, BPHS switched over to being members of the Minnesota Honor Society instead of the National Honor Society. There are no fees to be a member. The object of this organization is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character. Qualification standards for entry into the MHS include the following:

1. The official Handbook of the Minnesota Honor Society, including the constitution, will be recognized as the written policy for our local chapter.
2. The scholastic requirement for the Blooming Prairie Chapter will be 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale.
3. Students who are eligible scholastically will be notified and told that for further consideration for selection for MHS they must complete a Minnesota Honor Society application.
4. Students will be evaluated by MHS Faculty Council using criteria published and available for all students.
5. Students who receive a chemical violation during the selection process are ineligible.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMIT - Any student who intends to participate in high school interscholastic athletics must have on file in the activity registration, a record of a physical examination performed by a physician within the previous three years. No athlete will be allowed to participate in an organized practice without having passed a physical examination. An organized practice is one conducted by a coach or a coach's designee. At the start of each sports season, the activities director will contact students who need physicals. Students will not be permitted to start a sport until their physical is received in the activities director's office.
A signed MSHSL parent/guardian permit, current physical, health questionnaire shall be completed annually online and the fees paid before any practicing may begin.

SCHOOL COLORS - Black and White
SCHOOL SONG - Washington and Lee Swing:

Here's to our ball team that is hard to beat.
It's got one hundred per from head to feet.
It's got that style, that smile, that winning way.
So where 'ere you go you'll recognize our team and say
Now there's a team I'd like to know,
They've got that good old BP pep and go.
So when you see them play, it's quite a treat,
Can't be beat, our ball team! (Repeat verse)
B-L-O-O-M-I-N-G Blooming! What? Blooming!
Now hit it! BLOOMING!!

SENIOR AWARDS RECOGNITION - A year-end Senior Awards Banquet to recognize the accomplishments of the seniors will be held in the spring.

SOCIAL EVENTS

1. Senior High, grades 9-12, may have three (3) school dances annually: Homecoming (9th -12th grade), Snow Dance (7th -12th grade), and Prom. If student conduct at dances is acceptable and sufficient revenue is derived to cover the cost, additional dances may be held. Junior High, grades 7-8, are allowed to attend the Homecoming and the Snow dance.
2. General Rules
    a. A guest list, of all non-BPHS students attending, will be used at all school dances.
        i. Each student will be allowed to bring one (1) bona fide non-BPHS student guest. No guest will be allowed if they are 19 years of age or older.
        ii. Prior to attending a BPHS dance, a Non-BPHS Student Guest form must be completed by
            1. a school official if they are attending a high school.
            2. or a parent/guardian if they are not attending school.
    b. Students and guests must conduct themselves in an acceptable manner.
        i. Students who cannot conduct themselves in a proper manner will be asked to leave and not be allowed to attend the next dance.
    c. Rude, disruptive, and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
    d. Students and guests who obviously are under the influence of alcohol or mood-altering chemicals will have their parent/guardian called and will be detained, at school, until the parent/guardian arrives.
        i. Any student found to be under the influence of any controlled substance will not be allowed to attend the nest BPHS dance for which they are eligible.
    e. Tobacco usage is forbidden on school grounds and in buildings.
    f. Students are encouraged to develop a self-policing system.
    g. No water or refreshments will be allowed in the gym.
    h. Students who leave after 9:00 pm. Will not be allowed to re-enter.
    i. Students may make arrangements with the principal if they, for some acceptable reason are unable to attend by 8:00 pm.
3. Homecoming dance, for students in 9th -12th grade.
    a. Dance is over at 11:00 pm.
    b. Formal

4. Snow dance, for students in 7th -12th grade.
    a. Saturday evening during Snow week.
    b. Dance is over at 11:00 pm.
5. Prom: Junior/Senior (11th & 12th grade)
    a. The junior class sponsors the prom dance.
    b. Sophomores (10th grade) and freshmen (9th grade) may attend if invited by a junior or senior.
    c. Grand March is held at the high school prior to leaving for the dance.
    d. The dance will run from 7:00 pm – 11:00.

STUDENT COUNCIL - The student council shall be composed of members selected from the 7th - 12th grades. The student council is designed to be that vehicle through which the student body, through its representatives on the student council, can cooperate with the faculty and administration for the best interests of the school to bring about a better understanding between these groups and to promote good citizenship among the students.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE – The number of representatives will be determined on class size and interest.

1. The 2024-2025 School Year representatives are:
    a. Senior Class Representatives – Gracelyn Anderson, Jaspher Doocy, Sophia Esplan, Aubrey Klocke, Neila Nelson, Jasper Sayles, Isabella Schiller, Madysan Slowinski, Evan Westphal
    b. Junior Class Representatives – Ryan Cardenas, Claudia Miller, Raylee Miner, Bella Romeo, Haley Schlichter, Annika Schwarck, Natalie Schumacher, Ellie Stoen, Natalie Winzenburg
    c. Sophomore Class Representatives – Owen Gimbel, Wyatt Holtberg, Emmerson Nelson, Carson Sayles, Elaine Schwarz, Claire Staloch, Leah Watson
    d. Freshman Representatives – Addison Distad, Ellee Johnson, Hayden Pettey, Addison Winzenburg, Valerie Winzenburg
    e. 8th Grade Representatives – Emmett Bruggeman, Charlie Romeo, Mark Romeo, Grace Watson
    f. 7th Grade Representatives – Willow Bartelt, Emily Kasperek, Meredith Prestegard, Aria Underly

UNIFORMS – School-issued (owned) uniforms may only be worn by game participants during their games and may not be worn by anyone else or during the school day.

EXPECTATIONS

Detention –

A. When detention is assigned, the students will be required to serve the detention during their NEXT lunch period. If it is a morning issue, detention would be served that same day during lunch. If it is an afternoon issue, detention will be served at lunch the next day. Failure to do this will result in ISS (In School Suspension) the following day.
B. When detention is assigned, the students will get their lunch immediately and come to the office or classroom assigned for detention where they will sit for the duration of the lunch period. When the lunch period is over, the student will return his/her tray and continue on with their day.
C. More serious detentions may result in multiple lunch periods or detentions served before or after school.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Blooming Prairie High School has a professionally licensed school social worker and counselor. The social worker will provide a means for assisting both the school and the human service agency in developing early strategies of students. The counselor will assist students with problems relating to their choice of subjects, future educational plans, their choice of profession or vocation, and their problems. Students are urged to acquaint themselves with the guidance services available. Valuable information about careers, professions, colleges, etc. is kept on file in the guidance office. This information is available to all students, and students are urged to make use of this service to help them answer their questions about future plans.

Basic College Requirements – Although there is a wide variation among colleges and universities in their requirements for admission, there are some that are basic to most institutions. These are: 4.0 credits in English, 4.0 credits in Social Studies, 3.0 credits in Science, and 3.0 in Mathematics earned in grades 9-12. Students planning to enter colleges that have restricted enrollment should plan to take two laboratory sciences. Some colleges also require two years of a foreign language. It is very important that the high school courses be carefully planned and that good academic grades be earned. Class rank is becoming increasingly important, and many colleges will admit only those students whose rank is in the upper third of their class. Many colleges have specific requirements as to high school credits, class rank, and test results for admission. Students should consult with the counselor to be certain that they meet requirements for selected institutions or check the college's high school requirements.

College Visits – The administration and counseling department strongly encourage that students visit potential schools during their junior and senior years. Each student will be allowed two (2) college visits their junior year and three (3) their senior year. Arrangements must be made through the school counselor three (3) days before the student wishes to go for the visit to be excused. College visitation forms are available in the guidance office and must be completed in order for the visit to be excused.

BP Intermediate School (5th – 6th grade) Information

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is set up according to the standards of the Minnesota Department of Education. The curriculum is designed and revised to match the Minnesota Standards.

Our curriculum is evaluated and modified in direct correlation to the MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). These MCA Tests are commonly referred to as the benchmark tests. MCA tests are required by the state of Minnesota. All 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students must be tested in the areas of reading and math. The reading and math benchmark tests are untimed and include multiple-choice and open-ended questions. Every public school fifth grader must also be tested in the area of science.

The MCA tests are designed to measure schools' progress in instruction. They will provide information that tells how well schools and districts are meeting the requirements set forth in recent legislation. The information will also be used to meet federal requirements for Title I.

Individual student scores will not be used for grade promotion decisions.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Children are taught by more than one adult and the problems that may develop become the concern of all the adults that work with them rather than just one.

Reading and math are taught using whole group instruction combined with flexible grouping. The children are not tracked in ability groups. Flexible grouping is used to provide for each child's individual needs.

Differentiated instruction is a strategy used in all elementary classrooms. Differentiated instruction provides instruction to meet the needs of all students. It addresses their readiness level, their interests and their individual learning styles.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

We have many fine textbooks in our school. These are provided without cost to the student, but care of the books is the responsibility of the student. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will be held responsible and must pay the charge assessed for the book.

Students in grades PreK-6 furnish paper, pencils, crayons, etc. A list of needed supplies is sent home in the fall packet and is available on the school's website. The school does furnish textbooks, workbooks, testing materials, etc.

HOMEWORK

Children in the elementary school, especially in the upper grades, will be asked to do homework.

Homework is assigned for makeup before or after an absence, for individual enrichment, for remedial purposes, and/or to develop a sense of academic independence and responsibility. The parents will not be expected to teach new skills.

The child should do his own work and, if he needs help, try to guide them as a teacher would. Don't do their work for them. Help them in reviewing lessons before tests. Your interest can help his/her attitude toward his/her studies.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Most parents find it necessary to contact the school sometime during the school year. To help parents know how to reach the proper staff, the following guideline will be helpful.

Teacher

If you are concerned with your child's education or an incident that occurs between the child and the teacher, make contact with the teacher. The easiest way to make contact is to email the teacher. The teacher will make an effort to respond to you email in a timely manner.

High School/Intermediate School Principal

The principal is responsible for the entire operation of the High School/Intermediate school. If after sharing a concern with your child's teacher, you feel a need to pursue further, then contact the principal. All attempts will be made to resolve a child's difficulties or answer questions concerning the school operations.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences may be initiated by the parent or by the teacher at any time during the school year. Either party may request the principal's attendance at such a conference.

The school has set aside time(s) for regularly scheduled conferences. At these times, school is not in session so the teachers can be free to meet with each parent. The focus of these conferences is the individual child and his/her progress in school.

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

If your child has any special health problems (hay fever, asthma, epilepsy, etc.), please contact the school nurse. If your family is facing an unusual stress (death in the family, etc.), please alert your child's teacher about this as children do react differently when additional problems exist. If you, as a parent, feel that your child is having difficulty in school, follow these steps in order:

1. Contact your child's teacher by note, email, and/or telephone. (Please try to call during the teacher's preparation time or after school. If the teacher is in class, leave a voice mail for the teacher and he/she will contact you as soon as possible.)

2. A conference will be held if necessary.

3. If the problem(s) still exist after conferences with the teacher, the principal should be contacted. A convenient time for a conference with the parent(s), teacher(s), and the principal will be arranged.

Please follow these steps, so that the home and school can work together to make the school environment the best possible for your child.

Illness

Any child who shows symptoms of sickness, will be sent to the office, and the following procedure will apply:

1. The parent will be notified by phone that their child is ill.

2. The parent, or parent designated adult, is expected to pick up the child at the school office.

3. When parents cannot be reached, attempts are made to contact the **emergency numbers** listed on the emergency information sheet.

4. A child is not allowed to go home alone unless the school is directed by a parent who is waiting at home to send the child home.

5. A child is not released to go home to an empty house. (Any exceptions to this statement must be approved by a parent and school administration.)

Communicable Diseases

Cooperation between home and school is essential in the control of communicable diseases. Parents must be on the alert for various symptoms of communicable diseases. If you are ever hesitant concerning the significance of certain symptoms, please seek advice from your family doctor before sending the child to school. Information dispersed to families about outbreaks of a communicable disease in school will be based on MN Dept. of Health recommendations.

Head Lice

Head lice is becoming a common concern in schools. Parent notification and follow-up will be done at the discretion of the school nurse.

STUDENT SAFETY

Parent Pick Up Location

In order to promote and ensure student safety, a Parent Pick-Up Location is designated. The parent pick up location is the loop between the south parking lot and the school. Please make sure pull to the south end of the loop. This location was selected so parents could pick up their children without students walking between buses and traffic. **Do Not park** in the North parking lot, as this is where the busses pick up the students.

Locked Doors

All doors except the main front door will be locked during the school day, beginning at 8:15 a.m. Please remember to enter through the main front door when visiting. Doors will stay locked until the end of the school day, 2:46 p.m.

Visitor Badge

For the safety of all students, all visitors are to report to the office. **Visitors are to sign in and receive a visitor badge to wear while in the building.** The visitor badge is a sign to all school personnel that you are following our procedure to ensure student safety. We appreciate your time and efforts to help us in our endeavor to keep all of the children safe while in school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance Regulations

Minnesota statutes require that attendance be taken for each half day of school. Attendance is taken at 8:15 a.m. and again after lunch. Students are marked tardy if they are not present when attendance is taken and arrive later. If a student arrives late because of a medical appointment or illness, that is considered excused because it is a valid reason. **An excused tardy or absence does not delete the tardy or absence from the record.** Being considered "excused" indicates that there is not a truancy issue that needs attention. After 7 excused or 3 unexcused absences, parents will be contacted.

Please remember to call us when your child is remaining home for illness. Leave a message on our voice mail before or after school hours. The office staff has the responsibility of contacting families when we do not receive a call from you. This practice is very time consuming and we frequently reach answering machines or unanswered telephones. That is when we begin to worry about the safety and whereabouts of the children. Save us from this - call first.

Good attendance and good schoolwork go hand in hand. **Children are required to have a written excuse from home if:**

1. They have missed school and have not contacted the school by phone (or been contacted by the school). The written excuse should state why they were absent.

2. They want to be excused from school for any reason.

3. They need to stay indoors when the others are out. This excuse should state why this is necessary.

The school is mandated to file a truancy report for students whose absences are unexcused and/or excessive. More than seven days absence is considered excessive in regard to filing truancy reports.

Conduct and Discipline

Blooming Prairie Intermediate is a PBIS school. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework for organizing strategies to enhance academic and social outcomes using data-based decision-making.

We use the "Responsive Classroom" strategies as our approach to discipline.

Discipline is an essential part of classroom life and the foundation for a caring, supportive community.

Discipline begins with our own clear vision of what we want for the children we teach – our hopes and dreams – and is grounded in a deep belief in children's positive intentions: their intrinsic motivation to do well, belong, contribute, and engage in meaningful learning and growth.

At the same time, we know that children are not born with the skills to put their positive intentions into action. Just as it is our job to help children master the skills of reading and math, it is also our job to help them learn the skills of discipline; skills that will help them grow as individuals and as contributors to their community. Today, the classroom; tomorrow, the world!

Discipline:

- Contributes to a predictable and safe learning environment for all children
- Teaches children to value and care for themselves and others
- Helps children develop skills of ethical and effective problem-solving
- Discipline in the *Responsive Classroom* approach is both proactive and reactive.
- Proactively, we work with children to create, teach, and practice classroom rules.
- Discipline in the *Responsive Classroom* approach is both proactive and reactive.
- Reactively, we use logical consequences to help children regain control, make amends, and get back on track when they forget or choose not to take care of themselves or each other.

The Intermediate school follows the District wide Discipline policy.

Playground Rules

Big pieces of equipment on the playground:

1. Use each piece of as intended.
2. Always walk in the equipment area.
3. Stay away from HS windows.

General Rules:

Show respect for yourself and others.
Use appropriate language.
Chose to use supervisors to deal with conflicts.

Logical Consequences

1st Violation: You will need to "take a break" on the playground bench.
2nd Violation: You will lose a privilege.

Fighting: Sent to office immediately.

All safety rules within a school system are established for the safety and protection of your child and other children.

Lunchroom Rules for Grades 5-6

1. Remain at your table unless given permission to leave.
2. Respect the rights of others.
3. Keep all food on your tray.
4. Keep the floor clean and pick up spills.
5. Always walk.
6. Keep hands and feet and objects to yourself.
7. Discard all food, cans, and trash when you leave the lunchroom.

Logical Consequences

1st Violation: You will need to "take a break" at the break table.

2nd Violation: You will lose a privilege.

Food throwing: Clean the floor and area where the food is located.

Fighting: Sent to office immediately.

ODDS & ENDS

The following is an information section regarding day-to-day expectations and procedures.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES/TREATS

Please let the teacher know ahead of time if you would like to send treats to class to celebrate your child's birthday. Treats must be commercially made. When planning your child's birthday party, send invitations to the homes of guests instead of sending invitations to school with the students. Those children not invited to the party are important to us as well. We wish to avoid hurt feelings if possible. Children need to be taught this by caring respectful adults.

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Classroom assignments are available approximately two weeks before school begins. The information is included in online registration.

The district has adopted a parent classroom input policy. Copies of the policy may be obtained in the office. All requests are due by May 1st and must follow the policy procedures. SPECIFIC TEACHER REQUESTS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN OUR ADOPTED POLICY.

A tremendous amount of time is spent choosing the very best teacher for the children based on their unique strengths, talents, peer relationships, parent requests and current teacher recommendations. We offer parents an opportunity to give us input, however the final decision rests with the professional staff and administration. Once the decisions are made, it becomes significantly more complicated and less likely that we can make last minute changes.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

We understand the need to enrich the academic experiences of our students. We provide a variety of experiences to meet this commitment. Teachers' instructional techniques include providing a variety of opportunities for student enrichment. These may include but not be limited to the following: differentiated instruction, enrichment through use of computers, Academic Triathlon, spelling bee, science fair, and any number of the unique contributions of individual teachers.

FORBIDDEN ITEMS

The following items have NO place at school: knives (even Swiss Army Boy Scout types), weapons of ANY kind, including toy weapons, cigarettes, drugs, water guns, rollerblades, skateboards, baseballs (hard balls), gum, iPods, personal iPads, Phones, Bluetooth Devices and electronic games. These items, plus anything that causes problems of control at school, will be taken from students, and a logical consequence will be assigned based upon the severity of the forbidden item.

HOLIDAYS

We strive to maintain a multi-cultural, gender fair and disability awareness in all matters, which directly influence the futures of our society's children. We continue to be totally supportive and accepting of all family belief systems. We provide varied and enriched learning opportunities designed to give children access to information and the confidence of knowing that their family traditions are respected.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found is located by in the main office. It fills to capacity during the year. We ask that students' names be put on all belongings. We remind students and parents to check the area frequently. Teachers take students past the lost and found every day on the way to PE and music class. We also display the articles of clothing at conference time to help with the retrieval of lost items. With all of this attention to detail about the lost and found, we still find we have an enormous amount of clothing in the lost and found each year-end. **What is left at school by the second week of June is donated to charitable organizations.**

OUTSIDE RECESS

Blooming Prairie Public School uses the following guidelines for determining when students go outside. Wind chill is the criteria used and is applied as follows:

*Warmer than -5 degrees wind chill outside – outside recess for all students
*Colder than -5 degrees wind chill outside - indoor recess for all students

All students must go outside on recess days.

***Note:** We occasionally receive requests from parents to keep a child in from recess because of illness. We strongly discourage this. If a child is too ill to be outdoors for a 15–25-minute exercise time, the child is probably too ill to be at school. There are medical exceptions such as asthma induced by cold weather.

If your child has a medical condition that would not benefit from outdoor recess, please contact the school's nurse with that information.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTO)

The Blooming Prairie Elementary PTO welcomes your membership and involvement. Look for an information form that was handed out on Day One. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join and attend the PTO meetings.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Our school contracts annually to have pictures taken of the school children at the open house. Information regarding prices, times, and days will be available in August.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The Blooming Prairie School's Child Study Team is a multidisciplinary team consisting of the principal, counselor, nurse, speech clinician, learning disability teachers, special education coordinator, and psychologist. The function of this team is to help provide the best possible learning situation for students.

These services can and do provide the following:

*Testing to find the child's potential
*Consulting and counseling with the parents
*Working with school staff and parents regarding special learning or behavior problems
*Referring parents and children to helping resources in the community
*Counseling students.

A child may be referred to the special education staff by any one of a number of people. Usually a referral is made by the teacher in conjunction with parents. A major objective of the counselor and school psychologist is to work closely with school staff and home, encouraging good communication and understanding of the child's needs.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE CLINICAL SERVICES

The services of a speech-language clinician are available at Blooming Prairie School. Clinics identify, diagnose and provide therapy to any student who qualifies for speech and/or language problems. Service to these students consists of enrollment in scheduled therapy and/or consultation with teachers and parents.

Referral for evaluation of a possible problem can be made by parents or any staff member. Referral forms are available from the clinician.

STUDENT SUCCESS DEPENDS ON ALL OF US

This list is a review of actions parents can take to support the school and ensure the best possible experience for student success during this school year.

1. Always call about student absences.
2. Set aside personal time to spend with each child reviewing the contents of their backpacks and school assignment book.
3. Help your child organize his/her belongings. Assign a place for him/her to collect these things, which is secure and dependable.
4. Monitor the time your child leaves for school. If he/she arrives too early, there is the possibility of too much unsupervised activity.
5. Remind children to treat all people with respect and dignity.
6. Teach responsible stranger awareness.
7. Should ANY concern arise, call your child's teacher first. The optimal education of your child is always a priority. If you do not express a concern, we cannot intervene.
8. Check for accuracy when students share stories. Information is sometimes distorted when it is interpreted by a child. If you are ever in doubt, call your child's teacher.
9. Plan to support the school's discipline expectations. This gives the child a clear message of a strong home/school partnership.
10. Schedule a set time for homework. If the child does not have any, keep the scheduled time and encourage the child to read a book of her/his choice. Reading incentive programs are ongoing. Help by encouraging, filling out the monitoring sheet and signing as a parent.

    Provide a well-balanced breakfast and the opportunity for an adequate amount of sleep each night.

    Become as actively involved in all facets of your child's school and education, as you are able. Studies have shown that an actively involved parent gives a caring and powerful message to the child about the importance of education. This message translates more broadly to all students in a school and achievement improves. If you have the time, come to school.

TESTING

The MCA tests are given annually to 5th, and 6th grade students.

Parents can help prepare a student considerably for any testing experience by doing the following:

1. Discuss the importance of testing and encourage your child to do his/her best work. Prepare your child for the anxiousness he/she might experience because of testing.

2. See that the child gets a good night's rest.

3. Try to keep leaving for school as routine as possible. If your child has to rush or get organized at the last minute, it may add to his/her anxiety.

2. Provide a good breakfast. When children are well prepared and knowledgeable about expectations, they perform better in new or unusual situations. We would be grateful to parents for this help during the testing weeks.

VIDEOS AT SCHOOL

We sometimes show videos at school. Just as you have discovered at home, children enjoy this activity. You may hear about a recent video from your child. We only show G rated videos and we are careful to provide specific reasons for showing the video. (We have had some children forget the specific reason, and think the video was just for fun!) These reasons may include the following:

Some videos are used as a "perk" for students meeting the high expectations established for behavior and academic achievement over a period of time.

Some videos are used to enhance or further the learning of a particular lesson or subject.

Some videos are used to draw attention to an issue.

Some videos are used to enhance learning by comparing a video version with a novel read in the classroom.

If your child brings a video to school to share, make sure it is a G rated video.

Blooming Prairie Intermediate
PBIS – Prairie Pride / The Blossom Way

- Blooming Prairie Intermediate is a PBIS school. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a framework for organizing strategies to enhance academic and social outcomes using data based decision-making.

- Prairie Pride
    - Each school year we will set 4 main expectations for our students.
        - Respect
        - Responsibility
        - Personal Growth
        - Safe & Responsible

- Our staff has set expectations in all areas of our school and will explicitly teach those expectations to our students.
    - Classrooms
    - Recess
    - Lunchroom
    - Hallways
    - Bathrooms
    - Bus

- Our goal is to explicitly teach expected behaviors, promote positive behaviors, and provide behavior interventions to meet the needs of all our students.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Statewide Assessments:
Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the Minnesota Academic Standards or the WIDA English Language Development Standards. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 districts and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education and statewide assessments give educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)
MCA and the alternate assessments (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)/Alternate MCA) are the annual assessments in reading, mathematics and science that measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards.

ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS for English Learners
The ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are the annual assessments for English learners that provide information about their progress in learning academic English, based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments helps families see a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results:

- For Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) in grade 10.
- For course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.

English learners who take the ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements, have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions on how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form below. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, the student would not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any additional consequences for not participating.

Explore the Statewide Testing page for more information.

(education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)

Additional Information

- On average, students spend less than 1% of instructional time taking statewide assessments each year.
- Minnesota statutes limit the total amount of time students can spend taking other district- or school-wide assessments to 11 hours or less each school year, depending on the grade.
- School districts and charter schools are required to publish an assessment calendar on their website by the beginning of each school year. Refer to your district or charter school's website for more information on assessments.

Statewide Assessment: Parent/Guardian Decision Not to Participate

By completing this form, you are acknowledging that your student will not participate in statewide assessments and will not receive individual assessment results.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current Grade in School: ____ Student ID Number (if known): _____

School: _____ District: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reason for Refusal: _____

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting your student out of this school year:

☐ MCA/MTAS Reading ☐ MCA/Alternate MCA Science

☐ MCA/MTAS Mathematics ☐ ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Contact your school or district for more information on how to opt out of local assessments.

(Note: This form is only applicable for the 20____ to 20 ____ school year.)