



Bloomfield Elementary School News Late Fall 2020



School Hours:

Parent and bus drop off begins at 7:45 AM. Students enter classrooms as soon as they arrive and begin eating breakfast or completing morning work. The instructional day begins at 8:15 AM. Students are late for school if they arrive after 8:15 AM. Teachers start the day with a morning meeting. This includes reviewing the daily schedule and any changes for the day. Parents/guardians should pick up between 2:00 PM and 2:10 PM. Buses are called beginning at 2:10 PM. The **whole** school day is important.

Words of the Week:

Each week a word of the week is introduced to the school community through the daily announcements. This year's words all relate to social-emotional learning and trauma informed awareness. The following words have been introduced so far: emotions, self-awareness, and self-esteem.

Monthly Whole School Meetings

On the last Friday of each month the whole school assembles for a Whole School Meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to build and maintain a safe and welcoming school community. Each meeting follows a consistent agenda including a mindful moment, greeting, celebrations, share, and closing with our school song. Our first whole school meeting will be by Zoom on Friday, October 30th, 2020.

Parent Group

The Parent Group meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5:00-6:00 PM through Zoom. Any parent that would like to help improve the Bloomfield Elementary experience and community is encouraged to attend. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 4th. This meeting will be to review the drive-through free family pumpkin giveaway and discuss further plans for the school year. Parents of in-person and remote learners are all welcome to attend.

Speech and Language:

Students that have Individual Education Plans (IEP) for speech and language services are now being served by *Launchpad Learning* Speech Language Pathologists Stephanie VanSoest, Whitney White and Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Shelly Cummings. Each speech/language student also has a special education teacher that is their case manager for meetings and completion of paperwork. Mrs. Grooms is the case manager for grade 1 & 2 students. Mrs. Spiller is the case manager for grade 3. You can reach Mrs. Grooms by emailing lgrooms@msad54.org and Mrs. Spiller by emailing dspiller@msad54.org.

Upcoming Dates and Events:

Monday, October 26: No School-Staff Workshop Day

Tuesday, November 3: Voting Day

Monday, November 11: No School-Veteran's Day

Friday, November 20: No School-Staff Workshop Day

Monday, November 23: 8:00-3:00, 4:00-7:00

Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 23-27: No School- Conferences, Workshop and Thanksgiving Break

Monday, December 14: No School-Staff Workshop Day

December 23- January 1: Holiday Break

Friday, January 15: No School-Staff Workshop Day

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

On Monday, November 23rd there will be no school for students in order for teachers to hold parent-teacher conferences. Soon you will be contacted by your child's classroom teacher to schedule an appointment. The purpose of the Parent-Teacher Conference is to provide you with a time to learn about how your child is growing compared to herself/himself and also compared to district standards of the grade level at this time of year. Our district requires conferences only one time per year. This is a great opportunity for you to partner with your child's teacher. Our goal is to achieve 100% parent/guardian participation.

Attendance:

Did you know that good attendance in kindergarten and first grade **is one of the strongest predictors of high school completion?** The Bloomfield Elementary goal for attendance is 95% of our students attending daily **in-person or remotely!** A good rule of thumb is *Strive for Five* (or fewer absences per year). If your child has any symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever (100.4 or greater), chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell or is vomiting he or she needs to be at home. He/she she must remain home for at least 24 hours fever free, without Tylenol or Ibuprofen, before returning to school. Your child can be healthy with good habits, including at least 8-10 hours of sleep, drinking lots of water, eating healthy meals, washing hands, getting at least an hour of exercise most days and brushing teeth.

Why are there so many new staff workshop days this year?:

You will notice that a number of staff workshop full days keep getting added to the calendar. Superintendent Moody and Assistant Superintendent Hatch have met with a Parent Advisory Committee weekly since school began. Parents from each school in the district have heard that teachers have had additional expectations placed upon them in order to teach in-person, use Google Classroom and other applications daily at school, and be ready to go full remote at any time. There is an incredible amount of new learning that teachers must do in order to fully use all the new technology that has been placed in their classrooms. The technology such as Promethean Boards, IPADS, new laptops and all the applications have been made available through COVID-19 relief funds. The funds are from the federal government to allow schools to be ready for hybrid and/or remote learning. Mr. Moody and Mr. Hatch have heard from parents that the calendar changes are very hard on all families. The district will try to give parents as much notice as possible to prepare for these changes. Thank you for your understanding and support of our frontline heroes~teachers, educational technicians, custodians, office assistants, cooks, bus drivers, school social workers, specialists, substitute teachers!

Classroom & Title I Interventions:

This year all of the district Title I teachers are currently assigned to teach remote learners at various grade levels. This is wonderful for our remote learners but tricky for our in-person learners. Due to this change in staffing and the needs for limiting the number of cohorts your children are exposed to, only a small number of students will be able to have Title I Services. Mrs. Withee (math) and Mrs. Herrick (reading) are spread very thin. First trimester reading and mathematics assessments have been completed. Mrs. Herrick is in a cohort with grade 1 students and is now serving students that appeared the neediest in reading and do not receive special education services. Mrs. Withee is in a cohort with grade two and is working with students that appeared of most concern in mathematics and do not receive special education services. Unfortunately, there are not any other interventions to provide reading or mathematics beyond the classroom teacher. On that note I would add that our classroom teachers are highly qualified to teach reading and mathematics including providing tier 1 (in class one to one and/or small group interventions. Additionally, in-person class size is lower than usual at an average of 14. With fewer students in-person it should mean each student can receive a little more time. The challenge for teachers is that some students were able to keep learning over last year's school closure and summer, and some were not. These means that the gap between the most abled students in class compared to the most challenged is wider than a typical year. In some cases that means if there are 14 kids, a teacher is probably teaching at 7 or more levels of reading, writing, and mathematics. Challenging indeed. Not a perfect situation but with your support and the strong team here we'll do our best for each child.

I appreciate your support and flexibility as Bloomfield Elementary Staff work to provide the safest environment possible in the current climate. **I hope to see some of you at the drive-through pumpkin pick-up this afternoon from 4:00-6:00 PM. Drive right towards the front door and a helper will be available to deliver a pumpkin and decorations to your vehicle.**

Respectfully,

Jean M. Pillsbury
Principal

