

BLOOMINGTON

Public Schools

SCHOOL PAGES

Fall 2018-19



A Message from Superintendent Les Fujitake

VISION FOR 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS



Superintendent Les Fujitake and Mayor Gene Winstead greet Westwood Elementary School students as they arrive on the first day of school.

Consider this: We are educating the first generation of the 21st century, born into a digitally interconnected world and likely to become the most diverse in U.S. history.

We are experiencing this generational change in our schools and classrooms. No previous student is like today's learner: more worldly and technologically savvy. They are more connected to information and to each other, and more in charge of what they learn than ever before.

Preparing students for a world that is rapidly evolving is not an easy task. Be assured that we welcome and embrace the challenge to prepare students to succeed in college, career and life.

We are nearly a quarter into the new century. The future is today! There is no time for delay in transforming our classrooms, schools, and the district into 21st century learning environments:

- Schools, classrooms and libraries are being fitted with modular furniture to enable collaboration and teamwork or independent study. High school cafeterias have morphed into university-like student centers. (See page 2.)

- A personal learning device for each student in grades 3-12 enables anytime-anywhere learning and access to the internet's robust digital content.
- Online learning courses allow independent study and frees up student schedules for internships, mentoring and career and college exploration.
- Auditoriums enjoy state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems to enrich the artistic performances of our students.
- Career and college counseling centers in each high school advise students along their learning journeys.
- A Personal Growth Plan (PGP) is each student's GPS to ensure the pathways taken avoid career and college misadventures.

We are committed to pioneering innovative learning, teaching and leadership practices to improve outcomes for students that help prepare them along their pathways to career and college. This foundational work will continue to transform our schools, classrooms, technology, safety and, most importantly, our students.

Balanced Tech Choices

Technology is an educational asset that provides students with greater ownership over what they learn, how they learn and how they demonstrate their learning. But many students and families need skills and support to balance technology use with other facets of life.

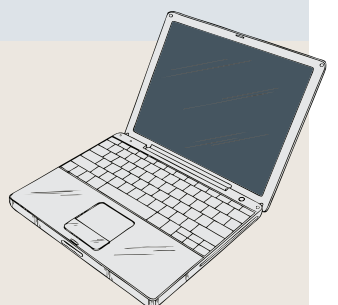
We believe there is value in the balanced use of technology in the classroom and beyond. We are committed to helping students, staff and families make choices that maximize technology's positive impacts.

BPS Balanced Tech Choices Plan

- Establishing media standards and lessons on digital citizenship.
- Teaching healthy tech habits and providing opportunities for students to reflect on technology in their lives.
- Helping families make informed choices about technology use at home.
- Providing a tool for families to create clear expectations and routines around technology use.
- Providing families with resources and contacts when misuse is a concern.
- Sharing monthly Family Tech Tips.
- Offering face-to-face engagement opportunities for families.
- Helping staff use a balanced approach to technology while providing student-centered learning opportunities.
- Providing teachers with tips for digital distraction and classroom management.

Learn more at bloomingtonschools.org/balanced-tech.

Family Tech Tip: Create a Family Media Plan



Create your family media plan and set up your school year for success

Children are immersed in digital resources for personal and educational use. Our students use devices to access educational content, collaborate and connect with peers and more, and we want students and families to be successful when devices are brought into the home.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents and caregivers develop a family media plan that considers the health, education and entertainment needs of students.

To help families start the discussion at home, family media plan resources are available at bloomingtonschools.org/tech-tips.

Career and College: A new way of thinking



One focus of the Pathways to Career and College plan is to change the traditional decision-making process most students and parents rely on as they make postsecondary plans.

We begin working with middle school students to explore their interests and talents. Throughout middle and high school, students have opportunities to learn about careers in their interest areas and gain insight through mentorships, internships and experiential learning. We also help match their career areas of interest with the postsecondary education or training needed and support students and parents in choosing the best option for each child.

Updated technology systems

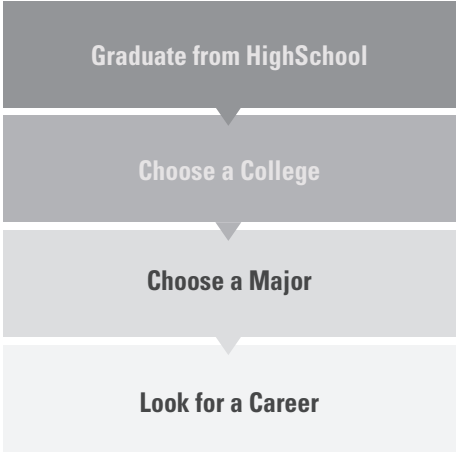
The updated Naviance Student experience is mobile-friendly and allows access to career and college research, application tools and Personal Growth Plan (PGP) activities. Features like the scattergram and strength explorer identify colleges and careers that match student interests.

A new academic progress and multi-year academic planner in Infinite Campus allows families and students to plan for high school courses and monitor progress toward graduation.



Boosting student outcomes

A soon-to-be released PGP Hub application will improve access and visibility to students' PGPs. As students complete activities, their PGPs are automatically updated. Easy to access on any device, students' progress will be available to counselors, and career and college center staff will be able to send notifications to students about opportunities that align with their goals.



OUT:
TRADITIONAL WAY OF THINKING



In case you missed it...
Visit bloomingtonschools.org/careers to check out our new video about how Bloomington is creating awareness about postsecondary options.

Improving learning environments

Spaces in Jefferson and Kennedy high schools and Ridgeview Elementary School were renovated over the summer to provide increased flexible learning space. The construction was done in conjunction with other projects at the three buildings and resulted in more welcoming media center and cafeteria spaces at both high schools and flexible learning spaces at all three schools outfitted with new flex furnishings.



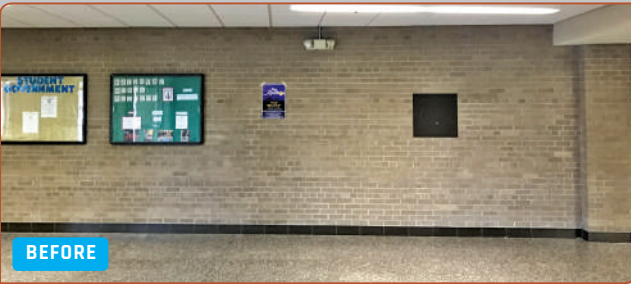
JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL



KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL



RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Paying It Forward: Parent of graduate finds dream job driving bus

To Tammy O’Loughlin-Vidmar, being a bus driver means much more than driving a bus.

It’s connecting with students every day. It’s making sure she pronounces their names correctly. It’s looking out for the safety of her riders, whether that means making sure they know how to cross the street safely or taking notice when something might be bothering them.

“Kids are our future,” said O’Loughlin-Vidmar. “Who knows where they will go. I have the opportunity every day to be a positive influence in their lives.”

O’Loughlin-Vidmar is in her third year as a bus driver for Bloomington Public Schools. It’s a job she’s dreamed of doing for a long time.

“When my son was young, I knew I wanted to be a bus driver,” she said, adding that it would have been nice to have a work schedule that coincided with her son’s school schedule. Although he is no longer in school, O’Loughlin-Vidmar is thankful that all these years later, she’s doing work she’s passionate about right in her own neighborhood.

Every school day, she transports students to and from Olson Middle School, Westwood Elementary School, Hillcrest Community School and Nativity of Mary School, a private school BPS contracts with to provide bus services. Outside of her morning and afternoon routes, she has the opportunity to pick up additional trips, like field trips and sports and activity charters. She also cleans buses during the summer months.



Although she loves getting to know her students, she understands the importance of establishing ground rules on her bus and leading by example. “I’m a mom. I know how to set boundaries, and kids respect that.” She believes setting expectations early and communicating with students leads to a calm and orderly culture on her bus.

The work isn’t without challenges. O’Loughlin-Vidmar says distracted drivers are especially frustrating. “People are texting, talking on the phone, putting on makeup, just not paying attention,” she said. “And a lot of drivers just don’t stop for buses when their lights are flashing, which is a traffic violation. I’m always on the lookout for drivers who cut off or pull out in front of busses.”

Despite the challenges, O’Loughlin-Vidmar feels she’s found her dream job.

Last spring, she received a letter from a mother of a middle school student on her bus, detailing how much O’Loughlin-Vidmar’s friendly presence and care for her daughter made a difference to their family during a difficult time in her daughter’s life.

“That was the best gift I could have received,” O’Loughlin-Vidmar said.



Performing Arts Calendar

Jefferson HS fall band concert	Oct. 11	7 p.m.
Kennedy HS fall band concert	Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.
Kennedy Theatre Company fall play: The Diary of Anne Frank	Oct. 26-27	7 p.m.
Jefferson HS indoor marching band concert	Oct. 26-27	7 p.m.
Jefferson HS indoor marching band concert	Oct. 28	2 p.m.
Jefferson & Kennedy HS fall orchestra concert	Nov. 1	7 p.m.
Olson MS one act play: Snow White’s Variety Show	Nov. 8-9	6:30 p.m.
Oak Grove MS choir concert	Nov. 15	5:30, 6:30, 7:30 p.m.
Kennedy HS Show Choir pasta dinner & show	Nov. 16	5:30 p.m.
Oak Grove MS Band Concert	Dec. 4	5:30, 6:30, 7:30 p.m.
Olson MS 6th Grade and Dolce Choir concert	Dec. 4	6 p.m.
Olson MS 7th Grade and Dolce Choir concert	Dec. 4	7 p.m.
Olson MS 8th Grade and Dolce Choir concert	Dec. 4	8 p.m.
Jefferson Theatre Company fall play: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	Dec. 6-8	7 p.m.
	Dec. 8	3 p.m.
Kennedy HS holiday show	Dec. 6-8	7 p.m.
Oak Grove MS orchestra concert	Dec. 6	7, 8, 8:30 p.m.
Valley View MS band concert, grades 7 and 8	Dec. 11	6:30 p.m.
Valley View MS orchestra concerts	Dec. 13	6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Olson MS 6th & 7th grade “A” day Band Concert	Dec. 13	6 p.m.
Olson MS Jazz Band 6th grade “B” day band, 8th grade “A” day band concert	Dec. 13	6:50 p.m.
Olson MS 7th & 8th grade “B” day band concert	Dec. 13	8 p.m.
Jefferson HS winter choir concert	Dec. 15	7 p.m.
Olson MS orchestra winter concert	Dec. 18	7 p.m.
Valley View MS choir concerts	Dec. 18	6, 7, 8 p.m.
Jefferson HS winter band concert	Dec. 18	7 p.m.
Kennedy HS winter band concert	Dec. 20	7 p.m.

Become a Bloomington School Bus Driver

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and 10 paid holidays per year

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bloomingtonschools.org/apply
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transportation@isd271.org
952-681-6300



Public Schools

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Artwork created by **Jaiden Munar** (Olson Middle School) earned honorable mention in the Minnesota State Fair art show displayed in the Education Building.
- The College Board Advanced Placement (AP) program has recognized one AP International Diploma recipient, 11 National AP Scholars, 43 AP Scholars with Distinction, 26 AP Scholars with Honor and 111 AP Scholars from Bloomington **Jefferson** and **Kennedy high schools**. View the full list of students at bit.ly/AP-Scholars.
- Six seniors from Bloomington’s Jefferson and Kennedy high schools are semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. **Charles Maki, Max Mallinger, Ryan Martz, Amelia Miller, Isabella Phan** and **Emily Wammer** are candidates for a merit scholarship to be awarded early next year. Another 10 students are National Merit Commended Students, performing in the top 5 percent of entrants on the qualifying test: **Joshua French, Alexandra Janey, Kaija Johnson, Isabel Matias, Ryan Meany, Claire Miller, Logan Redding, William Titus, Skylar Volden** and **Jennavieve Zimmerman**.
- Bloomington schools named Recognition Schools by the Minnesota Department of Education as part of its new North Star Accountability Program are **Hillcrest Community School; Indian Mounds, Normandale Hills, Olson, Ridgeview, Valley View** and **Westwood elementary schools**; and **Oak Grove** and **Valley View middle schools**.
- Jefferson High School social studies teacher **Sarah Dahl-Wyland** is one of 50 American Geography Society (AGS) Geography Teacher Fellows from across the country.
- Jefferson High School inducted seven new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame: **Cole Aldrich, Justin Hall, Luke MacLean, Wayne Mandery, Kim (Magee) Robinson, Kristina Sheridan** and **Duncan Susee**.
- Kennedy High School inducted five new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame: **Bob Block, Todd Buelow, Dave Garin, Chuck McCan** and **Art Seplak**.
- Jefferson High School junior **Jillayne Clarke** and senior **Emily Wammer** have earned perfect scores on the ACT. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of students taking the ACT earn a top score of 36.



IN THE KNOW

Preparing for Winter Weather

In the event of inclement weather, our Severe Weather Team follows a set of guidelines to determine whether conditions warrant school cancellation or early release. Our severe weather procedures aim to minimize the loss of instructional time while being mindful of student and employee safety.

In general, the district will remain open unless absolutely necessary, even in severe weather, as we know cancelling classes is an inconvenience to families. We realize a severe weather decision may not fit with individual parent or family circumstances. Parents are encouraged to use their judgement to determine what is best for their children.

Learn more at bloomingtonschools.org/severe-weather.

Kindergarten Registration Events

Our elementary schools will offer kindergarten open house and registration events for incoming fall 2019 families.



Hillcrest Community School	Feb. 12, 2019	4:30-5:30 p.m.
Indian Mounds Elementary School	Jan. 24, 2019	5-7 p.m.
Normandale Hills Elementary School	Jan. 29, 2019	6-7 p.m.
Oak Grove Elementary School	Jan. 29, 2019	6-7 p.m.
Olson Elementary School	Jan. 31, 2019	6-7:30 p.m.
Poplar Bridge Elementary School	Jan. 29, 2019	6-7 p.m.
Ridgeview Elementary School	Jan. 24, 2019	6-7:30 p.m.
Valley View Elementary School	Feb. 7, 2019	5:30-7 p.m.
Washburn Elementary School	Jan. 29, 2019	5-6 p.m.
Westwood Elementary School	Jan. 31, 2019	6-7 p.m.

Attendance Matters

A new district-wide campaign aimed at improving daily student attendance encourages families to ensure students are in school every day, with a goal of no more than five days absent in a year.

Building good attendance habits has a lasting impact. A recent analysis of Bloomington testing data shows a link between chronic low attendance and lower academic test scores. Research also indicates that chronic low attendance in early grades impacts reading progress and, by 6th grade, is a leading indicator that a student is more likely to drop out of school.

Dimensions Academy High School Grads

The inaugural class of Dimensions Academy High School (DAHS) graduated last spring. The cohort collectively earned more than 1,800 college credits at an estimated value of \$37,875 (based on \$500 per credit at the University of Minnesota).

The two dozen students entered DAHS in 2014 and graduated with their Jefferson and Kennedy high school classmates in May.

DAHS is a two-year program open to academically gifted 9th and 10th grade students. DAHS students take college and high school classes, with the opportunity to earn 35 semester credits from Normandale Community College over two years. Many DAHS students earn additional college credits in 11th and 12th grade through postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO), Advanced Placement and concurrent enrollment courses.

Learn more about DAHS at bloomingtonschools.org/DAHS.

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Editor: Rick J. Kaufman, APR
Executive Director of Community
Relations
952.681.6403

Writers: Andrea George, Kate Martin
Photos: Andrea George

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