
BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The Becker School District is committed to the academic, social, and emotional wellbeing of every student. Accordingly, we have many programs in place to ensure that every student feels safe and secure. Contact and reporting information for students and parents is included in the information below.

Becker School District Mental Health Intervention Programs

- The school district has added 13 social worker/mental health mental health positions since 2015 (EC/PS 5, IS 3, MS 3, HS 2.) We have funded these positions through a variety of grants, funding sources, and partnerships with other agencies.
- The school district has been working with SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) since 2013. SAVE is a national organization that provides research-based and best practice recommendations to prevent suicides. A SAVE representative provided training for all school staff in August of 2014. The training informed staff of indicators, which students may exhibit suggesting they are in need of mental health support. Additional resources were provided to the school staff, which included how to refer students in need of help and information related to the socio-emotional wellbeing of students. Dr. Dan Reitenberg from S.A.V.E returned to the school district in March 2017 to continue to work with administrators and mental health professionals on suicide prevention strategies.
- School administrators, counselors, social workers, and school psychologists were trained by National Association of School Psychologists during summer 2018 in Suicide Risk Assessment and Threat Assessment protocols.
- Heather Forbes - a nationally expert on Developmental Trauma held information and training sessions for all school staff, regional mental health professionals and parents/community members in March of 2018.
- Dr. Mark Sanders, an expert in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) held

training and information sessions for regional mental health professionals and school staff in March of 2019.

- The school district is also partnering with the CentraCare Monticello Bounce Back project to promote the development of resiliency and healthy lifestyles. Bounce Back is used in Health Education classes.
- Healthy Community Events took place in the fall of 2014 and 2015. Sherburne County, the school, churches, and several mental health agencies had information, and personnel available during the resource fair. The 2014 program featured the national SAVE director, and a panel discussion, which included students, parents, mental health professionals, and a law enforcement representative. The 2015 program featured Kevin Hines, an award-winning global speaker, bestselling author, suicide prevention and mental health advocate.
- The school health curriculum provides mental health coping skills for students and includes strategies to help students make responsible choices.
- The school district recently began a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health. MDE's Psychological First Aid (PFA) program helps school staff after a crisis. This program reduces psychological stress, so staff can better assist students.
- Nancy Riestenberg, The School Climate Specialist at The Minnesota Department of Education met with the Becker School administrators in 2018. She shared information about All Hazards planning framework which focuses on prevention, intervention, response and recovery.
- District and school administrators and mental health staff were trained in the PREPaRE response and recovery framework in 2015. This psychological triage framework is used by the school district team to respond to crisis and loss events.
- TRAK (Together Reaching Area Kids) was formed in the fall of 2013. Membership includes Becker School Staff, Dylan's Hope Foundation, Becker Police Department, Spiritual Leaders, Sherburne County Health and Human Services, Parents, Mental Health Professionals, CentraCare, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, and Sherburne County Probation. The committee was formed in response to concerns for the youth of the Becker Community. TRAK activities to date include Healthy Community Events and Resource Fairs, sending students to the MN High School Suicide Prevention Youth Summit, sending school staff members to be trained by the SEARCH Institute <http://www.search-institute.org> conducting a developmental assets survey of all Becker students and establishing goals to increase developmental assets, and hosting a community events to explain and promote the developmental assets.
 - Dylan's Hope Foundation is a local non-profit organization, which brings awareness about suicide and mental illness. The school district has partnered with Dylan's Hope to fund individual student counseling, student support groups, and other mental health initiatives in our schools including the Health Community Event, which addressed mental health issues last October.

High School

- Two social worker/mental health professionals have recently been added to the staff.
- [Wellness Center](#): The Becker High School partners with community mental health agencies to provide additional support for students when they are in crisis. Services provided include individual counseling, chemical health education, truancy prevention, and nutrition awareness. The Wellness Center exists to assist staff and several co-located providers in providing quality programming and therapies to Becker students. With this model of delivery, we are able to greatly increase access for students, as well as decrease the wait time usually associated with many of these services.
- The Becker HS food shelf is providing food on a regular basis to approximately many families. Counseling staff within the Wellness Center also has access to food/snacks to ensure their clients have a positive experience.
- The “WeCare Club” - The mission of the BHS WeCare Club is to “inspire learning and action that supports student citizenship and creates tangible change in our school, community and the world.” The WeCare Club is open to any BHS student who is willing to meet at least once a quarter during lunch and to participate in volunteer efforts. Recently the club completed 2500 notes of kindness to students and staff.
- The Sherburne County Substance Use Prevention Coalition. This county-wide alliance is working to decrease chemical usage among young people. For example a recent survey showed that 60% of Becker High School 11th graders did not use alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs during the past year. Furthermore, of the 11th grade boys who use alcohol, 54% obtained it from their parents or other family members.
- The BHS DREAM (Drug Related Education & Awareness Mentors) team is a group of students committed to be drug and alcohol free and encourage others to do the same.
- The high school health curriculum provides mental health coping skills for students and includes strategies to help students make responsible choices.
- Becker Safe Schools Committee meets quarterly to address at risk behavior exhibited by students. The committee includes numerous county and local agencies.
- High School students have access to the crisis text line by texting to 741741. Students can text anytime about any type of crisis. Students can then text with a licensed crisis counselor.
- Becker HS contracts with Recovery Plus to host a Chemical Health Educator during the school year for 4 hours per week. The CHE meets with students and is also a resource for parents.
- Becker Middle School and High School adopted Project Northland and Class Action curriculum this year through the SCSUPC. Staff from both the MS and HS were trained in this program. Becker is the only school district in Sherburne County to adopt this Hazelden curriculum which research shows has an impact on lowering alcohol and marijuana usage among students.

- Anonymous online reporting for bullying is available at <https://beckerschools.wufoo.com/forms/bullying/>
- For assistance with your child's social emotional needs or to learn more about available programs, please contact: Rick Toso, Principal (763 261 4501) rtoso@isd726.org; Brian Baloun, Assistant Principal (763 261 4501) bbaloun@isd726.org; Heather Eigen, School Counselor (763) 261 4501, ext 3121 (Students with last names A-K), heigen@isd726.org; Margaret Smude, School Counselor (763-261-4501 ext. 3125), (Students with last names L-Z) mmsmude@isd726.org;

Middle School

- Three social workers/mental health professionals have recently been added to the staff.
- Check and Connect is a program for students with attendance issues. Through daily contact with at risk students, staff members determine causes for absences and address issues with families such as anxiety and friendship issues.
- Last month a resource table was available in middle school commons during parent/teacher/student conferences. Information for parents relating to dealing with grief and talking with children about death and dying was available.
- The Becker Middle School Community promotes academic achievement and success through the three R's: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and RELATIONSHIPS. This serves as the foundation of our school.
- Becker Middle School is implemented a Multi-Tiered System of Support. Our Tier I programming targets effective practices for building a healthy learning community and culture. It is research based and follows the principles of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. The philosophy and strategies utilized throughout the building are aimed at promoting a positive and caring culture that values, recognizes, and rewards respectful and caring behavior toward others. Programming such as Matrix Minutes and Wednesday morning community meetings focuses on topics relevant to early adolescence and developing skills necessary to be successful in the middle school years and beyond.
- Victoria Powell, Asst. County Attorney, delivers a powerful presentation to 7th and 8th graders about bullying and provides students strategies to stop bullying as well as ways to deal with bullying.
- The School Liaison Officer serves as a resource to assist administrators and staff address matters of safety that have the potential of negatively impacting the learning environment.
- The media specialist teachers provide information to students about internet safety and responsible use of technology including discussions about the consequences of bullying through the internet and with cell phones.
- Becker Middle School administrators regularly review the bullying policy at the beginning of each year with teachers and students and repeat the message with each

grade level either quarterly or at a minimum, at the beginning of first and second semesters.

- Safe Space training was provided to district principals and other administration as well as district mental health team members. The trainers provided data and information pertaining to sexual orientation and bullying as well as strategies for educators/schools to address and prevent bullying relating to sexual orientation.
- Mental health and various aspects of safety are addressed within our middle school core curriculum in classes such as Health 7, Life Skills 7 & 8, PE, Media, and Tech Ed.
- Anonymous online reporting for bullying is available at <https://beckerschools.wufoo.com/forms/bullying/>
- For assistance with your child's social / emotional needs or to learn more about available programs, please contact: Chantel Boyer, Principal (763 261 6333) cboyer@isd726.org; Mark Kolbinger, Assistant Principal (763 261 6333) mkolbinger@isd726.org; Julie Fox, Counselor (763 261 6333) jfox@isd726.org

Intermediate School

- Three social workers/mental health professionals have recently been added to the staff.
- Collaborating with Central MN Mental Health: provided a parent workshop to discuss grief, loss, and provide area resources.
- Central Minnesota Mental Health partnered with the school to host a parent information session. Parents received resources, including children's literature suggestions to parents to help their students with mental health related issues.
- Provided research based perseverance and resiliency education for all students using criterion from The Search Institute.
- The Search Institute REACH program has been implemented in all classrooms. This social emotional program focuses on Relationships, Effort, Aspiration, Cognition, and Heart.
- Weekly school-wide Team Rock meetings focusing on building a positive school climate, anti-bullying, respect, and citizenship.
- The behavior specialist and school social worker provide small group and individual support and research-based intervention to support at-risk students.
- Check and Connect is a program for students with attendance issues. Through daily contact with at risk students, staff members determine causes for absences and address issues with families such as anxiety and friendship issues.
- Every Student, Every Day - Staff greet every student at the door every day to build a relationship of trust.
- Anonymous online reporting for bullying is available at <https://beckerschools.wufoo.com/forms/bullying/>
- For assistance with your child's social / emotional needs or to learn more about available programs, please contact: Dr. Christine Glomski, Principal (763 261 4504)

cglomski@isd726.org; Mark Graham, Assistant Principal (763 261 4504)
mgraham@isd726.org

Primary School

- Five social workers/mental health professionals have recently been added to the staff.
- A school wide Positive Behavior System "Being your Bulldog Best" focuses on helping students to be kind, caring, ready and safe. School wide expectations are taught using a matrix that is reinforced every Wednesday at Bulldog Pack meetings.
- A social emotional curriculum – Barky Academy has been developed by school staff and is used in all classroom.
- The Behavior Specialist and school social worker teaches the Second Step program to Kindergarten students to help build positive social and behavior skills.
- The Behavior Specialist and school social workers intervene with small groups of students using Sunshine Circles and Check and Connect programs to support at risk students.
- Anonymous online reporting for bullying is available at <https://beckerschools.wufoo.com/forms/bullying/>
- For assistance with your child's social emotional needs or to learn more about available programs, please contact: Dale Christensen, Principal (763 261 6330) dchristensen@isd726.org; Erica Rusin, erusin@isd726.org