

Changes to the BHS 2025-26 Student Handbook

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Bison Online

- Added section referencing Bison Online

• BISON ONLINE

Buffalo High School offers a comprehensive and supplemental option for students enrolled in BHM Schools to learn in an online format. Students that are interested in attending school through Bison Online should make an appointment with their school counselor to discuss options. Students that are enrolled in Bison Online must follow the policies and procedures outlined in this Handbook and the Bison Online Student Handbook.

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Graduation Requirements

- Eliminated the class of 2025 and added class of 2029
- GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each trimester course at BHS will earn a student ½ credit toward graduation. Students must take a minimum number of total credits and earn credits within a number of required areas set forth by the BHM School Board and the MN Department of Education. Due to the recent transition from a four-quarter schedule to a three-trimester schedule, each graduating class has slightly different requirements. See a summary below:

Class of 2025: 29 credits needed of 31 possible

Class of 2026: 28 credits needed of 30.5 possible

Class of 2027 - 2029: 27.5 credits needed of 30 possible

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• ACT OPTIONAL TESTING AND REGISTRATION

Buffalo High School offers a one time, during high school, option for Juniors or Seniors to take the ACT or Accuplacer test at no cost to families. These college entrance exams are important for students who may be considering a 2-year or 4-year college or university. These exams are helpful in determining a student's college readiness. Many scholarship opportunities are impacted by ACT results as well. Please see your school counselor if you have additional questions regarding post-secondary entrance/placement exams.

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Academic Eligibility Guideline for Activities

- Modified language for students failing 2 or more classes to incorporate an academic support plan as an intervention to maintain eligibility.

● ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES

All students intending to participate in co-curricular activities must meet minimum academic guidelines for eligibility. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a student being ineligible until they have successfully demonstrated they can meet academic expectations.

- All co-curricular participants must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation. This is defined as having enough credits in order to graduate on time during a student's 12th grade year. Please see the BHS Registration Guide for specific graduation requirements by graduating class.
- Any co-curricular participant that is failing more than one (1) class at or after the mid-trimester mark ~~will be considered~~ **may be placed** on academic probation. In order to maintain eligibility, the student must meet with the Activities Director and create a plan for academic improvement, within five (5) days of the student being declared on academic probation. If a student fails to follow these guidelines, he/she will be considered academically ineligible until determined by the Activities Director.
- **Any student that fails more than one (1) class in a trimester, and is still on track to graduate on time, may be placed on academic probation. Any student on academic probation will be expected to work with administration, a school counselor or other support person, and their parent/guardian to create and follow an academic support plan. Students failing to create and follow an academic support plan may be considered ineligible for the next activity season following the trimester. A student must pass all classes in the new trimester to recover his/her academic eligibility. Until a student completes a trimester successfully with no failed classes, he/she will remain academically ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities at the high school.**
- Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that modifies graduation outcomes, must be making satisfactory progress toward the goals of the IEP as determined by the student's IEP team.
- Any student requesting consideration of significant extenuating circumstances affecting his/her grades beyond the control of the student may submit a request to the principal within five (5) school days of being declared ineligible. The request must state the significant extenuating circumstances and substantiated facts.
- A student and/or parent may file an appeal petition with the principal.

#5: Page 12 - Grading System

- Reference to the impact an incomplete grade may have on a student earning or being recognized for academic achievement.

● GRADING SYSTEM

Buffalo High School's grading system is based on the following grade-point system:

(A+/A) = 4.0	(B) = 3.00	(C) = 2.00	(D) = 1.00
(A-) = 3.67	(B-) = 2.67	(C-) = 1.67	(D-) = 0.67
(B+) = 3.33	(C+) = 2.33	(D+) = 1.33	(F) = 0.00

Students will be recognized for scholastic achievement by a published honor roll. To be included on the "A" honor roll, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.67 or above. To be included on the "B" honor roll, students must achieve a grade point average from 3.00 to 3.66.

~~If you have an incomplete grade, your name may not appear on the published honor roll.~~ **Incomplete grades may impact a student's ability to earn academic awards and/or be publicly recognized.** CIS classes require that students receive both a high school grade and a college grade.

#6: Page 14/15 - Advance Notification

- More detailed information regarding prior approval for absences and replicating classwork.

- **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION**

Missing school is a major disruption to learning and classroom experiences often cannot be replicated. Whenever possible, please avoid missing school for activities, vacations, and other scheduled or prearranged activities. Excusal of an advanced notice absence will be at the discretion of administration. Students planning to be absent should contact the main office for appropriate documentation and request forms. Failure to receive prior approval may result in an absence being considered “Unexcused”.

Homework must be completed in advance of the absence or other arrangements should be made with your teachers. Examples: College fairs, state tournaments, family vacations. **Classwork and/or activities in the classroom that cannot be replicated, may be replaced with an alternative assignment in order for a student to earn credit.**

#7: Page 16 - Cell Phones, Smart Watches, and Earbuds or Headphones

- Update location of storage of devices during class.

General Guidelines

All students are expected to have daily access to a charged learning device, not a cell phone. If a student needs access to a chromebook, these are available through Buffalo High School. Students may NOT use cell phones, smart watches, earbuds/headphones, other personal electronic devices during class time - bell to bell. Students may only use these devices if they have the expressed permission of the teacher, within the classroom, and it is being used for academic tasks only. Personal device use is limited to before and after school, during passing time, and the cafeteria during lunch. **All electronic devices should be kept off and stored in a teacher-determined location (e.g. pocket chart), or stowed in a backpack or locker during school hours.**

#8: Page 22 - Assessments and Screeners

- Annual language update on assessments and screeners

All New:

ASSESSMENT AND SCREENERS

BHM Schools uses the following academic and behavioral screeners to help identify student progress:

Screener	Fall (Sept-Oct)	Winter (Jan-Feb)	Spring (May)
earlyReading	Gr K-1	Gr K-1	Gr K-1
CBM-R Curriculum Based Measure of Oral Reading	Gr 2-5	Gr 2-5	Gr 2-5
aReading	Gr 2-8	Gr 2-5 optional - site dependent	Gr 2 Gr 3-5 optional - site dependent
aMath	Gr 2-8	Gr 2-5 optional - site dependent	Gr 2 Gr 3-5 optional - site dependent
mySAEBRS (Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener)	Gr 2-12		Gr 2-12

More information about assessments, including more specific dates, can be found under [Testing & Assessments](#) on the BHM Schools website.

If you have questions about your child’s screening scores, please contact your child’s teacher.

AGENCY SURVEY

In addition, BHM Schools administers the following survey to monitor district progress towards achieving the Student Agency goals outlined in the [Portrait of a Graduate](#). As outlined in [Policy 520 Student Surveys](#), a parent/guardian has the opportunity to review the survey and to opt their student(s) out of participating in the survey by contacting the school.

Screener	Fall (Sept-Oct)	Winter (Jan-Feb)	Spring (May)
Student Agency Survey	Gr 4-12		Gr 4-12