

**School Board Workshop:**

**August 14, 2023**

**Subject:**

BHS Student Handbook

**Presenter:**

**Ed Cox, BHS Assistant Principal**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Review

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Changes to the BHS 2023-24 Student Handbook**

**#1: Page - 3**

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

- Add crisis hotline information for county and state as required by a new state statute.

Any student who is **struggling with suicide or in crisis**, or know of someone in crisis, can access the following resources:

- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** Call or Text - 988
- **Four County Crisis Response Team:** Call - (800)635-8008

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**NUTRITION SERVICES**

- Breakfast and lunch prices removed. Language changed to support the Free Meals for Kids Program:

2022–2023 Student Meal Costs: Breakfast –\$2.10; Lunch –\$3.10; Milk Only –\$0.50

Free Meals for Kids Program allows one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal per student each day. Additional ala carte items will be charged to the meal account.

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**Daily Schedule**

- Update Daily Schedule to reflect transition to Trimesters

**Daily Schedule:**

8:50 - 9:53	1st Hour
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9:58 - 11:01	2nd Hour
11:06 - 11:31	Advisory (Monday & Friday) BASE (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
11:36 - 1:09	3rd Hour & Lunch
1:14 - 2:17	4th Hour
2:22 - 3:25	5th Hour

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##### WTC Student Expectations

- Adjusted language regarding student attendance at WTC to match the new schedule. Students that are at WTC will not be in the building for BASE and Advisory time.

On those days that BHS is in session, but WTC is not, WTC students will be allowed to leave campus unless a parent notifies us that the student must stay at school. WTC students may be allowed to be off campus on uniquely scheduled days (e.g. early release, late start) or they may be directed to stay in the cafeteria during their regularly scheduled WTC time. There are limited seats available for WTC and students need to be in good standing both academically and behaviorally to continue to access this program. Students in WTC fourth block classes are to follow the WTC schedule for that day. Inquiries may be directed to Dana Watters, 763.682.4112.

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##### Graduation Requirements

- Information regarding changing graduation requirements for each grade in the transition to trimesters.

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 of Education 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 2024 - 29.5 credits needed of 31.5 possible

Class of 2025 - 29 credits needed of 31 possible

Class of 2026 - 28 credits needed of 30.5 possible

Class of 2027 - 27.5 credits needed of 30 possible

~~Students need 30 credits to graduate. Some students could earn 32 credits.~~

## #6: Page9

### ACT Testing and Registration

- Adjusted language to highlight that students have access to one opportunity to take the ACT during school, at no cost, during EITHER there Junior or Senior year.

Buffalo High School offers a **one time, during high school, option for Juniors or Seniors** to take the ACT test ~~to all Juniors each spring~~ at no cost to families. The ACT test is a college entrance exam that is important for students who may be considering a 4-year college or university. This exam is 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 the ACT or other post-secondary entrance/placement exams.

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### Academic Dishonesty

- Include a statement regarding the use of artificial intelligence and academic dishonesty.

All BHS students are expected to adhere to the fundamental values of academic integrity, which include honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Scholastic dishonesty is defined as cheating on assignments or tests, plagiarizing, altering, fabricating, forging or acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to dishonestly obtain homework, tests or grades. **Unless explicitly stated by the teacher of a class, the use of online and artificial intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT, will be considered academic dishonesty.**

## #8: Page 10

### Academic Excellence Awards

- Adjustments made to student eligibility due to the transition to trimesters

Buffalo High School recognizes superior academic achievement. A special program will be held in the spring to honor students. Students are eligible for departmental awards determined by teachers. Two senior students will be selected to be inducted into the Buffalo High School Hall of Fame. Seniors are eligible for the Presidential Academic Excellence Awards (3.67 cumulative GPA). Students must be at BHS for at least **six classes during trimesters one and two** ~~2 full terms (at least eight classes) during terms 1 through 3~~ of the current school year to be eligible for AE awards. This includes PSEO and transfer students.

## #9: Page 15

### Parking Permits

- Due to trimesters, we need to change the fee structure for parking permits.

Snowmobiles and motorcycles must be registered and parked in designated areas. **A parking fee of \$100.00 for the school year or \$35/trimester if purchased after the start of trimester two is required to park in the BHS lots,** ~~per year (or \$50.00 if student starts driving after first semester)~~ parking fee and an application must be received to obtain a validated student parking permit for parking on campus. Only one vehicle from the parking application may use the permit on any day. Any additional drivers or vehicles must purchase a daily permit for \$3.00.

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### **Active Shooter Drills**

- In accordance with new state legislation, we are communicating our plan for active shooter drills.

Independent School District 877 shall take proactive measures to eliminate violence in our schools by protecting children and employees whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through acts of violence. Each school will strive to make schools safe by promoting safe and secure learning and working environments. In accordance with state laws, BHS will conduct at least one active shooter (lockdown) drill with students. This training will include parental notification, voluntary opt-out of participation, and follow-up debriefing with students. Please see BHS communication for more information regarding dates and opt-out processes. Additionally, students are encouraged to “say something if you see something” that is a potential threat to student, staff, or visitor health and safety.

## #11: Page 17

### **RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

With the 2023 Legislative session, under Minnesota law, a school district may not designate a student’s home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as “directory information”. This has been reflected in the handbook.

## #12: Page 18

### **Public Notice**

- Update and clarifying language regarding public notice of surveys and where families can find this information.

#### ● PUBLIC NOTICE

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose ISD 877 gives notice to the parents or guardians of currently enrolled students regarding student surveys. Periodically, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools will use survey tools to gather a variety of information regarding student progress. Students and parents can find information regarding these policies and practices in the School Board adopted policy #515, which can be found on the district website at: [bhmschools.org/policies](http://bhmschools.org/policies).

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- BHS Student Handbook