



Burlington Middle School

Unified School District #244

720 Cross Street, Burlington, KS 66839

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Dear Board of Education and Superintendent Marshall,

The following provides an overview of BMS's notable accomplishments, along with the primary areas of focus, growth, and transition that will be emphasized throughout the 2026–2027 school year.

Building/Program Successes

- ✓ The BMS staff is exceptional—demonstrating teamwork, flexibility, and a strong commitment to one another and our students. Throughout the year, staff members consistently stepped up to cover classes during substitute shortages, embodying a culture of collaboration and support. Our school environment is positive and focused on student growth.
- ✓ The implementation of our TEAM Days had a positive impact on student culture, creating opportunities for students in grades 5–8 to collaborate and build relationships through a variety of engaging activities.
- ✓ The grant opportunities of the Burlington Academics Support Foundation. Senior Prom and in the fall of 2026 our new mentor program for students.
- ✓ Devra Parker as our Instructional Coach continues to be a valuable asset in supporting teacher growth and enhancing instructional practices throughout the building
- ✓ We are proud to share that 26 of our 28 extracurricular activities were recognized as *Distinguished* by KSHSAA, meaning participating students maintained a GPA between 3.25 and 4.0. The two that did not meet the qualification did not have any participants.
- ✓ Students involved in our extracurricular activities continue to excel academically, maintaining a collective GPA of 3.77—demonstrating strong commitment both in and out of the classroom.
- ✓ We continue to host well-organized and efficiently run events, consistently receiving positive feedback from visitors and fans outside of Burlington
- ✓ HIIPS (High Impact Instructional Practices and Strategies) has been very well received and beneficial for staff. We will continue with HIIPS 3 and 4 during the 2026-27 school year.
- ✓ Our Student of the Month program celebrates students who exemplify the 8 Keys of Success and is sponsored by Fittings Export and Fittings Export.
- ✓ Our Student of the Month program that was aligned to our 8- keys of success sponsored by Fittings Export.
- ✓ Parent/Teacher Conference participation exceeded 85%, reflecting strong family engagement and a shared commitment to student success.
- ✓ Cat Time continues to play a vital role in building strong relationships between students and staff. According to our Trusted Adult Survey, 98% of students reported having a trusted adult at BMS—reflecting the strength of our school culture and our commitment to meaningful connections.
- ✓ For the fourth consecutive year, we are offering Summer Conditioning for our 7th and 8th grade students in preparation for their upcoming athletic seasons in the 2026–2027 school year. On the first day we had 51 students attend. The first year summer conditioning started for middle school students we had 28 students.
- ✓ We have a fantastic group of students. While some face challenges, we've seen meaningful growth and progress from them throughout the year as individual students. This is a huge credit to both students and the staff.
- ✓ Completed 53 on campus physicals for 6-8 grade students on May 12. Big thank you to Coffey County Health for supplying the providers and taking the time to help our kids get their physicals done for an affordable price on campus.
- ✓ 2025-26 Pioneer League Champions in: 8th grade football, 7/8 grade boys basketball, 7th grade boys basketball, 8th grade Scholars Bowl, 7th grade girls basketball, 8th grade boys track and field

- ✓ We were also very fortunate with our athletic event workers at the middle school level this year. We had excellent help from both school and non-school employees alike, we had great table workers at basketball games, help from BHS athletes during volleyball and track season, and folks from every school contributing to our bigger events like wrestling and scholars bowl. We'd be unable to host efficient and effective events without them. Our tech staff also for their help with the BMS wrestling invitational and to our track coaches for all of their assistance with our 3 home track meets, specifically Coach Schuster and Anderson — these folks are the reason BMS continues to host strong events.

Building/Program Focus/Transition Areas

- ✓ Prioritize staff recruitment by maintaining an active presence at educator recruitment fairs across Kansas to attract high-quality candidates
- ✓ While this has improved in past years, Blackout Days due to substitute teacher shortages
- ✓ With not having a reading interventionist, we will utilize 3 days of team time and Cat Time to provide interventions for our tier 3 level students reading and math identified through Fastbridge testing.
- ✓ We will utilize the mini-KITE assessments to support curriculum alignment and ensure instructional rigor across grade levels and content areas rather than interims.
- ✓ BMS successfully demonstrated its ability to safely and effectively implement a school lockdown when needed. While this was a positive outcome, lockdown drills identified an area for improvement, as some staff experienced difficulty securing classroom doors in a timely manner. This concern was also discussed during ALICE training, including the exploration of options such as fire hose door-closing devices and magnetic strips to assist with door security procedures. Continued attention to lockdown readiness and door-securing practices will remain a priority.
- ✓ At the 5th-grade level, there is a greater emphasis within the local curriculum on developing students' writing skills than on reading comprehension. As a result, we are performing lower than the state average.
- ✓ Based on gate/entry fee revenue, payments to officials, and compensation for BMS personnel who are not district employees, our athletic department is becoming financially unsustainable. This year, the athletic account operated at a deficit of approximately \$3,138.79. The account balance continues to decline because athletic revenues are not sufficient to cover expenses. In addition, the middle school athletic account paid \$2,260.64 to non-school employees during the year, further contributing to the financial shortfall. General funds may be needed to help balance this account when it is no longer self-sustainable. Gate prices will be increased this next year as well.
- ✓ Students and cell phones could possibly bring challenges for us as a building with the new state statute. What we did prior to the new state statute worked for Burlington Middle School.

Yours in Education,
Matt Spring
BMS, Principal