

Buchanan[®] Community Schools

www.buchananschools.com



BUCK BULLETIN

2024-2025



DIRECTORY

www.buchananschools.com

Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Robinson

probinson@buchananschools.com

401 W. Chicago Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8401

Buchanan High School Grades: 8-12

Brian Pruett, Principal

bpruett@buchananschools.com

Mark Frey, Assistant Principal & CTE Director

mfrey@buchananschools.com

Reid McBeth, Athletic Coordinator

rmbeth@buchananschools.com

401 W. Chicago Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8403

Buchanan Middle School Grades: 5-7

Shelby Beasley, Principal

sbeasley@buchananschools.com

Ryan Frontczak, Behavior Interventionist & Assistant Athletic Coordinator

rfrontczak@buchananschools.com

610 W. 4th Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8406

Moccasin Elementary School Grades 2-4

Michael Babcock, Principal

mbabcock@buchananschools.com

410 Moccasin Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8408

Ottawa Elementary School Grades Pre K-1

Stacey Denison, Principal

sdenison@buchananschools.com

109 Ottawa Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8409

Buchanan Virtual Academy Grades: 5-12

Reid McBeth, Coordinator

rmbeth@buchananschools.com

Step Up & Credit Recovery Programs and Adult Education

401 W. Chicago Street

Buchanan, MI 49107

Phone: 695-8400

SCHOOL NORMAL HOURS

Buchanan High School	7:40 am - 2:40 pm
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Buchanan Middle School	7:30 am - 2:25 pm
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Moccasin Elementary School	8:45 am - 3:48 pm
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Ottawa Elementary School	8:40 am - 3:43 pm
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SCHOOL CLOSING & DELAY INFORMATION

When it becomes necessary to close schools, school officials will contact local radio and television stations. Parents should not call their child's school. Parents will also be notified by our instant alert system. Please make sure your child's school has current phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

2-HOUR DELAY PROCEDURE

Students should be at bus stops two hours later than their regular time. Please allow 10 minutes on either side due to conditions. Walkers should not arrive at school more than 10 minutes before classes begin. No AM ECSE classes. Afternoon ECSE classes as usual. NO breakfast will be served. Lunch will be as usual. No high school AM shared-time programs.

2-HOUR DELAY START TIMES

Buchanan High School	9:40 am
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Buchanan Middle School	9:30 am
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Moccasin Elementary School	10:45 am
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Ottawa Elementary School	10:40 am
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If the reasons for the delay do not improve, school may be canceled. Parents should monitor the local stations carefully for any change in delay status. Please do not call the schools.

WACKY WEDNESDAY - EARLY RELEASE HOURS

Buchanan High School	7:40 am - 2:07 pm
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Buchanan Middle School	7:30 am - 1:55 pm
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Moccasin Elementary School	8:45 am - 3:15 pm
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Ottawa Elementary School	8:40 am - 3:10 pm
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Wednesdays are ALWAYS an early release day!
(Unless a half-day or no school)

HALF DAY HOURS

Buchanan High School	7:40 am - 11:00 am
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Buchanan Middle School	7:30 am - 10:50 am
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Moccasin Elementary School	8:45 am - 12:10 pm
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Ottawa Elementary School	8:40 am - 12:05 pm
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Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

Buchanan Community Schools educates students for life-long success in their civic, academic, physical and social emotional lives.

Dear Buck Families and Friends,

Get ready for an exhilarating school year with Buchanan Community Schools! Whether you're joining us for the first time or celebrating your final year with us, we're thrilled to welcome each and every one of you. To our incredible parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members – welcome aboard! Our Board of Education and District staff are beyond excited to embark on this journey with you.

Our Board of Education is laser-focused on delivering the absolute best for your children, and this year, we have some exciting initiatives:

Revamped Curriculum Programming: We're rolling out a brand-new math program, Reveal Math, for students in grades 6th through 11th. This program is not just any math curriculum; it's research-backed and designed to skyrocket engagement and deepen conceptual understanding. Our teachers who piloted Reveal Math were thrilled with its setup and the outstanding initial student outcomes. Get ready to see your kids light up with a newfound love for math!

Professional Learning on Wacky Wednesdays: Every Wednesday, we shake things up with early releases to give our teachers dedicated time for training, grade-level meetings, and content-specific sessions. This means your children will benefit from unique and personalized academic experiences crafted by our passionate and well-prepared staff.

Creating a Safe Environment: Safety is our top priority. Starting this fall, we're launching comprehensive anti-bullying training for staff and students, with special sessions for parents and community members. Your input has been invaluable in shaping this initiative, and together, we'll ensure a nurturing and secure environment for our students.

Buchanan Community Schools is a gem in the educational landscape, thanks to our dedicated leaders, teachers, and staff who always put students first. Our achievements are a testament to their hard work, and we're proud to continue offering high-caliber academic programs. Last year, we highlighted our unique school farm, recognized three outstanding teachers (Melissa Frost, Jessica Mauer, and Erin Kratky) at the state level, and ranked among the top five districts in the county. This year promises even more excitement and success!

We believe in the power of open communication. Stay connected through our weekly Bucks Blast on Facebook and join us at the Superintendent and Buck Parent Conversation sessions held throughout the year. Your voice is essential to our community.

I'm eagerly anticipating the adventures this school year will bring and am honored to serve as your superintendent. On behalf of the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education, here's to a fantastic and memorable school year!



Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia L. Robinson'.

Patricia L. Robinson
Superintendent

Buchanan[®] Community Schools

OUR VISION IS TO DEVELOP RESPONSIBLE, RESILIENT, CREATIVE
CITIZENS CAPABLE OF SUCCEEDING IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.



IT'S A
GREAT
TIME TO
BE A
BUCK!



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

BCS is one of a handful of districts in Michigan that owns and operates a school farm!
Our elementary students participate in hands-on science activities throughout the year.

BCS operates a quality special education program in all four of our schools!

We host a free Great Start Readiness Preschool Program to eligible preschool-aged students
in a nurturing, caring, and supportive environment.

All kindergarten students participate in our "All Kids Bike" Program that teaches
students to ride a bike in gym class!

Buchanan Middle School students are provided opportunities to participate in advanced
technology projects including Lego robotics, programming and coding with Sphero robots, and
virtual reality job simulation.

Buchanan High School offers a diverse array of Career Technical Education programs
that provide students with the opportunity to learn real-world skills leading to
certificates, licenses, and college credits in a variety of career pathways.

BHS has approved College Board AP classes and access to the Berrien RESA Math and Science
Center, Lake Michigan Early College, and Southwestern Michigan College Dual Enrollment
Honors Academy.

Buchanan High School Athletics is committed to fostering a culture that provides the
opportunity to pursue the total development of BHS student-athletes.

WE ARE HIRING!

Come join our BUCK team!

APPLY ONLINE TODAY:

www.buchananschools.com/employment/




EVERY STUDENT WHO GRADUATES FROM
BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND
LIVES IN THE DISTRICT QUALIFIES FOR
UP TO \$15,000 FOR
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION!



**Monday,
August 26, 2024**

ENROLL TODAY!

 269-695-8400

 www.buchananschools.com

BUCHANAN GREAT START READINESS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM



Buchanan Community Schools offers a *free* preschool program for a limited number of income-eligible four-year-olds. GSRP is a Michigan state-funded preschool program. Our program provides preschoolers with the best educational opportunities through a hands-on curriculum in a rich learning environment created through our certified staff, families, and community.

All applications for public school preschool opportunities in Berrien County will continue to be monitored by Berrien RESA. The Buchanan preschool programs are licensed through Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community and Health Systems, and the Child Licensing Division.

ELIGIBILITY

Preschoolers must be 4 years of age by September 1, 2024 to qualify.

APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE!

PRESCHOOL HOME VISITS

This is a mandatory State of Michigan requirement for our program. It is also a great opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's teacher and teacher assistant before school begins.

BUCHANAN GSRP PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Our preschool program begins later than our K-12 students and will go through the end of the school year. Preschool classes begin on **Wednesday, September 4th**.

Sessions will meet Monday through Thursday, 8:40am - 3:43pm.
Preschool classes will not meet on Fridays.

QUESTIONS?

Please call Ottawa Elementary School at 695-8409 if you have questions regarding our GSRP preschool program.



Elizabeth Johnson
Administrative Assistant



Stacey Denison
Principal

**OPEN
HOUSE**

Tuesday,
September 3rd

5:00-7:00 pm

If your phone number, mailing address, or child care provider has changed since you registered for preschool, please call the Ottawa office to update your information.

OTTAWA ELEMENTARY

109 Ottawa Street (269) 695-8409 Grades Pre-K - 1

STACEY DENISON
PRINCIPAL

sdenison@buchananschools.com



Welcome to Ottawa Elementary and the 2024-25 school year!

Students come first at Ottawa! The safety and academic growth of our Little Bucks is our top priority each and every day. Serving the staff, students, and families in this amazing community is a pleasure.

OTTAWA SCHOOL HOURS

Regular School Day: Preschool - 1st Grade

Monday-Friday, 8:40 am - 3:43 pm

(GSRP Preschool classes will not meet on Fridays)

AM ECSE Classes: 8:40 am - 11:50 am

(Monday-Thursday, some Fridays for ECSE)

PM ECSE Classes: 12:25 pm - 3:43 pm

(Monday-Thursday, some Fridays for ECSE)

Wacky Wednesdays: 8:40 am - 3:10 pm

Half Days: 8:40 am - 12:05 pm

(No ECSE classes on these days)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

ECSE, Kindergarten & First Grade Students:

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 from 5:30-6:30 pm

GSRP Preschool Students:

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 pm



We look forward to welcoming your Little Buck!

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

All Ottawa staff members will be able to assist your child with any problem if they know their full name. **Be sure your child's backpack always has the school-issued ID tag and they are able to communicate their first and last name.**

- Any adult picking up children must be listed by the parent on the child's emergency card.
- All doors lock when the tardy bell rings at 8:40 am and remain locked until the 3:43 pm dismissal. Please go to the front door and ring the doorbell to the right of the doors to enter after 8:40 am.

Students must be signed in by an adult after 8:40 am.

Our safety procedures for adult to adult transfers of children at the beginning and end of day takes a little extra time, but keeping children safe is a priority. Please read carefully and adhere to these procedures for the safety of our staff, students and families.

School hours are 8:40-3:43. First bell rings at 8:35 am.

- Adult staff will be available to supervise students beginning at 8:10 am.
- Adults will not be able to enter the building with children past the front office doors. You may walk your child to the front doors or drop off in the north parking lot through the car line.
- Kindergarten and first graders will line up inside the fenced playground area adjacent to the north parking lot with adult supervision. When the weather is inclement, they will wait inside.
- Be sure your child arrives at school by 8:35 am to avoid being marked tardy after 8:40 am.

- Breakfast begins at 8:10 am. **If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, they should arrive no later than 8:20 am.** Preschool students are served breakfast within their classrooms.

CAR RIDERS

When dropping off or picking up your child in a vehicle you must use the north parking lot car line staffed by adults. There will be no drop-offs or pick-ups in front of the school on either side of Ottawa Street or in the south parking lot blocking the posted fire lane. To get in the car line drive down 3rd Street towards the school. We use hang tags. These will be available at the Open House. Sometimes the line may back up into Ottawa Court, **please do not block residents' driveways.**

WALKERS

Walkers will use the front entrance of the school for arrival and will be dismissed out the gym door on the south side of the building. If an adult walks their child to the front door in the morning or picks up after school, please park in the Church of the Nazarene lot. Our buses may block the entrances to the south parking lot and you will not be able to exit until the buses leave. We have permission to use this parking lot at 704 W. Front. Please walk your child to and from this lot. We encourage parents if dropping off or picking up to use the car line in the north parking lot.



No parking or drop off is permitted in the fire lane in the south parking lot.

BUS RIDERS

Bus students enter through the front doors and report to the cafeteria to eat breakfast. Those not eating breakfast will join their before-school lines as detailed previously. After school, staff will walk students in their bus lines directly to the bus they ride home. **Please note, changes in your child's after-school plans for dismissal must be communicated adult to adult. Please call the office before 2:00 pm if there are transportation changes.** Teachers do not always have time to check their email or messages during the day and we want to ensure your child's safety after school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

MOCCASIN ELEMENTARY

410 Moccasin Street (269) 695-8408 Grades 2 - 4

MICHAEL BABCOCK
PRINCIPAL

mbabcock@buchananschools.com



Welcome to Moccasin Elementary!

A Safe Positive Learning Environment

MOCCASIN SCHOOL HOURS

Regular School Day: Monday-Friday, 8:45 am - 3:48 pm

Wacky Wednesdays: 8:45 am - 3:15 pm

Half Days: 8:45 am - 12:10 pm

BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE EVENT

Please join us for our Back to School Night on
Wednesday, August 21, 2024 from 5:00-6:00 pm

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- Morning car riders will be dropped off at the 5th Street door between 8:10-8:40 am. The doors lock at 8:40 am. Car riders who arrive after 8:40 am will need to enter through the Main Office door #1.
- **Please drop off students on 5th Street.** Students who are dropped off in the morning are to wait in the fenced-in playground area at the back of the school.
- **Breakfast begins at 8:10 am.** Students eating breakfast should enter through the gym doors off of 5th Street. Students will then go to the playground area when done eating.

BIKE RIDERS

Students may ride their bikes to school at Moccasin with parent permission. Bike helmets are encouraged. Bike racks are located in the back of the building near the south end off of 5th Street. Bikes must be placed in the rack. Students and parents are responsible for providing locks to ensure the safety of their bike. The school is not responsible for bikes.



CAR RIDERS

Car riders will be picked up on 5th Street on the south end of the building. 5th Street is a one-way street that is accessed off of Main Street. Pick-up and drop-off will be one lane along the sidewalk by the gym entrance.

WALKERS

Walkers will exit the middle front entrance on Moccasin Street. As Moccasin has older elementary students, they will be released to walk home at the dismissal bell. Parents do not need to come in and check them out. If your child is a walker, please ensure that they know their designated walking route to and from school (the route you expect them to walk every day).

BUS RIDERS

The loading and unloading zone for buses is along the east side of Moccasin Street directly in front of the school from 5th Street to just past the north parking lot. This area is designated as a bus loading & unloading zone only. NO car pick-up or drop-off is allowed in this zone. **Please communicate your child's after school transportation plan or changes to their plan to the main office by 2:00pm.**

P.M. SHUTTLE BUS TO MOCCASIN

Due to the age of Ottawa students coming to Moccasin via the shuttle, they **will not be released from the bus** until a parent or designated person comes to the bus door and accepts the child(ren). The person **must be listed on the student's emergency card** or approved by the school office prior to pick-up. Staff may ask the adult for an ID. If you are waiting for the shuttle, please park either before or after the bus pick-up zone on the east side of Moccasin Street (before 5th Street or after the exit for the north parking lot).





Welcome to the Home of the Jr. Herd! "Committed to caring, striving for excellence."

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! My name is Shelby Beasley, and I am honored to be the principal at Buchanan Middle School. As principal, I aim to work collaboratively with parents, teachers, and community members to enhance the lives of our students. Adolescent students, like those we serve at Buchanan Middle School, need a safe learning environment enriched by a relevant and rigorous curriculum.

I am confident in saying your students will find that in the classrooms and hallways at Buchanan Middle School!

2024-2025 ORIENTATIONS

Monday, August 19, 2024

INCOMING 5TH GRADERS & NEW BMS STUDENTS

- **5:00-5:45pm** Self-Guided Tour, Locker Practice, and Meet & Greet

RETURNING BMS STUDENTS

- **5:45-6:30pm** Schedule Pick-Up, Self-Guided Tour, and Meet & Greet

Parents and students will be able to meet the Middle School staff and have an opportunity to explore the building to locate classrooms. Students will also have the opportunity to practice their locker combinations and receive their schedules. *Schedules will not be sent via mail.* If you are unable to make the orientation times, your child will receive their schedule on the first day of school when we meet by grade level to begin the day.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

School begins this year on Monday, August 26, 2024, with a full day of classes. The front cafeteria door (Door 13) will be open at 6:50 am for breakfast. If your child is not eating breakfast, the main door (Door 1) will also open at 6:50 am. Students will be placed in grade-level locations to wait for teachers to escort them to class.

Classes will begin at 7:30 am and end at 2:25 pm. Students should be out of the building by 2:40 pm unless, of course, they are staying for an activity. Learning punctuality is imperative for adolescents as we prepare them for their future. Please assist us in teaching our students the importance of being on time for school and **all** of their classes.

This year, as in previous school years, BMS students will receive a packet containing our school's yearly calendar, conference dates, report card dates, and other information that will keep you aware of what, when, where, and how things proceed at BMS.

Parents who drop off and pick up students before and after school are asked to do so in designated areas in front of the school (flagpole side). Please use caution driving in this area. After 7:40 am each school day, the front doors (by the flagpole) will be locked.

ATHLETICS

All students interested in participating in BMS Athletics will need to have a physical form on file with the office. New athletes can get a copy of this physical file from the main office or from the BCS Athletic website under the "Files & Links" section. The first day of mandatory practice is the first day of school, August 26, 2024.

Fall Sports:

- 7th Grade Football
- 7th Grade Volleyball
- 6th & 7th Grade Cross Country



SCHOOL DAY START & END TIMES

Regular School Day: 7:30 am - 2:25 pm

Wacky Wednesdays: 7:30 am - 1:55 pm

Half Days: 7:30 am - 10:50 pm



RYAN FRONTZAK
BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC COORDINATOR
rfrontczak@buchananschools.com



KATHY MCLAUGHLIN
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
kmlaughlin@buchananschools.com

BMS DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Buses drop off students each morning in the front of the school. They use the curb directly in front of the school and are usually right on time at 6:50 am. Please do not park along that curb until after the buses leave. If no buses are present, we ask that drivers pull all the way to the end of the curb in front of the building. Students will then enter Door 1 if they are not eating breakfast, and Door 13 if they are eating breakfast. Parents should not use the parking lot for drop off unless the parent is coming into the building for a meeting or to drop something off.

BMS PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Buses will load in the back of the school. Once all students are loaded on the buses, the buses will leave the back drive.

! DRIVERS MUST YIELD FOR BUSES AS THEY DEPART!

Just as in the morning, we ask that drivers pull all the way to the end of the curb in front of the school. The line can look long, but it moves quickly. All cars are usually through the line by 2:30 pm.

! At dismissal, parking in the church parking lot and having students cross 4th Street is not a safe practice. There is a police officer there to help with traffic, but this is NOT a crosswalk location. Students needing to cross 4th Street will need to walk to the stop sign at Chippewa Street and cross there.



BUCK PRIDE

At BMS our students are encouraged to exhibit their school **PRIDE** on a daily basis. School **PRIDE** consists of being **P**repared for class, **R**esponsible and respectful, having **I**ntegrity, **D**edicated to learning, and putting forth their best **E**ffort. BMS has a school-wide PRIDE program that recognizes our students for doing a great job in creating a learning environment that is safe, caring, and develops successful and responsible citizens.

It Takes Pride to be a Buck

Preparation
Responsibility
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

BUCHANAN MIDDLE SCHOOL



DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school. The responsibility for student dress is that of the students and the parents. The following guidelines should be followed:

Pants/Shorts/Dresses/Skirts:

- Jeans, Pants, Leggings, and Joggers.
- Shorts, Dresses, or Skirts should provide modest coverage of the backside.
- Leggings, spandex, and biker shorts must be opaque and not see-through.
- Pants/shorts with holes should not have any holes with skin showing above fingertip length.
- No pajamas of any kind.
- Pants and shorts are to be worn at the waist. Sagging is not acceptable.

Shirts:

- Tank top straps must be 3 inches in width.
- No shirts showing midriff.
- No muscle shirts.
- Appropriate necklines should be observed.
- No shirts with inappropriate slogans or advertisements.
- Winter jackets should be kept in lockers at all times.

Hair:

- Students may dye their hair whatever color parents allow as long as it does not cause a major disruption to the learning environment.
- No bandanas.
- No hats inside the building.

Footwear:

- Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times.

All school bags are to be kept in lockers and not carried to class.

If a student is in violation of the dress code, they will be asked to change or call for a change of clothing. If no change of clothing is available, they may be placed in the learning center for the day.

The administration reserves the right to make a final judgment concerning the appropriateness of a student's attire & appearance.

CELL PHONE & HANDHELD DEVICE POLICY

Cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, handheld games, etc. are not allowed on a student's person during school hours. They must be turned off before the first bell and kept in the student's locker. If a student is found in possession of a device, it will be confiscated and sent to the office. The first incident will come with a warning and a phone call home. Any other incident will require a parent or guardian to pick up the device in the school office. Disciplinary action will be taken for students not complying with this expectation. Students needing to get in contact with parents during school hours may use a school phone with faculty or staff approval.

Thank you for your valuable partnership in your child's education. We look forward to another wonderful year at Buchanan Middle School!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelby Beasley".

Shelby Beasley
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Frontczak".

Ryan Frontczak
Behavior Interventionist &
Assistant Athletic Coordinator



BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL

401 W. CHICAGO STREET (269) 695-8403 Grades 8 - 12

BRIAN PRUETT
PRINCIPAL
bpruett@buchananschools.com

MARK FREY
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL & CTE DIRECTOR
mfrey@buchananschools.com



HOME OF THE BUCKS!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! When students return in the coming weeks, they will see lots of welcoming faces excited to have our Bucks back in the building. We have spent the summer diligently preparing and gearing up for another great year at BHS. BHS continues to offer a challenging curriculum, motivating and caring teachers, and an entire school community of people who care for our students. We will continue to check in with students and parents when an absence occurs as we believe student attendance and engagement is paramount to learning. Please read over our attendance policy as we at BHS feel it is vitally important for students to attend classes as we prepare our students for life. Communication between the school and the home is important to us and it is extremely important that we stay connected. BHS will continue to utilize the monthly Principal's Updates and will share them via email, Facebook, school website, School Messenger, and Twitter. These updates contain important information for parents and students as well as showcase the amazing work of our students and teachers.

Back to School Night
Monday
August 19
6:00-7:30 pm

SCHOOL STARTS AT 7:40 AM EVERY DAY.

The cafeteria doors open at 7:00 am and breakfast will be available.

The front doors will open after 7:33 am.

Students will stay in the cafeteria until released by staff.

No students are allowed in the main building until 7:33 am.

Monday / Tuesday / Thursday / Friday Schedule

2024-2025

1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch	4th Lunch
1 7:40am-8:42am	1 7:40am-8:42am	1 7:40am-8:42am	1 7:40am-8:42am
2 8:47am-9:49am	2 8:47am-9:49am	2 8:47am-9:49am	2 8:47am-9:49am
3 9:54am-10:56am	3 9:54am-10:56am	3 9:54am-10:56am	3 9:54am-10:56am
L 10:56am-11:21am	4 11:01am-11:31am	4 11:01am-12:02pm	4 11:01am-12:02pm
	L 11:31am-11:56am	L 12:02pm-12:27pm	5 12:07pm-12:35pm
4 11:26am-12:27pm	4 12:01pm-12:27pm		L 12:35pm-1:00pm
5 12:32pm-1:34pm	5 12:32pm-1:34pm	5 12:32pm-1:34pm	5 1:05pm-1:34pm
6 1:39pm-2:40pm	6 1:39pm-2:40pm	6 1:39pm-2:40pm	6 1:39pm-2:40pm

Wacky Wednesday Schedule

2024-2025

1st Lunch	2nd Lunch	3rd Lunch	4th Lunch
1 7:40am-8:38am	1 7:40am-8:38am	1 7:40am-8:38am	1 7:40am-8:38am
2 8:43am-9:41am	2 8:43am-9:41am	2 8:43am-9:41am	2 8:43am-9:41am
3 9:46am-10:43am	3 9:46am-10:43am	3 9:46am-10:43am	3 9:46am-10:43am
L 10:43am-11:08am	4 10:48am-11:15am	4 10:48am-11:45am	4 10:48am-11:45am
	L 11:15am-11:40am	L 11:45am-12:10pm	5 11:50am-12:18pm
4 11:13am-12:10pm	4 11:45am-12:10pm		L 12:18pm-12:43pm
5 12:15pm-1:12pm	5 12:15pm-1:12pm	5 12:15pm-1:12pm	5 12:48pm-1:12pm
6 1:17pm-2:07pm	6 1:17pm-2:07pm	6 1:17pm-2:07pm	6 1:17pm-2:07pm

School Improvement is a continuous process and BHS works year-round to make our school a better place to learn, grow, and prepare for the future. If you are interested in joining our conversations and helping with our initiatives, feel free to contact us for more information. The following are highlights of our current initiatives:

- **Chromebooks for every student grades 8 through 12.** Teachers continue to expand opportunities to use technology as a method to engage and promote student learning. Chromebooks are a required device during the school day. Device Protection Plans are available. Students are expected to have their assigned Chromebook along with their chargers with them in all classes.
- **Professional Development** opportunities for teachers that focus on making students the center of our conversations as we track academic growth and improve the culture and climate of our school. Teachers will also be trained in using new technology platforms and programs as those areas continue to change, evolve, and expand in education.
- **Virtual Learning** continues to improve with MyVirtual in our E-Lab. Credit recovery, as well as acceleration, are possible with the approval of the Principal. This platform will be used for all students who did not earn credit in their previous courses in order to keep them on track for graduation.
- **Wacky Wednesdays** will continue. Students are dismissed at 2:07 pm every Wednesday to allow weekly professional learning time for staff.
- **After-School Academic Learning Sessions** are once again offered Monday through Thursday.

EIGHTH & NINTH GRADE CHROMEBOOKS will be distributed during the BHS Back to School Night on August 19th from 6-7:30pm.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS are always needed and sought after. If you have a talent or skill that you would like to share with us, please reach out to the Principal's Office at 269-695-8403 option 1. No talents or skills are necessary however; sometimes we just need your time! All volunteers need to have a background check completed before working with students.

THE STUDENT HANDBOOK along with our Code of Conduct policies may be found on our school website at www.buchananschools.com in September. Policies have been composed with the goal of creating an environment that supports learning. Keep our dress code in mind when you are shopping for your child's school clothing. Students not adhering to the dress code will be sent home to change or will be given a change of clothes.

THE ATTENDANCE POLICY can be found in our student handbook. Please read it over carefully to make sure you understand it. Students are expected and required to complete assignments for each course even if absent. There is a **direct relationship** between school attendance and academic success. Students should make every effort to be in attendance daily. Please be sure that our attendance office is notified of all absences within 24 hours, if not a detention may result.

Classes begin Monday, August 26th.

We are looking forward to another year of working with our Buck families to make this a safe and positive learning environment! The BHS staff hopes to see you at our first home football game on August 29th at 7:00 pm against Saugatuck.

GO BUCKS!!

Look for more detailed information in the Back To School edition of the BHS Bucks Principal's Update that will be provided to our Buchanan High School families in fall!



BHS
Habitat
Restoration



The sunny season is bustling with life! The prairie is having its second summer, welcoming vibrant forbs like the cheerful Black-Eyed Susan and Purple Coneflower.

Buzzing around are pollinators such as the dainty Summer Azure Butterfly, fuzzy Bumble Bees, and quirky Milkweed Beetles.

Stay tuned for the milkweed flowers blooming in the coming weeks, bringing in the majestic Monarch and Swallowtail Butterflies!



CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

401 W. Chicago Street (269) 695-8400 ext. *20013

MARK FREY
DIRECTOR
mfrey@buchananschools.com



Buchanan High School offers a diverse array of CTE programs which provide students with the opportunity to learn real world skills leading to certificates, licenses and college credits in a variety of career pathways. Our purpose is to create a more relevant, engaging high school experience by combining the rigorous core academics that students need for college with the career and technical education that makes them employable, while doing it in an applied, hands-on way that includes real life experience.

Buchanan CTE Programs operating in 2024-2025 include:

- Sports Medicine
- Automotive Technology
- Computer Fundamentals & Networking
- Business Systems Administration
- Culinary Arts
- Cosmetology
- Sports Management
- Web Design



Buchanan partners with area schools to provide CTE classes in CAD, Machine Tool, Building Trades, EMT, Firefighting, and Health Services.

Our CTE programs also provide great opportunities to experience specialized field trips and work-based learning such as the Chicago Auto Show, Grand Rapids Food Show, and many other off-campus activities.



CTE programs are a great way to begin your path to college and career success!



10



BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

401 W. Chicago Street (269) 695-8400 ext. *20026 Grades 9 - 12

REID MCBETH
ATHLETIC COORDINATOR
rmcbeth@buchananschools.com



Buchanan High School Athletics is committed to fostering a culture that provides the opportunity to pursue the total development of BHS student-athletes. Buchanan Athletics creates meaningful academic, athletic, and social experiences that will allow BHS student-athletes to develop the essential skills needed to achieve excellence in the ultimate challenge: *Life*.

Our athletic programs also provide great opportunities to experience specialized training within the weight room as well as multiple community service opportunities throughout a student's athletic career.

Athletics are a great way to develop the entire student and give the student the best opportunity to reach their maximum potential. If you have any questions about our athletic programs, please feel free to contact our Athletic Coordinator, Reid McBeth at 269-695-8400 ext. *20026 or by email at rmcbeth@buchananschools.com.

2024-2025 BUCHANAN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS



HS FALL

Mens Tennis
Coed Cross Country
Football
Womens Swimming*Co-op
through Bridgman
Sideline Cheer
Mens Soccer
Volleyball

HS WINTER

Mens Basketball
Competitive Cheer
Womens Basketball
Wrestling

HS SPRING

Baseball
Mens Golf
Womens Soccer
Womens Tennis
Softball
Coed Track & Field

MS FALL

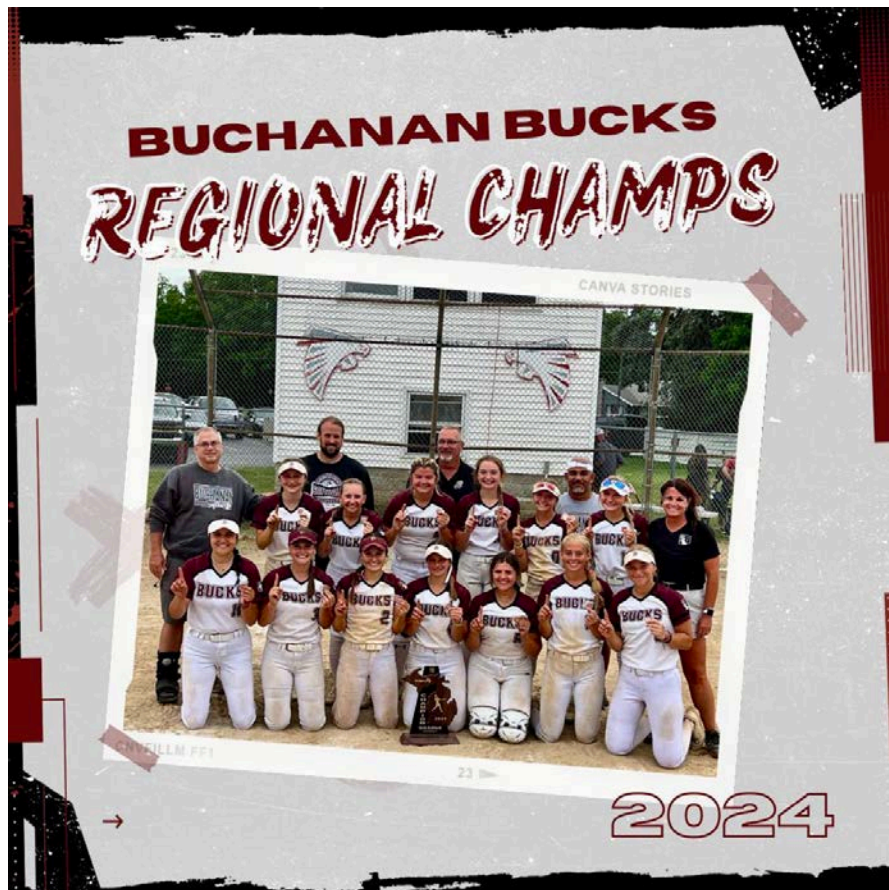
Coed Cross Country
Football
Volleyball

MS WINTER

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Wrestling

MS SPRING

Coed Track & Field



For the 2024-2025 school year we will be making some slight adjustments in regards to transportation and athletics. These changes are being made in an effort to better help fight the cost of fuel, wear and tear, mileage and the aging of our buses and vans.

For Middle School Athletics, transportation arrangements remain unchanged.

For larger teams such as football, transportation to and from events will be provided as usual.

For smaller teams, when the opponent is less than 40 miles away, there will be one-way drops. In such cases, a school van will be sent to help provide rides home to those students who do not have transportation.

Please note that when trips are outside the "one-way" drop areas, the bus will stay, and a van will not be provided.

Regardless of the location of the trip, please rest assured that the school will always do everything in its power to ensure our student athletes have transportation to their athletic competitions.







Buchanan Community Schools operates quality special education programs in all four of our schools!

Providing programs and services in Buchanan to eligible students are nine specially trained and certified special education teachers, thirteen para-professionals, and three speech and language pathologists. Support also comes from the following staff members from Berrien RESA (Regional Education Service Agency): school psychologist, school social worker, academic teacher consultant, mobility specialist, assistive technology specialist, teacher consultants of the visually impaired and the hearing impaired, occupational and physical therapists. Students are placed in programs through an Individual Educational Program Planning Committee meeting composed of local district and Berrien RESA diagnostic and educational staff once appropriate assessments have been administered and the student qualifies under Michigan special education rules and regulations. Nearly 230 PK-12 students receive some kind of special education services including speech and language during the school day in Buchanan.

Our special education programs serve a wide variety of eligible students with special educational needs in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Developmental Delay (ages 3-8)
- Specific Learning Disability, determined by a process of analyzing the student's pattern of learning strengths and weaknesses.
- Speech and Language Impaired for Language, Articulation/Phonology, Voice, and Fluency (stuttering) concerns
- Emotionally Impaired
- Cognitive Impairment
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Traumatic Spectrum Disorder
- Otherwise Health Impaired
- Physically Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Visually Impaired

Some students need programs that are not offered within the district. The IEP process is used to make this determination and to place these students in programs that offer the services necessary to meet their goals and objectives. Transportation is provided for these students.

An additional 30 students receive services in center-based programs operated by Berrien RESA throughout the county including a cooperative inter-agency program for 0 - 2.5 year-olds in the Early On programs (269-471-7725) for infants and toddlers involving both parent and child.

Other center-based programs funded by Berrien RESA include:

- Berrien Springs Hearing Impaired Program provides services for students in the tri-county area. This program is operated by the Berrien Springs Public Schools. Students may attend a classroom program for the hearing impaired in Berrien Springs or may get teacher consultant services in their Buchanan classes. This program also provides on-site hearing diagnostic assessments with trained audiologists as well as follow-up with students who have suspected or verified hearing losses.
- Low-incidence special education programs for the cognitively impaired children who need full-time placements are available at Berrien Springs MS and HS, as well as Howard School in Niles and the Southside School Pre-vocational studies program for ages 16-25 in Niles. These students have below-average abilities and graduate with a certificate of completion. The curriculum focuses on independent living and employability skills.
- Blossomland Learning Center programs in Berrien Springs serve our moderate to severe cognitively impaired and severely multiply impaired students ages 3-26. The school assists students in preparing for entry into their respective communities as adults.
- Lighthouse Education Center in St. Joseph as well as Ballard and Southside Schools in Niles offer support to students with severe emotional impairments. These students exhibit a severity of emotional difficulties, which prohibits them from attendance in regular classrooms. Additionally, students may attend Lighthouse if they have severe autistic impairments.

All special education programs and services follow the rules and regulations for eligibility set forth by the State of Michigan's Department of Education. For further information about student eligibility policies and procedures, existing programs, or speech and language services, contact your building principal or

Karin Falkenstein, District Special Education Supervisor at 269-695-8442.



Personalize your learning experience with our Virtual Academy!



BUCHANAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY

GRADES 5-12

Buchanan Virtual Academy offers full-time online opportunities for students in grades 5-12. Coursework is done from home and the curriculum is available 24/7 with certified teachers available six days a week. The engaging curriculum offers flexibility and covers all Michigan requirements. Students may accelerate at their own individual pace.

High School courses meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements and 18 credits are required for graduation. Students enrolling with previous high school credits will have their credits examined and credited in the Michigan Merit requirements where possible.

Buchanan Virtual Academy focuses on student mastery of content and all courses are attached to Michigan-certified teachers offering students academic assistance along the way. Progress reports are available for parents as well as communication with students by phone, email, instant and text messaging, and video conferencing. If needed, students are provided a computer and internet access free of charge.

Students who live in the Buchanan school district are eligible for enrollment as well as all Berrien County students and students in adjacent counties.

Online learning is a fit for many students unable to take classes in a traditional setting. More information about the virtual academy as well as the application process can be found at Buchanan Virtual Academy | Buchanan Community Schools (www.buchananschools.com). You may also contact our Buchanan Virtual Academy Coordinator, Reid McBeth at 695-8400 ext. *20026 or by email at rmcbeth@buchananschools.com.

BUCHANAN STEP UP

AGES 16-19

Buchanan Step Up enrolls students from all over the State of Michigan. Step Up is an online solution for students who have dropped out of school and operates year-round. Every student receives a computer and internet connectivity, allowing them to access their coursework anytime. Students are assigned an Advocate who works with the student to create an aggressive high school completion plan. Course work and instruction is supported by Michigan Certified Teachers. Students must complete one class per month to stay in the program. More information and application for Buchanan Step Up can be found at Buchanan Step Up | Buchanan Community Schools (www.buchananschools.com) or by calling 800-297-2119.

BUCHANAN CREDIT RECOVERY

GRADES 9-12

Buchanan Credit Recovery allows students from any high school across the country to take a high school course. Students may make up coursework or repeat failed classes. Approval from the student's home high school is needed to ensure credit will be accepted. Students can enroll in this tuition-based program at any time during the year to take advantage of classes delivered online with 24/7 access. For more information please contact 586-649-2323.



Hall of Fame 2024

Buchanan Community Schools is proud to announce the 2024 Inductees:

MICHAEL GREENE

RONALD STONE

DONALD PEARS

We invite you to join us as we honor our distinguished winners during halftime of the Varsity Football Game at Memorial Field on Friday, September 6, 2024

Kick-off is at 7pm



As part of the **BUCHANAN PROMISE**, provided and managed by the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, every Kindergartener will be given a FREE \$50 College Savings Account at Honor Credit Union.

Michigan Gateway Community Foundation

To learn more, call us or visit the website!

269-695-3521

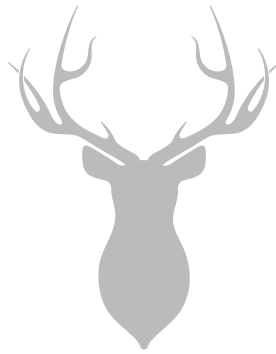
www.buchananpromise.com

Welcome New Staff!

Thomas Cousineau
4th Grade Teacher

Matthew Orsillo
BMS/BHS Band Director

Lindsay Weldy
Paraprofessional - GSRP Assistant Teacher



Denise Fournier
Special Education Teacher, Moccasin

Sarah Wojciechowski
4th Grade Teacher

OPENING THE DOOR TO A BRIGHTER BUCHANAN!



Thanks to the support from the Buchanan Promise, I will be able to pursue my dreams of teaching music by studying music education at Grand Valley State University.

MADISON CORNELIUS
BHS CLASS OF 2024



www.buchananpromise.org



BUCHANAN PROMISE

OPENING THE DOOR TO A BRIGHTER BUCHANAN

Since 2017, the Buchanan Promise has been helping students of Buchanan Community Schools continue their education, and fulfill their dreams.

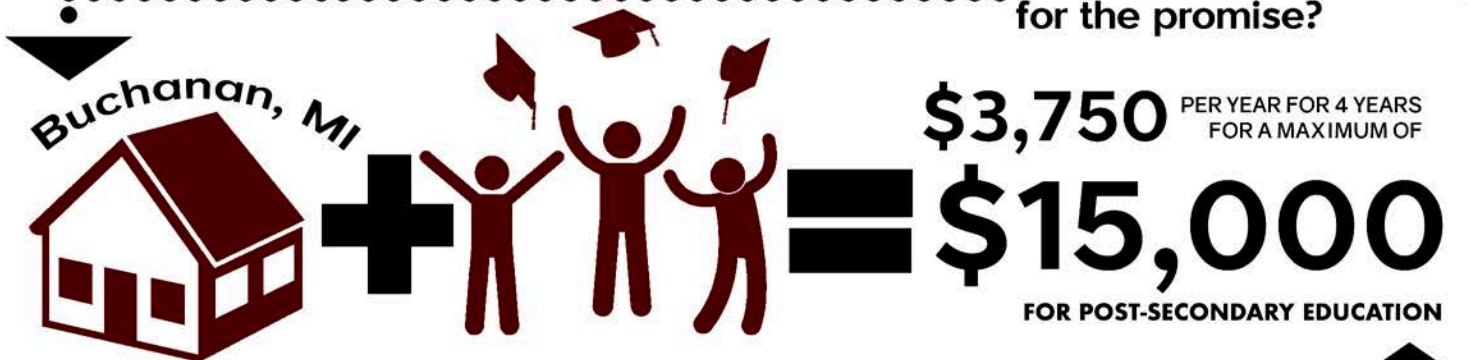
We are happy to announce that, beginning with the graduating class of 2022, eligible students can now qualify for up to \$15,000 over the life of the scholarship!



EZRA PRUETT
CLASS OF 2031

Does my student qualify?

How do students qualify for the promise?



All students who live in the BCS district AND attend AND graduate from Buchanan Community Schools qualify for the Promise! (*at least grades 9 - 12)

To learn more or find out if YOUR student could qualify, call us or visit our website!

Michigan Gateway Community Foundation - Home of the Buchanan Promise 269.695.3521

www.buchananpromise.org

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

(269) 695-8415

BECKY KALTENBACH
FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR
rkaltenbach@buchananschools.com



2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

BREAKFAST & LUNCH FREE FOR ALL BCS STUDENTS!

SCHOOL LUNCH AND MILK PROGRAM

All Buchanan Schools will begin lunch and milk service on Monday, August 26, 2024. One milk is included with each breakfast and lunch.

A variety of fruits and vegetables will be available on all menu lines for students to add to their plate (at no extra charge) before they check-out at the register.

Milk: \$.50 if purchased without a meal or if the student wants an additional carton.



**for monthly breakfast
and lunch menus!**

Paper menus are sent home with elementary students and are also available at each school office.



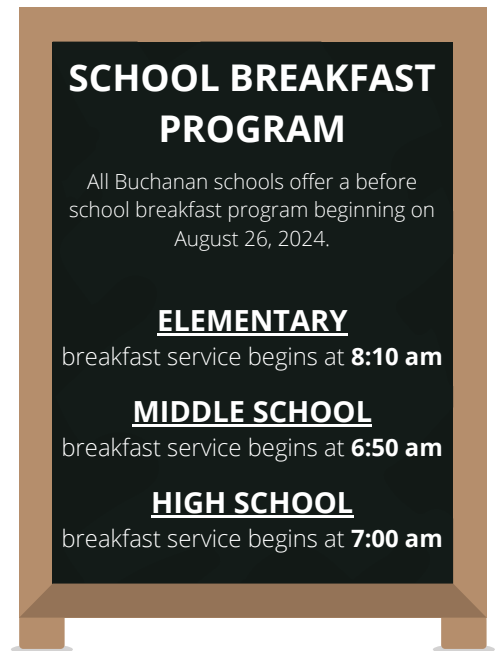
STUDENT MEAL ACCOUNTS

If your student has money in their account, please note that those funds stay with your student until they graduate. That money can be used to purchase ala carte items or will be available to them in future years if meals do not remain free.

Parents may also view the activity in their child's meal account via the internet through the District's Food Service Web Portal.

ALA CARTE SALES

At the Middle School and High School, additional drinks and food will be available for purchase. There must be available funds in your child's account or cash payment in order to purchase ala carte food and beverages. Adults must also maintain a positive balance (or pay with cash).



SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

All Buchanan schools offer a before school breakfast program beginning on August 26, 2024.

ELEMENTARY

breakfast service begins at **8:10 am**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

breakfast service begins at **6:50 am**

HIGH SCHOOL

breakfast service begins at **7:00 am**



Please contact Becky Kaltenbach at 269-695-8415 for information about adding funds to your child's lunch account.

Disruptions in our food supply chain are still a possibility and we may occasionally have to substitute menued items. We thank you for your patience and cooperation and look forward to serving your children this year.



Safely transporting students to a foundation of lifelong learning and working together as a team to provide safe and successful transportation services

GENERAL RULES FOR TRANSPORTATION

- Be on time at your designated bus stop. Drivers have a schedule to meet and cannot wait for tardy pupils. If the bus cancels its lights or pulls away, **DO NOT CHASE THE BUS**. This is how accidents happen.
- Cheerfully obey the bus driver's instructions. Friendly, respectful people get along better.
- Students are expected to display good behavior while on the bus. Quiet conversation is fine. When approaching a railroad crossing, students are to be silent until the bus is safe across the tracks.
- Always remain seated while a bus is moving. It may be necessary to sit three to a seat. The driver may also assign seats.
- Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before attempting to enter or leave the bus.
- Eating or drinking is not permitted on the buses except for special occasions approved by the driver.
- Students are expected to help keep the buses clean. Dispose of paper and other unwanted items properly.
- Musical instruments, books, projects, or other personal items must be held by the owner or placed in a special seat designated by the driver if the room is available. We encourage parents to transport on days large items must be taken to school.
- Stay off the roadways at all times while waiting for a bus. Form a single line and board the bus one at a time. Remember to respect the property of others while waiting for the bus.
- Hands and heads are to be kept inside the bus at all times. There will be no unnecessary disturbing noises or vulgar/profane language.
- Students are expected to get on and off the bus at their designated stops **ONLY**. A parent/guardian must contact the school office directly, either by phone or by sending a note with their student. Please include the date, name, and address of where your child needs to be dropped off. The drivers will **NOT ACCEPT** notes, text messages, or phone calls from a parent on the student's cell phone while loading at the school. **A bus pass must be issued through the office. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- When crossing, students must be 10 ft. in front of the bus, stop and look at the driver. When the driver gives a sweeping motion of their hand, students may then cross only in front of the bus. **NEVER** should a student cross the road behind the bus.
- Animals, glass containers, and helium balloons are not allowed on the buses.
- Students are asked to report any damage they see to the driver. Vandalism is a serious issue and will be addressed as soon as possible.
- Riders are expected to be considerate to all other passengers and to the driver at all times.
- Misconduct on the bus will not be tolerated. Drivers are in charge at all times and are required to report this behavior to the building principals. Riding privileges may be suspended.
- Per Michigan State Law, adults are not allowed to board school buses unless invited.
- Remember...school bus transportation is a privilege, not a right. Misconduct may result in the loss of this privilege.



RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

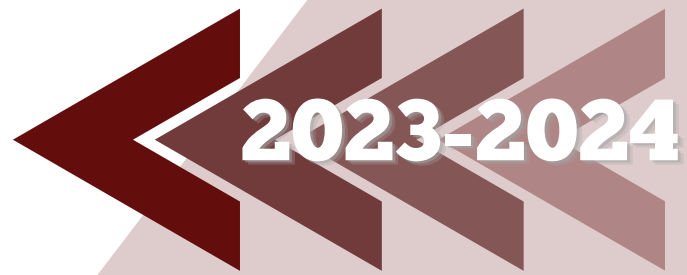
- Review bus riding rules with your child.
- Be sure your child arrives at their stop 5-10 minutes prior to bus arrival.
- Provide necessary protection for your child at the stop.
- Accept the responsibility for your child's conduct at the bus stop and on the school bus. *Remember: "Adults set the example and mood for their children."*

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Jennifer S.	Heather B.
Ann	Jane
Deanna	Jeremy
Michael	Craig
Mr. Percy	Dave
Rose	Steve
Tina	Jennifer T.
Kristen	Nate
Tre'	



YEAR IN REVIEW



Featuring Updates from the Superintendent, Business Office, Instruction & Operations, Food Service, Transportation, and Technology Departments.

PATRICIA ROBINSON **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Buchanan Community Families,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, it's clear that it has been a year filled with celebrations. Despite facing challenges along the way, our successes have far outweighed any obstacles we encountered.

We are deeply grateful that you have chosen Buchanan Community Schools to educate and nurture your children. With various schooling options available, your decision to entrust us with your child's education means a great deal to us. Our fall enrollment count for both 2023 and 2022 stood at 1530 students, maintaining a steady figure over the past three years. While our enrollment hasn't yet fully rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, this consistent number is a cause for celebration.

Operating public schools relies heavily on funding from state and local taxes. Without this crucial support, we wouldn't be able to offer the diverse range of academic, extracurricular, and athletic programs that we currently provide. We express our gratitude to the community for supporting and approving the recent Operating and Sinking Fund milages, which are vital for our operations. Looking ahead, we anticipate seeking approval for a bond to address the maintenance needs of our aging buildings.

At the heart of our mission is the education of our students. Our dedicated teachers work tirelessly to ensure that students meet state standards while also incorporating additional enriching activities into their learning experiences. Each spring, we administer assessments to gauge student progress. While we await the results of the 2024 assessments, we can celebrate the achievements of the previous year. Our district's proficiency scores in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) have consistently placed us among the top performers in our county, showcasing our commitment to academic excellence.

Furthermore, we take pride in the recognition received by three of our exceptional teachers. Jessica Maurer, Erin Kratky, and Melissa Frost have been honored for their outstanding contributions to education, demonstrating innovation, dedication, and passion in their respective fields.

As we look back on the year, we are reminded of our overarching goal: to prepare students for lifelong success in all aspects of their lives. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a comprehensive education that fosters academic, physical, and social-emotional growth.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support, partnership, and trust in Buchanan Community Schools. It is a privilege to be a part of your child's educational journey.



CARRIE BRUNSTING BUSINESS OFFICE

In the past year, the school business office demonstrated resilience and adaptability, navigating challenges in education while focusing on financial stewardship. We restructured the office, bringing accounts payable back in house for improved service, and welcomed Tami Wreggelsworth as the new payroll and accounts payable clerk. Congratulations to Laura Morris on her retirement after 24 years of service; her dedication and contributions have been invaluable, and we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. The District was very active in managing, applying for and receiving numerous grants to assist with funding.

Applied for, received and managed:

- Title IA - Improving Basic Programs
- Title IIA - Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title IV - Student Supports and Academic Enrichment
- ARP Homeless II
- ESSER III
- High Impact Leadership (HIL)
- 23g - MI Kids Back on Track
- 27k - Student Loan Repayment Program
- 31aa - Mental Health Grant
- 35a(5) - Early Literacy Targeted Instruction
- 51a.6 - Special Education Rule Change Costs
- 67f - FAFSA Completion Challenge
- 97 - School Safety
- 97b - School Resource Officer
- 97c - Safety/Security Risk Assessment
- 97d - Critical Incident Mapping
- 97j - Early Student Behavioral Intervention Tools
- 99h - FIRST Robotics
- 104i - Benchmark Assessments

Automatic allocation and District managed:

- 22l - District Transportation Costs
- 27l - Educator Compensation Program
- 31a - At-Risk

Applied for, did not receive:

- Michigan Community Center Grant

Grants which flow through Berrien RESA:

- GSRP Programming
- GSRP Transportation
- CTE - Perkins
- Diverse Library Grant
- 31n(6) Mental Health and Support Services
- 61a - CTE Added Costs
- 61c - CTE Equipment Grant



As custodians of fiscal responsibility, we aim to build upon these achievements and embrace future opportunities.

NATE WILL TRANSPORTATION

We are excited to welcome back some familiar faces this year. Tina Nelson (Route 10), Kristen Wahlstrom (Route 7), and Jane Mitchell (morning CTE and substitute) have rejoined our team. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce Tre' Myers, who will be joining us as a substitute driver. Tre' will undergo training over the summer and will be ready to start when we return from summer break.

In July, parents and guardians will receive an email asking for transportation requests for the fall. Please look out for this email to ensure we have the correct contact information for your child and their pick-up and drop-off locations.



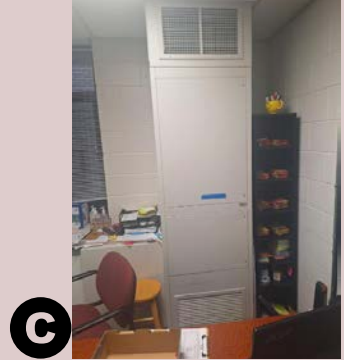
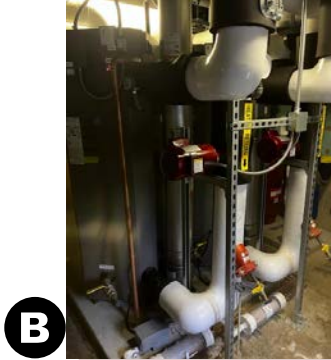


MARK KURLAND

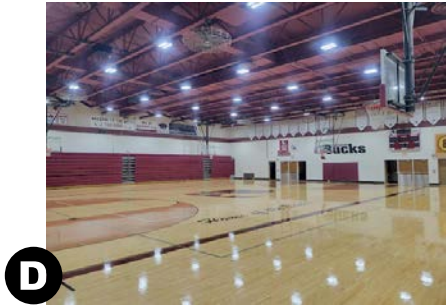
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

The Operations Department consists of maintenance and custodial services. The custodial services are a combination of Buchanan employees as well as a third party company, Enviro-Clean. This is the second year that we have shared custodial services with Enviro-Clean due to staff shortages. Maintenance covers all repairs for the district including heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical. Over the past school year:

I. Ottawa elementary installed two boilers that service 10 classrooms and include new univentilaters that are in each classroom (A-C)



II. Buchanan High School Competition Gym installed new LED lights as part of a sinking fund project (D) and we fixed two sink holes at the football field and track area (E)



III. Moccasin and Ottawa have both had a washer and dryer system added to the building to support custodial services. This includes plumbing and electrical (F). The Moccasin Boiler also had new tubes installed to increase the lifespan (G)



IV. Capital Projects During the 23-24 School Year as of May 22, 2024

Timeframe	Project	Amount
Current & Future	<i>*items are waiting final invoice or are estimated amounts</i>	
	High School Field House Garage Door *	\$ 2,405
	Ottawa, Moccasin & Middle School Emergency and Remedial Roof Repairs *	\$ 7,500
	High School Emergency Roof Repairs*	\$33,320
	Ottawa Playground Deck Repair*	\$28,930
	High School “Remedial” Roof Repairs*	\$5,700
	Moccasin Drinking Fountain Replacement*	\$2,142
2023-2024	High School Track Sink Hole	\$ 4,659
	High School Weight Room Masonry Repairs & Architect Services	\$ 6,005
	Moccasin Washer Dryer Install (includes electrical & plumbing)	\$ 13,058
	High School Air Conditioning*	\$ 52,436
	High School Roof Repairs	\$ 25,400
	High School Gym Lighting	\$ 19,980
	High School Thermostat Replacements	\$ 5,040
	High School Heat in Locker Room*	\$ 10,338
	Ottawa Washer Dryer Install (includes electrical & plumbing)	\$ 9,680
	High School Culinary Plumbing Repair	\$ 3,328
	Moccasin Boiler Repair	\$ 9,000
	District Roofing Assessment	\$ 8,200
	Moccasin Sidewalk Repair	\$ 6,750
	High School New Hot Water Boiler	\$ 79,853
	High School New Hot Water Boiler Install Electrical Upgrade	\$ 4,984
	High School Auto Shop Gate and Fence Installation	\$ 4,172
	Moccasin ADA Restroom Upgrade & Renovation	\$ 6,495
	Moccasin Parking Lot Repairs	\$ 2,000
	High School Roof Repairs	\$ 451
	High School Culinary Flooring	\$ 6,065
	High School Mixing Valve	\$ 2,516
	High School Thermostat Controller Replacement	\$ 6,851
	High School Roof Repair	\$ 278
	Moccasin Roof Repair	\$ 859
	High School New Water Softener	\$ 54,135
	High School Football Field Sink Hole	\$ 9,992

The Food Service staff carefully plans and serves meals to meet the nutritional requirements of the age group at each school. We continually work to provide meals that are not only nutritious, but also appealing to students. We do this by including a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as time-tested kid favorites like pizza and chicken nuggets. This year we were very pleased to join other school districts across Michigan in offering **free** breakfasts and lunches to all BCS students. This was great for the kids, parents, and staff! On average, we served about 464 student breakfasts and 1,071 lunches each day. Other highlights of the year include:

- Working with student volunteers and Buchanan High School Art Teacher Sandra Miller, we designed and painted a mural in the High School cafeteria.
- We purchased new cafeteria seating for the high school, including BCS branded tables and cafe-height counters with chairs.
- Ottawa Elementary now has a new, larger walk in freezer which has helped with the increased meal counts there.
- For the first time, we have a commercial dishwasher for the high school kitchen. This has allowed us to begin using reusable trays, greatly reducing the amount of styrofoam going to the landfill.



The Information Technologies Department at Buchanan Community Schools is responsible for the maintenance of all technologies used in the education of students and the support of that education. This includes obvious things such as teacher and student computers, projectors, Chromebooks, wifi, etc., but also includes the network infrastructure connecting our buildings together.

Buchanan High School Security Cameras

Through a combination of special security funds and donations, the security camera systems at BHS were significantly upgraded. The extremely old and oddly shaped buildings provide many challenges for placing cameras so that all important areas have adequate coverage. In order to properly monitor and secure the main BHS campus, over 200 indoor and outdoor cameras were installed.

Network Equipment Upgrades (10 Gbps backbone)

Taking advantage of federal eRate dollars, the primary Internet and fiber optic connection into the District was increased to 3Gbps which allows for us to set aside a dedicated 1Gbps to each of three connecting buildings with services originating at BHS. To provide this much more robust network, the equipment at BHS was upgraded to support 10Gbps. This year was a trial run for a much less expensive brand and type of equipment. The positive results have given us the confidence to move forward with similar upgrades at Buchanan Middle School, Moccasin and Ottawa over the next two years.

Elementary IFP Chromeboxes

Completing the classroom hardware upgrades started a few years ago, this year we added a Chromebox computer to each of our elementary Interactive Flat Panels (IFP) complete with wireless mouse and keyboard. This addition provides a dedicated computing device for the panel which frees the teacher's computer up for other work while students are engaged with the IFP. This also significantly extends the abilities of the IFP to include student login, full Google Workspace integration and support of the Google Play store to add educational and classroom apps.

Buchanan Middle School Computer Lab Upgrades

Before school started in the fall of 2023, we were able to complete a series of key hardware upgrades to the student workstations in the BMS computer lab. At a savings of 80% over total replacement, we were able to extend the life of the equipment for another three to four years while simultaneously increasing the systems' capabilities.



“BUT WHAT IF I’M WRONG?”
“I’M SURE IT WAS JUST A JOKE.”



“I DON’T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.”
“SOMEONE ELSE WILL SPEAK UP.”

“THERE IS NO EXCUSE
TO REMAIN SILENT.”



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2024-2025 BACK TO SCHOOL BUCHANAN BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL NOTICES

NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS REINSPECTIONS

To: Parents & Staff of Buchanan Community Schools
From: Mark Kurland, Director of Operations & Instructional Systems Coordinator
Date: July 2024

In compliance with the 1989 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), we have performed inspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plans are on file in each school administrative office and in the office at Central Maintenance.

The EPA requires us to perform reinspections of the asbestos materials every three years. The three-year reinspections were performed by an accredited asbestos inspector in July 2023. We perform the six-month periodic surveillance as required by the AHERA regulations.

The results of the reinspections and management plans are on file in each school's administrative office and Business Office. Everyone is welcome to view these at any time during normal hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). I will be available at 695-8400 to answer any questions you may have about asbestos in our buildings.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Buchanan Community Schools complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender/sex, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be subjected to discrimination in any program, service, or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Compliance Officers for Affirmative Action and review of Federal requirements are as follows: Section 504 and ADA; Karin Falkenstein (Special Education Supervisor, 695-8442), Title IX and Title VI; Brian Pruett (Buchanan High School Principal, 695-8404) and Shelby Beasley (Buchanan Middle School Principal, 695-8406).

Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington D. C. 20201. The District Coordinator, on request, will provide a copy of the District's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure. A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the District's Superintendent's Office. In accordance with Federal law, any person employed by this District must provide evidence that they are eligible to work in the United States.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION ON STUDENTS & FERPA

In compliance with Federal regulations, the Buchanan School District has established the following guidance concerning student records:

- The building principal is the Records Control Officer for the building and is responsible for the processing and maintenance of all student records.
- Each student's records will be kept in a confidential file. The information in a student's record file will be available for review only by the parents or legal guardian of a student, adult student (18 yrs. of age or older), and those designated by Federal law of District regulations.
- A parent, guardian, or adult student has the right to request a change or addition to a student's records and to either obtain a hearing with District officials or file a complaint with the U.S. Office of Education if not satisfied with the accuracy of the records, or with the District's compliance with the Federal Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA). See 5309-F-1 in the online board policy library.
- The District has established the following information about each student as "directory information" and will make it available upon a legitimate request unless a parent, guardian, or adult student notifies the school principal in writing within ten (10) days from the date of this notification that they will not permit distribution of any or all such information: student name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of athletic team members, dates of attendance, date of graduation and awards received, and any other information the District considers would not be harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed.
- A copy of policy 5309 is available at the Superintendent's office. There will also be a person available to answer any questions concerning the policy or guidelines. All board policies are located online at <https://www.buchananschools.com/board-of-education/board-policy-library/>

ANTI-BULLYING

All types of bullying, including cyberbullying, without regard to subject matter or motivation are prohibited.

PARENT NOTIFICATION REGARDING SEX EDUCATION AND AIDS CLASSES

The Board of Education has adopted a comprehensive Health Education Program which includes education on human sexuality and venereal and non-casual-contact communicable diseases such as AIDS. It is designed to provide an appropriate means for students to acquire the knowledge, skill, and attitudes necessary to maintain good health.

In compliance with State law and with its desire to maintain effective communication with parents and the community, the Board has made arrangements for the programs and instructional materials to be available for review by any parents or interested members of the community. If you wish to review any or all of the programs, please contact the principal of your child's school. After reviewing the programs, if you wish to discuss them, please contact the principal or the school office. Your child is required to participate in these courses, but the law allows you the right to have your child excused from participating in classes that include instruction in sex education, reproductive health, family planning, and AIDS education. The Board's policy is to honor parents' written requests that their child be excused from certain classes in any course. We encourage you to personally review the program lessons and materials.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES THAT CAN AFFECT PRE-TEENS

Pre-teens and adolescents need vaccines to protect them from serious illnesses. Immunizations begin at birth and continue throughout life. These shots are an important step to maintain your child's health.

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria that infects the blood or tissues around the brain and spinal cord.

- This germ can be spread from person to person by close contact.
- Common symptoms include a fever, rash, headache, or stiff neck.
- It can lead to brain damage, disability, and death.
- Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) can protect children and adolescents from this disease.
- This vaccine is usually given to 11-12-year-olds (6th graders).
- Because it is a newer vaccine, older adolescents may not have received it. Teens that have not had Meningococcal vaccine should be given a dose.
- Ask your child's health care provider if they need the Meningococcal vaccine.

To obtain the Meningococcal vaccine and other immunizations for your child, see your child's health care provider or your local health department.

For more information about the Meningococcal vaccine or other immunizations, talk to your child's health care provider or call your local health department. Information is also available at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

There are vaccines that can protect pre-teens and adolescents from other serious diseases. Sixth graders and teens need the following shots if they have not received them:

- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)
- 1 dose of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine (DTP, DTaP, Tdap)
- 3 doses of human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV4 - for girls only)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (HepB)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 2 doses of chicken pox vaccine (var), if they did not have the disease
- At least 3 doses of polio vaccine (IPV or OPV)
- Some children & teens may need hepatitis A and flu vaccine

The Michigan Department of Education in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health is required by law (2005 PA240, MCL380.1177a) to develop and make available to schools information on Meningococcal Meningitis.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS

A student cannot participate in a school-sponsored or operated athletic activity until the student and their parent have each received and read the concussion fact sheet for students and the concussion fact sheet for parents, respectively. Both the student and parent must sign and return a form acknowledging receipt of the fact sheet or other concussion awareness educational material. At a minimum, schools must keep these acknowledgment forms in a permanent file as long as the student participates in a school-sponsored athletic activity.

MEMORANDUM TO PARENTS REGARDING SCHOOL BOARD POLICY ON DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS & USE OF DETECTION DOGS

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute or substance that could be considered a "look-alike" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbook, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State laws, the District will also notify law enforcement officials. The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which they receive help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed. The District may use a detection dog, without a warrant or consent, to sniff property in an effort to locate illegal drugs or contraband according to the protocol in policy 3107. If a detection dog alerts on a person's property, the alert will constitute reasonable suspicion for a District administrator to search the property.



PARENT NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE SPRAY ON SCHOOL PREMISES

State of Michigan law requires schools that may apply pesticides on school property to provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians or students attending the facility. Please be advised that Buchanan Community Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or reducing an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion, and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation, that is made to the school grounds or buildings during this school year. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Application of pesticides will be performed only by certified or registered applicators where and when required. If a pesticide is applied in a building, students will not occupy the room for a minimum of four hours. At the time of application, a sign will be posted for 48 hours near the building's primary point of entry. When a pesticide is applied to school district grounds, the application will not be made within 100 feet of occupied classrooms, and flags will be inserted in the ground to mark the application area.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by 2 methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance of the school to which the pesticide application is being made. The second method will be by posting on the school's website at www.buchananschools.com.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first-class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first-class mail, please contact Mark Kurland, Director of Operations & Instructional Systems Coordinator at 269-695-8400 ext. *20005 or mkurland@buchananschools.com.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Kurland directly at 269-695-8400 ext. *20005 or mkurland@buchananschools.com.

PARENT NOTIFICATION REGARDING BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Buchanan Community Schools is subject to regulations from OSHA to restrict the spread of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the workplace. These regulations are designed to protect employees of the District who are, or could be exposed, to blood or other contaminated bodily fluids while performing their job duties.

Because of the very serious consequences of contracting HBV or HIV, the District requests the person who was bleeding consent to be tested for HBV and HIV. This information would then be provided both to the exposed employee and the treating physician to determine proper medical treatment.

The law does not require parents or guardians to grant permission for the examination of their child's blood, but it does require the District to request that consent. Although we expect that incidents of exposure will be few, we wanted to notify parents of these requirements ahead of time. That way, if the situation does develop you will understand the reason for our request and will have had an opportunity to consider it in advance. These are serious diseases, and we sincerely hope that through proper precautions and cooperation we can prevent them from spreading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 269-695-8401.

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AND PARENTAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Board of Education respects the privacy right of parents and their children (policy 5308). No student shall be required as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum without the prior written consent of the student, (if an adult or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, their parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or their parents;
- mental or physical problems of the student or their family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close, family relationships;
- legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or their parents;
- or income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

The Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any material used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

PA 158, WEAPON-FREE SCHOOL ZONE LEGISLATION

Under PA 158, any person who assaults another person with less than the intent to commit murder or to inflict bodily harm, with a gun, revolver, pistol, knife, iron bar, club, brass knuckles, or other dangerous weapons in a weapon-free school zone, is guilty of a felony punishable by one or more of the following:

- Imprisonment for not more than four years
- Community service for not more than 150 hours
- A fine of not more than \$6,000

A parent of a minor is guilty of a misdemeanor if they have custody of the minor, the minor has a weapons violation in a weapon-free school zone, and the parent knows that the minor would violate the firearms act or acts to further the violation. The misdemeanor is punishable by one or more of the following:

- Fine of not more than \$2,000
- Community service for not more than 100 hours
- Probation

The law also provides that anyone in possession of a weapon in a weapon-free school zone is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by one or more of the following:

- Imprisonment for not more than 93 days
- Community service for not more than 100 hours
- Fine of not more than \$2,000

COORDINATORS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND REVIEW OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 504 and ADA - Karin Falkenstein, Special Education Supervisor, 695-8442

Title IX and Title VI - Brian Pruett, Buchanan High School Principal, 695-8404 ext. *20012 and Shelby Beasley Buchanan Middle School Principal, 695-8406 ext. *32107

School Lunch - Becky Kaltenbach (695-8415 ext. *20009)

PERMISSION TO UTILIZE

As a part of a media presentation produced by this District via computerized, audio-visual, or other types of electronic communication, students and/or their schoolwork products may be photographed, video or digitized. These photographs, videos, digitized works, or other items may be made available to other educational institutions, broadcast mediums, or through the internet. As a result, a student's image, name, work product, school, or grade may be revealed in the presentation unless a parent, guardian, or adult student notifies the building principal in writing within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this notification that they will not permit the use of such material.

PARENTS RIGHT TO REVIEW TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

As a parent of a student at Buchanan Community Schools, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Michigan Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects they teach.
- Whether the Michigan Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call Buchanan Community Schools at 269-695-8401.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO INSPECT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Requests to review curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials must be made to the building principal.

CTE PARENT NOTIFICATION

Additional support services are available to special population students enrolled in Career and Technical Education classes through the Perkins III initiative. For additional information, please contact Mark Frey at 269-695-8400 ext. *20013.

TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Consistent with policy 3115, the District prohibits unlawful sex discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, in any of its education programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulations.

HOMELESS LIAISON

The homeless liaison will coordinate services to ensure that homeless children and youth enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed.

Brandon Flowers, BCS Homeless Liaison

bflowers@buchananschools.com

269-695-8403 ext. *20018

2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION CALENDAR

Pursuant to Public Acts No. 451, Article I, Part 3, Section 115, Paragraph (1), the calendar for the Buchanan Board of Education is hereby published.

Meetings will be called for 6:00 pm, unless advertised differently.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF THE BUCHANAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, August 19	Regular Meeting	High School
Monday, September 16	Regular Meeting	High School
Monday, October 21	Regular Meeting	High School
Monday, November 18	Regular Meeting	High School
Monday, December 16	Regular Meeting	High School
January - July	TBD	TBD

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Upon request to Michelle Munyon, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.

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Melissa Frost

Buchanan High School

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Region 7 Teacher of the Year
2024-2025



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With the help of the Buchanan Promise, I will be able to have the opportunity to study and obtain a degree in computer science at Southwestern Michigan University.



Chris Patton, BHS Class of 2024



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**BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

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