

School District #31 NEWS

Fall Edition 2024-2025 School Year



A message from the Superintendent

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year! I am especially excited about this year because we are starting to see some momentum within our district. The work that our teachers did last year at the elementary levels seems to be improving outcomes for students and we are well positioned for the state's READ Act which will be starting in September. We are also looking to start transitioning the good work being done in our instructional plan to the secondary level in the next few years as we look to improve outcomes in both Math and Reading across the district. Improvement does not just happen, it only happens because of the intentional efforts of our staff and students who daily put the time and energy into improving outcomes. Lets make this a great year!



Dr. Jeremy Olson
Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Plan: Our strategic plan is centered around four focus areas: student achievement, student support and belonging, district culture, and community connection. In the 2023-2024 school year our focus was primarily on student achievement, staff development to move this goal forward, and the

[READ MORE](#)

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Families who are new or returning to the Bemidji School District must register their students. Please see the Bemidji Area Schools website www.bemidji.k12.mn.us and click on PARENT, STUDENT REGISTRATION

We offer three ways you can enroll your student:

Option 1: Enroll online

Option 2: Complete paperwork and return

- Scan and email to: registrar@isd31.net
- Print and mail to: Registration Office, 502 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

Option 3: Enroll in person

Bemidji Area Schools Registration Office, 502 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601
Phone: 218-333-3100 Ext. 31131 or 31134

Documents needed to register:

Bemidji Area Schools require identification of each student as a condition of enrollment. Enrollment is provisional pending receipt of the required documentation. ALL of the following are required when you register your child.

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Parent/Guardian Photo Identification
- Proof of residence: Rental agreement OR Current gas or electricity bill(within the last 30 days)
- Custody papers, if applicable (court order of custody or stamped petition is acceptable).

Please bring all materials that identify your student needing special programming (ie. IEP or 504 Plan). This information will enable the school to provide a suitable placement for your child.

Parent/Guardians who have a change of address should contact their child's school at their earliest convenience or email the change to registrar@isd31.net



Special Education Services

The Bemidji Area School District recognizes its responsibility to provide a free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities who reside within the district's boundaries.

Bemidji Area Schools has a "child find" process that is designed to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities residing within the district boundaries ages birth through 22 (who have not yet graduated from high school).

Bemidji Area Schools conducts annual preschool screenings for all children in the district ages three to five years old, as required by law. If you do not receive notification of this prior to your child turning age four, please call 218-333-8329 to schedule an appointment for your child.

Any child living within the district boundaries, including home schooled or attending nonpublic schools, may be referred for a potential special education evaluation. Results of any evaluation will determine, what, if any, services the child needs.

For questions or further information regarding the referral and evaluation process, please contact the District Special Education Director at 218-333-3100 ext. 31104.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

In Minnesota, all 3 to 5 year old children are required to complete an Early Childhood Screening prior to preschool and/or Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening is a FREE and simple check of your child's vision, hearing, height, weight, language and development. This screening helps ensure that all young children are well equipped for learning and families are aware of the resources in our schools and community.



If you have a child who will be going to Preschool or Kindergarten, please make an appointment well in advance. We like to start screening as early as age 3.

How to register for a screening:

- <https://bemidjicommunityed.arux.app>
- Click the Early Childhood Screening tab to make your appointment
- Or call Eileen @ 218-333-8329

Sports Activities and Physicals

The Bemidji Middle School and Bemidji High School students who plan on participating in sports activities are required to register for their activity online and also have a sports physical. Sports physicals are good for three (3) years. Please plan on obtaining a physical well in advance due to the volume of students getting physicals. Registration for participating in activities can be found on the Bemidji Schools website (bemidji.k12.mn.us) and click on the Activity Registration icon on the right. Or you can visit bemidji.k12.mn.us and follow the instructions. Please create one (1) account per family.

Food Service 2024-2025

District 31 participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and Minnesota Free Meals Program. Breakfasts and lunches are served at all schools. Participation in these programs is voluntary. Meal prices for 2024-2025 are: Breakfast K - 12 Free, Lunch K - 12 Free. Second breakfast \$3.00 and second entree \$3.00. All second meal, second entree and ala carte purchases require available funds in the student meal account prior to purchase. A completed and approved Application for Educational Benefits provides additional benefits.

The food service program actively participates in the Farm to School Program, serving locally sourced foods in all our cafeterias. This program continues to be an asset to our students as well as the community. Students are able to eat fresh products grown in their geographic area and local growers are able to sell their items to a local institution.

Factors that encourage continuation of our Farm to School Program are:

- Raising students' awareness and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and grains
- Encouraging better eating habits among children
- Educating students about where food comes from and how it is grown
- Supporting the local economy

Food Allergies and/or Special Diets

Please contact the food service office prior to your child/children beginning school if you have concerns related to their food allergies or diets. The food service website has forms to use when requesting special diets for students. The following forms are available: Special Diet Statement for a Student Without a Disability and Special Diet Statement for a Student With a Disability. Lactose free milk is available to students who are lactose intolerant. Please contact the school's food service and send a note with your child/children to receive this option. This note needs to be signed by the parent/guardian, not a physician.

Remember! All students in grades K - 12 receive their school breakfast **free of charge!** It is important that students are prepared to learn each day! Eating breakfast, whether at home or school, helps to guarantee their readiness!!

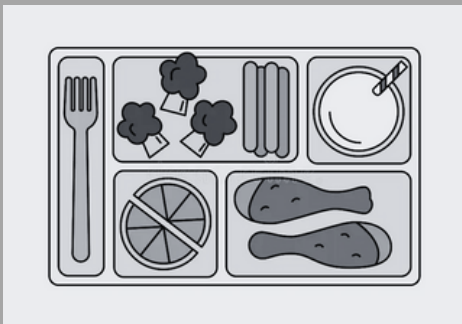
Food Service Continued...

Applications for Educational Benefits

Applications for Educational Benefits are sent out to the district residents in August and are accessible on the district website to complete online. Applications **MUST** be completed and returned **EACH YEAR** to determine eligibility for additional student and district benefits. **Please return these applications as soon as possible to the food service office at 502 Minnesota Ave. N.W.** Benefits of the program cannot be given to the students until applications have been reviewed for eligibility. If you do not receive an application, please secure one from any of the schools' offices. Application for Educational Benefits can be made at any time of the school year, if the need arises. **Applying for the program is important. Families may receive additional benefits of waived activity, camp, test and application fees for many organizations. Schools receive funding for educational programs based directly on the number of students who qualify for free or reduced price meals. These funds are used to provide additional educational support and opportunities for students in every school.**

Access the Application for Educational Benefits by visiting:

<https://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/parent/food-service/>



Menu Information

Menus and food service program information are available on the district web page, (bemidji.k12.mn.us/Parent/foodservice.html). All menus are analyzed as to their nutrient and caloric value to assure they meet the daily requirements for students of a specific age group. We also encourage the use of Family Access to secure knowledge of your child's meal account, as well as other school information.

Food Service Continued...

The district uses an Individual Meal Accounting System in all the schools where each student has their own individual account. The PIN (Personal Identification Number) they are given remains with them for access to their account throughout all of their school years in the district. Meal accounts are debit accounts; therefore there must be money in the account for the student to use it. Charging of extras is not allowed in any of the Bemidji Schools. Since the entire district uses the Individual Meal Accounting System, accounts for students with positive or negative balances will be credited for the next school year. Positive balances from one sibling will be transferred to another sibling to zero out a negative balance. Students graduating from high school may have their account balances transferred to a younger sibling or another student by calling the Food Service Office at: 333-3100 ext. 31141. Refunds from accounts will only be sent if the balance is \$5.00 or more. A request for a refund must be made by the parent/guardian when a student is leaving the district. Payments may be made to individual student accounts using your credit/debit card online with "Family Access" (follow directions posted on the site in August). Using the online payment center allows you to credit your child's account at any time. A minimal fee is charged to cover the cost of this convenience. You may also mail payments to the district office (502 Minnesota Ave. N.W.) or place them in an envelope and put them in a food service drop box in the cafeteria near the meal service area. Personal checks should be written to ISD#31 with the student's name and PIN in the memo area. When sending cash, please place it in an envelope and write the student's name and PIN and the amount of money on the envelope. Students need to maintain a positive balance in their meal account.

Register for Family Access by visiting:

<http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/parent/family-access>



Click the "sign-up link" link on the left side of the screen, fill in the request information, and click "send" to start the process. A district representative will contact you to provide your username and password for system access. Please update your email address when it changes.

Questions or concerns regarding the food service programs can be directed to the food service office at 333-3100 ext. 31141 or 31142.

Use of Pest Control Materials

Minnesota Law requires schools to inform parents and guardians if they apply certain pesticides on school property. Bemidji Area Schools utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service for the prevention and control of rodents, insects and other pests in and around district buildings. This program consists of:

1. Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present and whether any treatment is needed.
2. Recommendations for maintenance to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials.
3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening.
4. Application of EPA – registered pest control materials when needed.

Pests sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property and spread disease. Therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per Federal Law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatment is available for review at the District Safety Office, located at 511 3rd St, NW. A similar schedule is available for herbicides and other materials for school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any applications of a pest control material, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified on the schedule.

Please contact the District Safety Office, at 333-3149, with any questions or concerns.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Notice

Bemidji Area Schools has an Indoor Air Quality Plan in place that will help monitor and improve the quality of air in all school district buildings. Our goal is to provide a safe, comfortable and productive environment for our students and staff so that we achieve our core mission – educating students.

The objectives of the IAQ Plans are to:

1. Reduce the levels of indoor air pollution through prevention measures such as routine maintenance activities, periodic building evaluations and inspections and IAQ specific policies.
2. Provide and maintain adequate fresh air exchange by repairing and maintaining ventilation equipment.
3. Respond to IAQ related questions, concerns and problems in a thorough and prompt manner and to communicate the progress of investigations and their resolutions to all interested parties.
4. Follow all U.S. Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) regulations and guidelines.

The school administration and School Board are committed to providing the necessary support to meet the school district's IAQ Management Plan objectives.

Questions or concerns regarding the district's IAQ plan, policies and procedures dealing with IAQ concerns should be directed to the District Safety Office at 333-3149.

Criminal History Background Checks

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to promote the physical, social and psychological well being of students, the school district has implemented policy SBR 200-90-16 requiring a criminal history background check for applicants who receive an offer of employment. Minnesota law requires a school hiring authority to request a criminal history background check on all individuals who are offered employment in a school and on all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular services to a school, regardless of whether any compensation is paid. In accordance with the established policy, the district may also elect to request background checks of volunteers, independent contractors and student employees.

Questions about criminal history background check requirements can be referred to the Human Resources department at (218) 333-3100, extension 31111. A copy of the policy can be obtained by contacting the Human Resources department or on the district website at www.bemidji.k12.mn.us

District Curriculum Advisory Committee

The Bemidji Area School's District Curriculum Advisory Committee is seeking two District 31 Parents. The role of the committee is to provide input and advice via recommendations on the implementation of state and local graduation requirements, K-12 curriculum, assessment, student learning opportunities, and other related items.

The District Curriculum Advisory Committee includes teachers, parents/guardians, support staff, students, school board members, and community residents. The Committee will meet four times per school year, in-person or virtually, with the first meeting in October.

If you would like to be considered for one of the two parent vacancies, please apply online at <https://forms.gle/y1a34KnKwtDE5t5bA>.

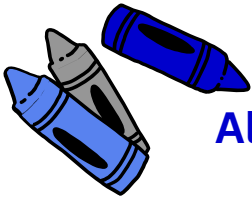
Transportation News

A new Bus Card will be issued you and your child with valuable information, including pickup time, drop location and bus assignments. The Bus Card will help our drivers and office staff quickly identify students and provide contact information. It is very important that each rider has this card with them at all times. Plastic holders will be available at each school and can be easily attached to a backpack.



Important notes-

- Riding the School Bus is a privilege. Please review our bus rules on the Bemidji Area Schools website.
- Each student must register to ride.
- Each Student is allowed one pickup and one drop location in their home attendance area.
- The information you provide at registration is what is used for the Bus Card. Please inform Transportation Office of any changes with contact information and other data.
- Afternoon drop times will be variable depending on ridership.
- Remember to be at your designated bus stop five minutes ahead of the scheduled pick up time.
- All School bus parking charts are updated by the first day of school and available @ <https://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/parent/transportation/>
- Please be aware that times may vary, especially during the first week of school.
- If your student transfers at Bemidji Middle School in the afternoon, please remind them to board their bus as quickly as possible. Our window for the transfer is 10 minutes and any delay results in longer delays on the way home and also creates safety concerns at BMS.



Student Orientation

All Elementary Schools and Preschool Students

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Orientation day for elementary and preschool students is Thursday, August 29, at the student's school of attendance. Parents will receive an orientation schedule for their child(ren) in the mail. If parents do not receive a letter, they are advised to contact their school. *Preschool students who attend 2 or 3 days a week may also be scheduled on Wednesday, Aug. 28. (refer to your letter for specific day/time).

Bemidji Middle School Orientation

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

All Students AND their Parents

Session 1: 4:00-5:30 p.m. OR Session 2: 5:45-7:15 p.m.

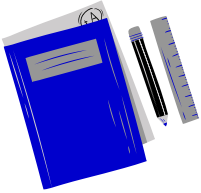
Please join your student for Orientation!

Please enter the Middle School at the Flag Pole Entrance (east side)

There will be two opportunities for students and families to attend. Regardless of which session you choose, 6th graders: Please meet in the North Gym, 7th and 8th grade families meet in the South Gym where you will check in and be directed to your next location. Parents/Guardians are requested to attend with your student.

7th and/or 8th Grade “New to District Families”:

If you are a 7th or 8th grade family new to the district, please make plans to attend Session 1. There will be an informational meeting for you from 5:30-6:00 in Epsilon Pod (follow the signs) after the pod and admin presentations.



**Bemidji High School
Freshmen Orientation Day**

Thursday, August 29, 2024 - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Freshmen Orientation Day, on Thursday, August 29, is for 9th graders ONLY! The day will start when you arrive at the High School between 8:00 - 8:15 a.m. Upperclassmen trained as LINK CREW LEADERS will guide students through the day's activities designed to welcome, motivate, and prepare freshmen for BHS. The day will be energizing, productive, and memorable! Activities will wrap up at 12:00 p.m. Orientation Day is very important and will set the stage for a successful high school career at BHS. All ninth graders are expected to attend.

Buses do not run on Freshmen Orientation Day. Parents must provide transportation for students to and from school on this day. Please note that we will not be serving lunch, however, we will offer freshmen a “Breakfast to Go” bag mid-morning.





DISTRICT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent (Jeremy Olson) 218-333-3100 ext 31120
Director of Business Services (Ashley Eastridge) 218-333-3100 ext 31121
Director of Curriculum (Colleen Cardenuto) 218-333-3100 ext 31103
Director of Human Resources (Jordan Hickman) 218-333-3100 ext 31113
Director of Special Education (Alexis Wilde) 218-333-3100 ext 31104

GENE DILLON ELEMENTARY

Principal Ami Aalgaard 218-333-3409 ext 49403.
Assistant Principal, David Gooch 218-333-3409 ext 49404

J. W. SMITH ELEMENTARY

Principal Bruce Goodwin 218-333-3290

NORTHERN ELEMENTARY

Principal Amy Worden 218-333-3260

BEMIDJI MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal Drew Hildenbrand 218-333-3215 ext 52041
Assistant Principal Kyle McMartin 218-333-3215 ext 52031
Dean of Students/Activities Coordinator Andra Vaughn 218-333-3215 ext 52021
Registrar 218-333-3215 ext 52005
Counselors: Amanda Stade 218-333-3215 ext 58171 Travis Zachman 218-333-3215 ext 51961

BEMIDJI HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Jason Stanoch 218-444-1600 ext 63305
Assistant Principal Christine Christiansen 218-444-1600 ext 63118
Assistant Principal Kyle Resler 218-444-1600 ext 63701
Attendance Office A-K 218-444-1600 ext 63303
Attendance Office L-Z 218-444-1600 ext 63301
Registrar 218-444-1600 ext 63117
Activities Office 218-444-1600 ext 63315
Counselors: Kelley Hengel 218-444-1600 ext 63320
School Counselor A-K 218-444-1600 ext 63324 School Counselor L-Z 218-444-1600 ext 63310

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER (AEC) 218-333-3299

COMMUNITY EDUCATION 218-333-3284

DISTRICT REGISTRATION 218-333-3100 ext 31131

DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE 218-333-3115 ext 37209

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS 218-333-8329

FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE DEPT 218-333-3163

FIRST CITY SCHOOL 218-333-3458

FOOD SERVICE OFFICE 218-333-3100 ext 31141 or 31142

HOMELESS LIAISON 218-333-3215 ext 55151

INDIAN EDUCATION 218-441-6354

LAKESIDE LEARNING CENTER 218-333-3299

LUMBERJACK HIGH SCHOOL 218-444-1600 ext 63701

OSHKI MANIDOO 218-333-3299

RELATED SERVICES 218-333-3115

TRANSPORTATION DEPT 218-333-3225

WAREHOUSE 218-333-3151

HORACE MAY ELEMENTARY

Principal Kathy Van Wert 218-333-3240

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

Principal Jason Luksik 218-333-3250

SOLWAY ELEMENTARY

Principal Kim Goodwin 218-467-3232

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July	January
August	1-3 – No School, Winter Break
26-29 – Teacher Workshop Days	20 – No School, MLK Jr. Day**
27 – BMS Orientation*	22 – Early Release
29 – BHS & Elementary Orientations*	24 – End of 2 nd Term
	February
September	14 – No School, Staff Development
2 – District Closed, Labor Day	17 – No School, President's Day**
3 – Students' 1st Day of School	27 – BHS Conferences*
30 – No School, Teacher Development	
	March
	5 – Early Release
October	6, 10 – BMS Conferences*
1, 3 – BHS Conferences*	11, 12, 13 – K-5 Conferences*
8, 10, 15 – BMS Conferences*	13 – No School, Teacher Work Day
16 – Early Release	14 – No School
	April
November	4 – End of 3 rd Term
6 – End of 1 st Term	4 – Early Release
8 – End of 1 st Term (BMS only)	18, 21 – No School, Spring Break
4, 6, 7 – K-5 Conferences*	
7 – No School, Teacher Work Day	May
8 – No School	1 – BHS Conferences*
27 – Early Release	24 – BHS Graduation
28 – District Closed, Thanksgiving Day	26 – District Closed – Memorial Day
29 – District Closed	
	June
	4 – Students' Last Day
December	5 – Teachers' Last Day (1/2 day)
12 – BHS Conferences*	
13 – Early Release	
23-31 – No School, Winter Break	
No School – Staff Work Day	182 Teacher Days
No School	172 Student Days
Early Release Day	
District Closed - Holiday	**No School or Snow Make-up Day (if needed)
First / Last Day of School	*Dates Subject to Change



BEMIDJI

LUMBERJACKS

Family Access

The Bemidji Area Schools Family Access web portal allows families to view information related to their child's school experience from the convenience of their home or office computer. From the Family Access portal a family can check attendance, grading, lunch account information, discipline, health information, and receive inclement weather announcements. Parents can also make payments to individual student lunch accounts using your credit/debit card online with Family Access.

Use the following link to register for Family Access or to sign into your existing account: <https://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/parent/family-access/> for any questions please call 218-333-3100 ext 31134.