

BPS CONNECTION

EMPOWERING EVERY LEARNER TO *thrive!*



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TOGETHER WE *thrive!*

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Welcome from
Dr. Jason
Hornbacher
BPS
Superintendent

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Dear Families,

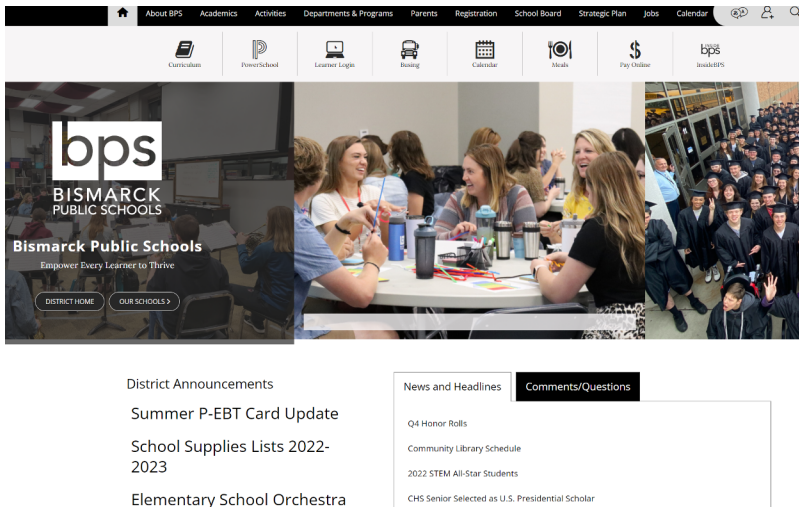
I would like to offer a warm welcome to all new and returning BPS families. The summer came and went quickly, and BPS is busy with many exciting projects including the opening of two new elementary schools, the expansion of Legacy High School, and planning for the expansion of Lincoln elementary school.

It is with deep gratitude that I say thank you for entrusting your children to BPS. Thank you for your patience over the past school year, and thank you for all you have done to make BPS a great place to work and learn. I wish you a fantastic school year!

Dr. Jason Hornbacher, BPS Superintendent

Bismarck School Board Election Results

On July 7, the Bismarck School Board convened to accept the results of the recent election, in which Jon Lee, Josh Hager, and Dr. Emily Eckroth were declared winners. Dr. Emily Eckroth and Mr. Hager are newcomers to the Board. Mr. Hager is a senior Market Service Representative at WBI Energy, and has three children currently enrolled at BPS. Dr. Eckroth is a general practice physician, and has four kids at BPS. Mr. Lee was reelected and is continuing his role as Board President, he has two children currently enrolled in the district. The School Board is comprised of five individuals, with Donnell Preskey and Vice President Dan Eastgate serving in terms that end in 2024. We look forward to working with this Board during the upcoming school year and beyond!



BPS Website Changes

As we approach the beginning of the school year, we will be making a few changes to the appearance of the website. Interaction with our site should remain very similar to what you are used to, with a few small exceptions. The “Our Schools” area where schools are selected will be readjusted from its previous location (please see the image for reference). We thank you for your patience, and hope that these changes enhance user experience.

Fill the Bus Event

Come help us "Fill the Bus" with school supplies for students in need to get ready for the 2022-23 school year! BPS Foundation and iHeart Media will be hosting the 26th annual Fill the Bus Event on August 17th from 6am-6pm at the North and South Red Carpet Car Wash locations!

For more information, please visit <https://www.bpsfoundation.com/fillthebus>



BPS Schools Emergency Procedures for Parents/Guardians

Providing a safe learning environment for students and staff is a top priority at Bismarck Public Schools. Over the coming months, stakeholders will receive routine updates on different facets of the district's approach to safety. On August 8, Becky LaBella, the BPS Safety Coordinator, gave a presentation at the School Board meeting about our safety strategy. A recording is viewable [HERE](#), the presentation begins shortly after the start of the meeting.

Below you will find information about the critical responses that serve as the foundation of any safety response at Bismarck Public Schools.

Critical Responses

A crisis at your child's school can take on many forms and can include things such as a chemical spill, a fire, a domestic disturbance close to but not associated with the school, a severe weather situation, or an active shooter. Bismarck Public Schools works hard to take all the appropriate mitigative steps to prevent or deter emergency situations from happening but in the event a situation ever occurs, we also prepare to respond. Below are BPS' 4 Critical Responses that all parents/guardians should be familiar with.



Lockdown

A lockdown response occurs when there is an immediate threat to student and staff safety. All normal activity stops and students are taken to designated safe areas. This could be on or off campus. BPS takes an Options Based Approach to lockdown situations. Students are taught to "Run, Hide, or Fight," depending on the situation.



Shelter-in-Place

A "Shelter-in-Place Response" is called when there is not an immediate threat to student or staff safety. A shelter-in-place is used as a PRECAUTIONARY measure. Depending on the situation, doors may or may not be locked, students may or may not be allowed to leave the classroom without adult supervision, and people may or may not be allowed to enter/exit the building. Examples of situations where a shelter-in-place may be called: reports of a wild animal in the area, robbery at a nearby location, police responding to a domestic dispute, arrest being made near a school, etc.



Severe Weather Sheltering

A "Tornado or Severe Weather Response" is usually initiated by the National Weather Service. Teachers and aides will escort students to a pre-designated safe area. These areas are generally interior rooms with no windows, hallways with no open ends, and basements.



Evacuation

An "Evacuation" is initiated by the fire alarm or an announcement made on the intercom. Teachers and aides will escort students through the nearest exit and out of the building. Every school has designated a "Reunification Area" where all classes meet, and teachers take roll. During evacuation drills, administrators may stand in front of an exit and imitate a fire or other obstruction, giving students and staff experience in thinking through different situations.

Critical Responses Drill Procedures

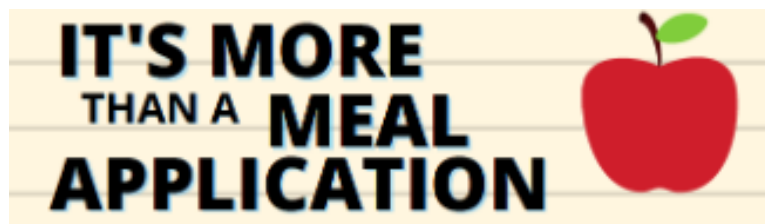
BPS conducts drills for each of the 4 Critical Responses as outlined in Board Policy ACAB-AR. Drills help ensure students and staff are familiar and able to respond appropriately in emergencies as well as making sure the processes and procedures put in place work in a real-world situation. Large, city-wide, full-scale exercises are also completed during summer months every 5 years.

Reunification Plan

BPS also has a Reunification Plan in the event students are not able to return to the building. Parents/Guardians should keep the following points in mind if there is ever an emergency at their child(ren)'s school:

1. Do not call your student - this ties up the phone lines for emergency phone calls to law enforcement and it also puts your student at risk in an intruder situation. If the student forgets or doesn't have time to turn down the ringer of his/her phone, your phone call could potentially give away their hiding spot.
2. Do not come to the school - Law enforcement will not let you get to the school and you will potentially clog up roads that first responders need to use to gain access to the school. Wait for notification on Reunification Site from BPS.
3. Bring government issued ID to reunification site - students will not be released to parents/guardians who do not present proper identification. This is for the safety of all students.
4. BPS will communicate with you - BPS will be in contact with you via Swift K12 announcements which will come in the form of emails, phone calls, and text messages. Please understand while we work to get messages out as soon as possible, our commitment is to provide the most accurate information.

Apply for Free and Reduced Meals!



Bismarck Public Schools would like to make all families aware that school meals will no longer be free. The federal funding that allowed for free meals over the past two years has discontinued, as a result it is critical that families fill out our Free and Reduced-Price Meal application in order to determine if they are eligible for assistance. The application is available [HERE](#).

The application is online and only takes a few moments to fill out. It is important to note that this application affects much more than school meals. Here are a few examples of other areas impacted by the application:

School Funding



The amount of overall funding the district receives is partially dependent upon our number of free/reduced students. For this reason, it is important for us to have an accurate accounting of the needs within our district.

Athletics/Physical Ed



Those approved for free/reduced meals may also receive discounts on athletic fees and uniforms.

Standardized Tests



Families enrolled in free/reduced meal programs are eligible to have fees associated with national standardized tests (ACT, SAT, etc.) waived.

And More!



There are many other benefits associated with the application, from the waiving of college application fees to reduced rates for community education courses.

As an added bonus, families who qualify for free or reduced-price meals prior to August 19 will receive a P-EBT card. This card will be sent to families in Late August or early October with \$391 to use towards purchasing groceries. This is a federal benefit distributed by the state of North Dakota and is not affiliated with the school district. Please contact snap-pebt@nd.gov with questions about this program.

2022-23 School Supplies Lists

School supplies lists are out for the 2022-2023 school year! We are 14 days away until the first day of school on Thursday, August 25th!

To find your schools' supplies list, please visit <https://www.bismarckschools.org/domain/828>



[BPS Academic Calendar](#)

[BPS Activities Calendar](#)