

August 2025

**Dear BPS Families:**

As the final days of summer begin to fade, I hope you and your family have found time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the North Dakota sunshine. With a new school year upon us, I want to welcome you back to Bismarck Public Schools and share a few updates as we look ahead to 2025–2026.

I'm Jeff Fastnacht, honored to serve as Superintendent of Bismarck Public Schools. It is a privilege to lead this district alongside a talented team of educators and staff, all united in the belief that strong relationships build inclusive, collaborative, and innovative environments—spaces that empower students to learn, grow, and thrive.

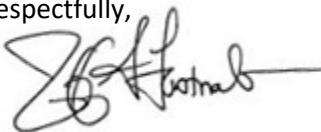
This year, we are focused on several key priorities that reflect both community input and district-wide goals:

- **Improving Our Transportation System:** Last fall, we launched a community-wide effort to improve the efficiency and reliability of our school transportation system. Through forums, surveys, and public dialogue, families and staff shared valuable insights that shaped our next steps. In January, the school board approved a set of recommendations, most notably the implementation of a **two-tiered busing system**, designed to improve route coverage and reliability for students across the district.
- **Updated School Start and End Times:** As part of the transportation redesign, **school bell schedules have been adjusted** across BPS to allow for shared use of buses and drivers. These changes enhance system efficiency while continuing to prioritize instructional time. The new schedules are as follows:
  - **Elementary Schools:** 7:50 AM – 2:20 PM
  - **High Schools:** 8:30 AM – 3:38 PM
  - **Middle Schools:** 8:40 AM – 3:50 PM
- **Launching Our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan:** Last spring, BPS completed its work on a new five-year strategic plan. This roadmap, developed with broad input from families, staff, students, and community members, outlines our shared vision for the future. We invite you to explore the plan's **Drivers of Excellence**, which will guide our focus, measure our progress, and elevate student learning and success in the years to come.

As we step into this school year, please know how grateful I am for your support and partnership. I believe in the potential of our students and the strength of our community to nurture that potential every day.

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year. Let's continue to ELEVATE our children and the amazing work of our educators.

Respectfully,



Jeff Fastnacht  
Superintendent  
Bismarck Public Schools