

School Safety: We have a comprehensive district plan, as well as individual school safety plans. We do regular fire, tornado and other safety drills such as lock downs. We employ playground supervisors during the school day. We discourage students from coming to school early or staying late on the playground because supervision is not provided during that time. For a brochure on School Safety, go to www.bismarckschools.org under the Parent link.

Transportation: We provide transportation for K-5 elementary students who live in the school district and are more than a half mile from the school they are assigned to in their attendance area. Busing is also available to students who are within the BPS school district boundaries and who live more than one mile from Horizon, Simle, and Wachter Middle Schools and Bismarck, Century and Legacy High Schools. Transfer students are NOT bused. Transportation is provided for special needs students as assigned by the Special Needs Dept. and eligible Head Start students. To register, go to www.bismarckschools.org under the Transportation link. If questions call 701-323-4500.

Tardy: If a K-5 student arrives at school after 9:30 am, it will count as a half day absence. School Board policy mandates schools to send letters to parents after 5 and 10 absences or tardies. After the 15th absence/tardy, you may be invited to a meeting with school personnel to address the issue.

Weather-Related Cancellations: During inclement weather, the Superintendent decide by 5 am as to whether buses will run or school will be held. The official station to listen to is KFYR AM 550, though information is given to all media and we post it online. If weather turns bad during the day, school will NOT be dismissed, but you may pick up your child early by signing out at the school office.

Emergencies: If there is an emergency situation at a school (tornado, fire, school shooting, etc.), parents will be notified by text, phone and email via PowerAnnouncement so it's important that your information is current with each school. Do NOT call, text or email your child(ren) or go to the school as you could endanger them, others, and yourself. Watch for further PowerAnnouncements regarding where to go to be reunited with your child(ren). You must bring an I.D. to pick them up.

School Events: Please read the emailed school newsletter and check the school web site for information and updates on concerts, PTO events, Grandparents Day, Hat Day, Red Ribbon Week, etc.

School Supplies: A current K-5 supply list is posted on each elementary school web site. Sometimes other items are needed, such as earphones for computer labs. Teachers in grades 6-12 distribute school supply lists the first day or week of classes.

Fundraisers: All students in grades K-5 are asked to participate in school fundraisers sponsored by the parent organization. These are short-term projects and should be completed as soon as the information comes home. As a safety precaution, we do not encourage students to go door-to-door; we prefer them to contact friends or family members.

Parent Organization: Each school has an active parent organization that meets on a regular basis. To find out how to get involved, call the school office!

Discipline: Each school has a discipline policy/procedure listed in the Student Handbook. Please review this with your child each year.

My Payments Plus:
MyPaymentsPlus provides an easy-to-use, efficient way to make payments quickly and securely anytime using a simple Internet connection. BPS uses MyPaymentsPlus to accept electronic payments (Debit/ACH/Credit) for student fees, lunch accounts, facility rent, activity passes, Friday Flier, etc.

What to expect your 1st year with Bismarck Public Schools!



**BISMARCK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*College, career,
community ready*

Hughes Administration Building
806 North Washington St.
(701) 323-4110
www.bismarckschools.org

We are so glad you chose Bismarck Public Schools for your child's education! We have served kids and families for over 140 years. We have put together this information from questions commonly asked by our first-year parents, whether your child is in kindergarten or 5th grade. We hope you find it helpful!

Registration: All students are registered by appointment at our district offices at Hughes Educational Center, 806 N. Washington St., to make sure they are placed in the right schools based on where they live. For an appointment, call 701-323-4110.

Kindergarten Registration: Bismarck Public Schools requests parents of incoming Kindergarten students register starting in January of the year before the student starts school.

Transfers: If your child is just starting with Bismarck Public Schools and you wish to request a different school than the one your child is assigned to you can fill out a transfer request at registration time. Transfer requests are approved based on available space. If your child is transferring from another district, we will request school records from that district.

Open House: All schools have a kindergarten open house in the spring and a K-5 open house in the fall, usually right before school starts so students can see their classroom, meet their teacher, bring their supplies, and organize their desks. These dates are listed on the school web site or at www.bismarckschools.org. This is not a time for individual parents to meet with the teacher. If you'd like to discuss specific issues with the classroom teacher, please set up an appointment.

Daily Schedule: Elementary schools typically start at 8:35 am and end at 3:05 pm. Music, library, recess, physical education, and lunch days/times are different for each classroom. Ask your child's teacher for this information. Children must wear appropriate shoes for P.E. and return library books on certain days, so it's important to help your child learn the schedule! Middle School 8:10 - 3:20; High School 8:25 - 3:25

Check In & Out Procedure: If your child is late to school or must leave early for an appointment, please check in and out at the school office. Try to make medical and other appointments before or after school.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedure: Watch the school newsletter for information about safe driving around your school when dropping off/picking up your child.

After School Programs: After school care, 3-6 pm, is provided for a fee. BLAST (222-6771) schools are Centennial, Grimsrud, Liberty, Miller, Murphy, Northridge, Pioneer, Prairie Rose, Solheim & Sunrise. MREC (751-4041) schools are Lincoln, Moses, Myhre, and Will-Moore. Roosevelt and Highland Acres run their own programs, so call those schools directly.

Medications (prescription or over-the-counter): All school buildings have trained staff to administer student medications. In some cases, students may be allowed to self-administer with their parent/health provider's authorization. Parents must bring medication in its original container to the office and fill out a form regarding how/when doses are administered.

Breakfast & Lunch: Menus are emailed to parents monthly and are posted on the Child Nutrition web site at www.bismarckschools.org. Costs are also listed there. Breakfast starts at 7:45 am and ends before 8:30; ask the school office for exact times! Lunch is staggered by grade level. Each child will receive a meal number that will remain the same each year they are enrolled in Bismarck Public Schools. You can deposit money in your child's account at the school office or online under Child Nutrition on the left. You can check PowerSchool for the account balance at any time. Parents who wish to join their child for lunch on his/her birthday must call the school office in advance.

Allergies: We want to work with you and your child concerning a food or other allergy. Alert the school about any potentially harmful allergies your child has.

Snacks: We prefer students eat healthy snacks in the classroom. Please send things like fruits, vegetables, pretzels, string cheese, etc. If you are unsure about what to send, ask the school nurse or classroom teacher for a list of options for healthy snacks and birthday treats or go to www.bismarckschools.org under Child Nutrition on the left.

Custody Issues: There is a brochure about divorce and custody issues on the school district web site at www.bismarckschools.org under the Parent link at the top. It explains parental rights in divorce situations as they relates to a child's education.

District Testing: In grades K-5, the school district uses Aimsweb to measure student progress in both reading and math. This assessment is administered in the fall, winter and spring. We also use Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing in reading and math 3 times per year in grades 3-8. This assessment is also administered in the spring to grades 2, 9, and 10. The ND State Assessments (NDSA) is given in grades 3-8 and 11 each spring; National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is given in grades 4, 8 and 11 every other year. Grades 9 and 10 take an ACT assessment called Aspire. All grade 11 students participate in the ACT in the spring.

Report Cards: In grades K-8, students get number grades of 1-4 based on their progress. 1 means the student has a beginning knowledge of the grade level standard; 2 means the child has partial understanding; 3 means the student is proficient; 4 means the child's understanding exceeds the standard. In grades 9-12, traditional letter grades are used.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: These take place in the fall and spring. A note will come home from the teacher suggesting a date and time to meet. Please return this as soon as possible. Conferences usually last about 15 minutes. Parents should review their child's grades in PowerSchool if they are available, and bring any questions to the conference. Academic and social issues can/will be covered during the meeting. In K-5, unless specifically requested by the teacher, the student does NOT attend the parent conference. If at any time you have questions or concerns BEFORE the conference dates, please email, call or make arrangements to meet with your child's teacher before or after school. Regular, open communication is vital to your child's education!

PowerSchool: PowerSchool is an online tool to help parents check student grades, attendance, meal account balances, etc. You will be issued a number and password by your child's school. Teachers in grades 4-12 all use it for grading; however, it is still optional for teachers in grades K-3.

Special Services: We provide a variety of special services, such as Title I Reading, Levels of Service Gifted & Talented program, counselling, and special education. To learn more, call 701-323-4029.