

Much of the communication you will receive from Bismarck Public Schools will be sent by the school, teacher, district, or transportation department via e-mail and/or text. If you don't have access to e-mail or text, contact the school(s) to make other arrangements to receive important information. If you have something to add to this document, call 701-323-4092 or community_relations@bismarckschools.org.

School Communication

- Kindergarten open houses: in April or May before fall kindergarten begins.
- K-12 fall open houses: right before or after school begins.
- Middle & high school orientation sessions for new students: August.
- At the elementary level, monthly school newsletters are e-mailed to parents during the school year. Middle and high school newsletters are less often, usually quarterly. If you don't have e-mail, newsletters are posted on school websites or call the school(s) and ask for a paper copy to be sent home.
- Fall and spring parent-teacher conferences.
- PowerSchool: parents can sign up to see their child's assignments, grades, attendance or e-mail teachers, etc. at <https://bismarck.ps.state.nd.us/public/>. Parents will need an access ID and password from the school secretary for each student to create an account.
- MyPayments Plus: instead of going to the school office, parents can deposit funds into their child's meal account online free of charge and access meal balance information at www.mypaymentsplus.com. You will need your child's lunch number; if you don't have it, call the school secretary. MPP also has a mobile app.
- Menus: view breakfast and lunch menus online at www.bismarckschools.org under the Menus icon on the top right.

Teacher Communication

- Teachers choose how they will communicate with parents. Some use e-mail, classroom newsletters, web pages, social media like Facebook, notes sent home in backpacks, phone calls, face-to-face meetings, or a combination of methods. Please ask your teacher(s) how they plan to communicate with you during the school year and how often.
- To e-mail your child's teacher(s), use the "Staff Directory" at the top of each school website. You can also email in PowerSchool. Find the teacher you are looking for and click the name to send an e-mails. If you don't know your PowerSchool login, call the school secretary.

PowerSchool

Bismarck ← If you have more than one child they will be listed here...

Navigation

- Grades and Attendance
- Grade History
- Attendance History
- Email Notification
- Power Announcement
- Teacher Comments
- School Bulletin

Grades and Attendance Standards Grades

Grades and Attendance: Student, Bismarck

Exp	Attendance By Class										Course
	Last Week					This Week					
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F	
01(A)											AM Attendance Teacher, Bismarck
											PM Attendance Teacher, Bismarck
03(A)											Reading 4 Teacher, Bismarck

Find the Course teacher you are looking for and click on their name to send them an email...

District Communication

- **PowerAnnouncement:** This is the Bismarck Public School District's primary Parent Notification System. When parents register their child(ren) for school, they are automatically signed up to receive phone calls, e-mails and text messages, which is important in emergency situations.
- **Emergency announcements & school cancellations:** made via e-mail, text messages, and/or phone calls to parents using PowerAnnouncement. The information will also be posted online at www.bismarckschools.org under District Announcements, as well as on the Bismarck Public School district's Facebook and Twitter pages, local news agency web pages and social media sites, the Bismarck Police Department website and social media, etc.

4 CRITICAL RESPONSES:

- **Shelter in Place:** called when there is not an immediate threat to student or staff safety and classes will proceed as usual. Shelter in Place is 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 when a Shelter in Place may be called include reports of a wild animal in the area, robbery (armed or unarmed) reported at a nearby location but not on school grounds, escaped prisoner in the area, police responding to a domestic dispute, arrest being made near a school, etc.

- **Lockdown**: occurs when there is an IMMEDIATE THREAT to student and staff safety. All normal activity stops and students go to designated safe areas. This could be on or off campus.
- **Tornado/Severe Weather**: usually initiated by the National Weather Service. Teachers and aides escort students to a pre-designated safe area--usually interior rooms with no windows, hallways with no open ends, and basements.
- **Fire**: initiated by the fire alarm. Teachers and aides 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 fire drills, administrators may stand in front of an exit and imitate a fire, giving students and staff experience in thinking through different situations.

If you have any questions regarding any of the 4 Critical Responses, please contact BPS Safety Coordinator Becky LaBella at 701-323-4086 or becky_labela@bismarckschools.org.

- **Newsletters**: Monthly elementary or quarterly secondary school newsletters are emailed to all parents containing both school and with district news.
- **Menus**: School meal menus can be viewed online at www.bismarckschools.org, Departments, Child Nutrition.
- **K-8 Friday Flier**: During the school year, the district e-mails this publication every other Friday. It contains information about community events and activities hosted by other non-profit organizations for children and families in Bismarck. Copies are also available on school web pages under Resources, then Friday Flier.

Busing Communication

All general education busing questions should be handled as follows:

Call **Harlow’s Bus service** at **224-1767** or e-mail them at

bismarckroutes@goharlows.com first with questions re: general education bus routes; these buses have the name Harlow’s on them.

- If you have not received a reply to your question or your issue is not resolved with 48 hours, then call Bismarck Public Schools at 323-4500 or e-mail bpstransportation@bismarckschools.org

All Special Services and BECEP/HeadStart busing questions should be handled as follows:

- Call Bismarck Public Schools, at 323-4500 or contact us by e-mail at bpstransportation@bismarckschools.org

All student athletic/activity busing questions or comments should be handled as follows:

- Call Bismarck Public Schools, at 323-4500 or contact us by e-mail at bpstransportation@bismarckschools.org

Late or Delayed Bus Route Information:

Under the Busing link on the Bismarck Public Schools website, click the “Bus Delays/Changes” link to find any buses that are delayed or if a spare bus has been sent out. Also, Harlow’s will use Bus Bulletin starting in mid-December to call, text or e-mail parents when there are weather delays.