



**Buffalo
Hanover
Montrose**
BHM SCHOOLS

The place for
young learners
to dream,
believe
and achieve.

**A Guide to Preschool
and Kindergarten in
BHM Schools**



Welcome

To Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools!

We look forward to sharing all our district has to offer our youngest learners. This guide provides helpful information about preschool, kindergarten and more. We welcome your questions and encourage you to register soon so we can keep in touch.

Open Enrollment

If you live outside the BHM District, you can open enroll into our schools. Call 763.682.8737.

Count Yourself In!

If your child is between the ages of birth and 5 years, please call 763.682.8737 to get registered on the district census. This ensures that you are notified about early childhood screening and kindergarten registration at the appropriate times.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE provides parent and early childhood education for families with children ages birth to kindergarten, as well as expectant parents. Parents and children can participate in classes, discussion groups, home visits, special events and preschool classes.



Early Childhood Screening

Minnesota law requires every child to participate in early childhood screening prior to starting kindergarten. The screening checks hearing, height and weight, speech and language, cognitive processing, and large and fine motor skills. Completed between the ages of 3–5 years, screening can help identify potential issues that may affect development and learning. Early Childhood Special Education is available for students birth to age 6 who qualify for additional support.

Early childhood screening is available by appointment throughout the year. To make an appointment, call 763.682.8780.



Choose from Our Top-Rated Preschool Programs

Our **Little Bison Preschool** and **Bison Preschool** programs have earned the highest 4-Star Rating from MN Parent Aware. These ECFE preschool classes are taught by licensed teachers, with an assistant in each classroom. Because parents are the child's first and most important teachers, parent involvement is a major component of our programs.

Select a preschool class based on your child's age as of September 1. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

Little Bison Preschool

(Ages 2.5-3.5 Years)

This preschool option meets once a week and is offered as a 9-month class. The program supports social/emotional development through age-appropriate activities designed for our youngest learners. This program meets weekly for 1.5 hours. Monthly parent education sessions are offered to provide information and support.

Bison Preschool

(Ages 3-5 Years)

This 9-month preschool experience is offered 2 to 5 days per week. The teachers will help nurture your child's social/emotional development and use research-based curriculum to focus on language, literacy, math, scientific thinking, and building academic skills to prepare your child for kindergarten. Full-day and nature-based options are available.

**All BHM preschool
classes are integrated
and serve children
of all abilities.**



KidKare
BHM SCHOOLS

Childcare Options

KidKare provides quality childcare before and after school with age-appropriate enrichment activities for students in kindergarten through grade 6 at all elementary school locations (Discovery students are served at Parkside).

KidKare is also available for children ages 3-5 at all elementary schools (Discovery children are served at Parkside). Families can choose either full-day, half-day or wrap-around care for those enrolled in the Ready Set Grow Preschool program.

KidKare is open year-round, except for major holidays. All sites are open 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



More Readiness Resources at bhmschools.org. Click on "Get Ready for Kindergarten."



Get Ready for Kindergarten

We understand that kindergarten is an important step for children and families. At BHM Schools, we want your child to be ready for success in school. The following skills, while not required, are helpful indicators of kindergarten readiness.

Social & Emotional

- Interacts positively with others
- Participates in activities and stays on task for 15 minutes or longer
- Copes easily without crying and regulates emotions and behaviors

Language & Literacy

- Writes name and begins to identify uppercase and lowercase letters
- Uses scribbles, shapes, pictures or dictation to represent ideas and thoughts
- Follows directions involving two or three steps

Math & Science

- Counts objects in small groups
- Recognizes and creates simple patterns
- Identifies shapes and colors

Physical Development

- Shows independence with self-help skills such as washing hands, toileting, zipping, tying shoes and eating
- Draws a person with body parts
- Demonstrates large muscle control by hopping, balancing, and throwing and catching a ball

Starfall.com

Storyplace.org

Pbs.org

Getreadytoread.org

Internet4classrooms.com

Fun tools to help you and your child get ready!

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Kindergarten!

BHM Schools takes pride in the number of opportunities offered to elementary-age students. Parkside, Hanover and Northwinds serve their respective neighborhoods. Families may choose Discovery with its multi-age/looping classrooms; Tatanka, offering a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) magnet program; or Montrose Elementary School of Innovation with a STEAM focus that includes the arts. No matter which school your child attends, our warm, nurturing teachers inspire young learners to **dream, believe and achieve.**



7:45
A.M.

Our caring teachers and staff welcome your child into the routines of an energetic and supportive classroom.

7:25
A.M.

Children can start their day with a delicious, free breakfast, served before school.



11:00
A.M.

Children take a mid-day break to socialize with friends at lunch and recess.



AM MORNING

Children dive into reading, writing, math, science, social studies, health and visual arts.



PM

AFTERNOON
Physical education, music and interactive technology engage children in learning and play.



2:25
P.M.

Happy learners are dismissed for the day, eager to share all they have learned with their families!



Daily schedules vary from school to school.



Grade Level Expectations

The expectations outlined below describe the learning goals that kindergarten students should meet by the end of the school year. Families can help their children meet these expectations by making sure they come to school ready to learn and by taking an interest in schoolwork they bring home.

Language Arts

- Identify letter names and letter sounds
- Rhyme words
- Write words that are common
- Read 50 high frequency words
- Ask and answer questions about stories and other text
- Tell the beginning, middle and end of short stories
- Learn to read easy books
- Learn to form capital and lowercase letters
- Tell a story with words and pictures
- Follow two-step directions
- Gain meaning by listening to a speaker, video or story

Math

- Sort and classify objects by color, size, thickness or other attributes
- Tell the position and location of objects
- Orally count with and without objects
- Write and read numbers to 31
- Identify 2D and 3D shapes such as squares, cylinders and pyramids
- Explore fractions
- Identify what is first, second and third
- Identify months, days and dates on a calendar

Science

- Observe changes in nature
- Classify objects into groups (things found in nature verses human-made)
- Understand how people can make and use things from the environment

Social Studies

- Learn about living in the U.S.
- Explore globes and maps
- Learn why rules are helpful

Health

- Learn about healthy eating, expressing feelings and identifying safe behaviors

Art

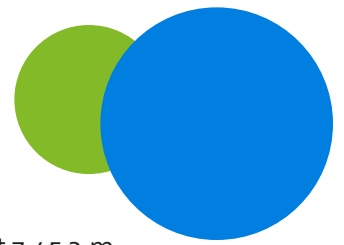
- Explore a variety of art forms such as drawing, painting and sculpting

In a district-wide survey,

90%

of residents would

**highly recommend
the BHM district to
others.**



Info to Know

Immunizations

Minnesota immunization law states that all students must submit an updated immunization status before starting kindergarten. This can be an immunization record, notarized non-medical exemption form or physician-signed medical exemption form. Required shots:

- 5—Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
- 4—Polio
- 3—Hepatitis B (HBV)
- 2—Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- 2—Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Illness Attendance Policy

A child should stay home from school when he/she is experiencing any of the following: a temperature of 100.5 degrees or more, vomiting or diarrhea. Students should not return to school until fever free (without medications) or symptom free for 24 hours after the last episode. After contagious illnesses such as impetigo or strep throat, children can return 12-24 hours after antibiotic treatment, depending on the type of illness.

Medication in School

Most medications are administered through the school's health office. Written authorization for the medication is required from the child's parent and physician (if prescription medication). Medications must be in the labeled prescription bottle or in the original over-the counter container. We strongly encourage parents to deliver the medications directly to the health office.

Transportation

Vision Transportation of Buffalo provides bus service for BHM Schools. Families can designate up to one alternate location, such as daycare or a relative's house, for pick-up and drop-off. Contact Vision of Buffalo at 763.682.3232 for routing and other information.



School Start and End Times

All elementary schools start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:25 p.m.

Nutrition Services

Eating breakfast and lunch is critical to student learning and health. Free breakfast is available to all kindergarten students before school beginning at 7:25 a.m., and lunches will be free as well beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Students are also welcome to bring a lunch from home. For more information about the district's nutrition services, see bhmschools.org/nutrition-services.

Special Education Services

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District provides special education and related services to students birth to 21 who qualify under eligibility criteria established by the State of Minnesota. The district provides students a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Parents are involved in all planning activities related to their child's individualized education plan. The continuum of services available in the district allows for student plans to be tailored to individual strengths and needs. Administrators and staff members are committed to providing high-quality learning opportunities for all students, always striving to create positive experiences while working toward achieving individual student goals.

Staying Connected

Principals and teachers regularly communicate with families. All elementary schools and the district have Facebook pages to post photos and upcoming events. A parent portal is used to provide parents with timely information about their child, including attendance, meal account balance, report cards and testing information. The district and schools also use a parent notification system to alert parents of important dates and school delays or cancellations.



Call Us!

District Census Registration (birth–5 years)
763.682.8737

BHM Preschool Programs
763.682.8780

KidKare (ages 3-5 & K-6)
763.682.8787

Early Childhood Screening
763.682.8408

BHM Special Education
763.682.8715

BHM Schools Open Enrollment
763.682.8737

Register for Kindergarten

Children who are 5 years old by September 1 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Each school has a Kindergarten Registration Night in February or March. You will meet the principal and teachers, turn in registration materials and hear more information about what to expect in kindergarten, transportation, childcare, nutrition services and more.

If you are enrolling in kindergarten after the registration night, contact your neighborhood school for more information or go online to bhmschools.org and click on "Get Ready for Kindergarten." In addition to the registration and health emergency forms, you will need to submit:

- A copy of your child’s birth certificate
- Up-to-date immunization records
- Open Enrollment form if enrolling from outside of the district, and early childhood screening documents.

Learn about all of our schools and programs at bhmschools.org

Find your neighborhood school at bhmschools.org

Click on "New Student/Registration Information" or the GuideK12 icon.



School Locations & Programs

	BHM Pre-School	KidKare Ages 3-5	KidKare Grades K-6
Discovery Elementary 301 2nd Ave NE, Buffalo, MN 55313 763.682.8400	✓	✓ *	✓ *
Hanover Elementary 274 LaBeaux Ave NE, Hanover, MN 55341 763.682.0800	✓	✓	✓
Montrose Early Education Center 115 2nd St S, Montrose, MN 55363 763.682.8471 (kindergarten not available)	✓		
Montrose Elementary School of Innovation 100 2nd St S, Montrose, MN 55363 763.682.8345		✓	✓
Northwinds Elementary 1111 7th Ave NW, Buffalo, MN 55313 763.682.8800		✓	✓
Parkside Elementary 207 3rd St NE, Buffalo, MN 55313 763.682.8500	✓	✓	✓
Tatanka Elementary STEM School 703 8th St NE, Buffalo, MN 55313 763.682.8600	✓	✓	✓

* KidKare program offered at Parkside Elementary