

# intercom



## Bismarck Public Schools

[www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org)

### I double dog dare you

*By Tamara Uselman, Superintendent*

"I love your hair and your earrings and I hate your glasses." A little girl with a broken leg sat on the edge of the stage as she talked with me. I smiled at her.

"Would you like to know why I hate your glasses?" she added in a most conversational tone.

"No I would not, yet I bet you are going to tell me anyway," I said.

"Yes," she said. "I hate your glasses because you picked red. You could have gone with purple or maybe rainbow."

Then this short fashionista turned her attention away from me and back to the music teacher she clearly loved. For the next half hour, she sang and danced as best she could with one leg in a cast (a purple cast – the doc's office must have been out of rainbow).

Watching students engage deeply in the learning designed by great teachers is the most bucket-filling part of my job. Be honest, each of you within almost no effort can pull from memory that teacher who made a profoundly positive difference in your life. My list includes Mrs. Boyd (grade 1), Mrs. Kinnunen (FACS, grades 7-12), Mrs. Dorholt (high school English), Mr. Sundeen (biology), Mr. Mann (high school principal), Mr. Ericksrud (high school counselor), and the terrifying Mr. Joe Miller at Moorhead State, now MSUM.

Charlotte Boyd was a miracle worker: she made my brain read with a pop: "stop" and "go". I'll remember that day forever. Kathleen Dorholt taught us to make words into stories but even more importantly, she taught us that we had worth. RuthAnn Kinnunen opened my door to leadership and national travel. Were it not for Ruthie, I wouldn't be in this job. She is still teaching at the ALC in Staples.

Until I encountered Mr. Sundeen, school was a breeze. When I hit bio, it was study or flunk; there was no in-between. I credit my Water Safety Instructor (life guard certificate) to bio: I learned to hold my breath to avoid gagging when fishing a fetal dissection pig from a tank of brine. Mr. Sundeen used unique phrases such as, "...pies, cakes, cookies, cinnamon roooollssss, and donuts". I hear those phrases at every class reunion still today.

### Calendar of Events

- 5/22 School Board Mtg., 5:15 pm
- 5/25 SCHS graduation, CA, 4 pm
- 5/25 ALC graduation, CA, 7 pm
- 5/26 Last Day of School
- 5/28 CHS graduation, Event Center, 1 pm
- 5/28 BHS graduation, Event Center, 4 pm
- 5/28 LHS graduation, Event Center, 7 pm
- 5/30 Memorial Day, no school

[Click here to view full schedule.](#)

### Job Opening

- [K-12 English Learner Resource Teacher \(5/14\)](#)
- [Phy. Ed./Career Education—Simle \(5/14\)](#)
- [Camp Ed Teachers 2017 \(5/15\)](#)
- [Head Volleyball Coach—BHS \(5/16\)](#)
- [Head Start Instructional Aide—BECEP \(5/19\)](#)
- [Instructional Aide—BECEP 2017-18 \(5/19\)](#)
- [BHS Technology Student Worker \(5/19\)](#)
- [Hughes Technology Student Worker \(5/19\)](#)
- [LHS Technology Student Worker \(5/19\)](#)
- [Reading Strategies Teacher—Horizon \(5/21\)](#)
- [Spanish Teacher—LHS \(5/21\)](#)
- [Boys Soccer Coach—CHS \(5/23\)](#)
- [Middle School Coaching Positions \(5/26\)](#)
- [Instructional Aides 2016-17 \(5/26\)](#)
- [Substitute Custodian—Full Time \(7/1\)](#)
- [Sub Bus Driver](#)

[Click here to view full list.](#)

### Sonic Boom ending 6/30

If you participate in Sonic Boom and have points to purchase prizes, you must use them by June 30. BPS is cancelling the online wellness program due to decreased staff

Jim Mann was my principal when I was a student and when I was a teacher. When I became a principal, it was his position I filled. But I didn't replace him; no one ever has. As for Mr. Ericksrud, every first generation college student from NYM between 1970 and 2000 owes a thanks to Rich. Ericksrud who made college applications and FAFSAs less Greek and more simple. And finally, the amazing and terrifying Joe Miller at MSUM challenged me through his written feedback to take my writing game up a notch – and another notch – and yet one more notch.

When I came to Bismarck, I decided to quit thinking about the teachers from my youth who built me into a better person than I ever could have become on my own. Instead, I began thanking those teachers. The experience was so incredibly soul-filling that I want it for you: so I dare each of you, no matter your role at BPS, to thank the teacher who earned your highest praise. Worry not about grammar or sentence structure or even spelling. Write courageously from the heart, and that will do.

In December of 2016, Dale Hoerauf sent an email that said, "I read in the *Bismarck Tribune* today that Jasper Kleinjan passed away Dec 6. We talk about a teacher who makes a difference in your life. For me it was Mr. Kleinjan. He was my Auto Tech teacher @ BJC back in 1973 who believed in me. I began my career off the farm as an Auto Technician. It was Mr. Kleinjan who encouraged me to get an associate's degree at BJC. Which I did not want to do at the time but I stuck with it and got the associate's degree. When the Auto Tech teaching job came up with BPS 32 years ago it was Mr. Kleinjan who called me and said, Dale you should apply for the job. As they say, the rest is history."

Our teachers impacted our present by writing on our history. Now, it is our turn to write back. Pick up a pen, find some paper, send your appreciation, and see what happens. I double dog dare ya to do it.

## Congratulations!

[Dr. Ryan Townsend](#), Simle STEM teacher, received the Bis-Man Chamber Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year award! To read his nomination, go to [www.bismarckschools.org](http://www.bismarckschools.org), News.

## Take a sneak peek at our new website!

It's not done yet, but we want ALL STAFF to become familiar with our new site before school starts in the fall! (Secretaries will thank you.)

1. There is NO Employees tab. Everything you need is under the icon BPS apps on the right, or under Departments in the middle, then Human Resources, or Business Office if you need a form from Accounting.
2. Teachers will also see things for them on the top left like LearnBPS, PowerSchool, etc.
3. Some things like the staff directory aren't finished or working, and we don't have the calendar feature up yet. But they will be great!

So, look at the homepage, and some of these schools that are mostly done: Sunrise, Simle, and Legacy. To find the new Schoolwires/Blackboard website,

participation and because prizes are reportable income on your tax return.

## New Mealviewer features

These new features will be available May 19 to tailor to your student(s) needs. Print the lunch menu on one page; choose the meal options you want using the content control and print. Also, the Mealviewer app will prompt you to enter student's name, school, allergens, and the option to receive notifications. All info. provided will be for your personal use.

## EL TIDBIT

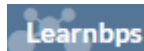
On May 5, the BPS EL department received the results of the annual English language proficiency test, ACCESS. All English learners who took the test (administered during a 6-week window in January, February, and the beginning of March) will have a score report sent home to their parents within the next week. Another copy of the report will be stored in the green EL folders in the students' cumulative files.

Due to the heightened language demands of college and career readiness standards, WIDA (the consortium responsible for publishing the ACCESS test) has also recently raised English language proficiency expectations. The nationwide results of the 2017 ACCESS test reflect those higher cut scores—some EL students' scores went down, while fewer students exited the program with North Dakota's required 5.0 overall score and 3.5 in each of the four language domains. Be sure to ask your school's EL resource teacher about your EL students' ACCESS scores, and be prepared for any questions families might have about their child's English language proficiency level. This document may be helpful as you review your EL students' scores, [click here](#).

## BPS rocks blended learning!

As our online teaching and learning practices grow, so does our Learning Management System. Keep your eyes open for new ways to experience blended environments both as a professional learner, and for your students on

to be launched July 1, [click here](#). Also, check your email this summer for tips on how to use features of the new website, like the calendar!



Contact Tech Dept., 323-4040, for more info.

## Community Corner

**BPS 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders performance:** *The Princess and the Pea* is Saturday, May 13 at 2 pm at LHS auditorium. Free admission.

**YMCA Fundraiser:** THANK YOU to the BPS staff members who made a donation to the YMCA during the annual wear your sneakers and jeans to work. Staff members donated \$3,045 to the YMCA programs in Bismarck/Mandan. The YMCA wants you to know that your gift to the Y strengthens our community and makes a difference in the life of each individual they service. A quote from a membership scholarship recipient helps us understand the importance of your gift: "One of the best things that's happened to me since receiving the YMCA scholarship is having a healthy, positive place for my kids to come where I know they'll be safe."

## Twitter Chat Tuesdays!

Join colleagues on Twitter from 8:30-9 pm Tuesdays as we discuss important topics in education. Follow and tweet to #learnbps. You can earn latte hours by participating. Sign up in Tracker and participate in both Twitter Sessions within the month listed:

<http://learnbps.blogspot.com/p/learnbps-twitter.html>. Not sure where to start using Twitter? Go here for tips:

<http://goo.gl/LRDJeV>. Need a reminder to join the chat? Sign up at:

[www.remind.com/join/twittertu](http://www.remind.com/join/twittertu)

Send submissions for the intercom to [renae\\_walker@bismarckschools.org](mailto:renae_walker@bismarckschools.org), 323-4091.