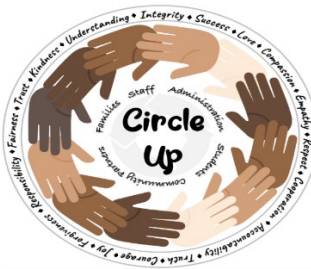


Dr. Lydia T. Wright
School Of Excellence
Student and Family Handbook
2026-2027



Principal: Mrs. Nicole Smith

Assistant Principal: Mr. Jeffrey Banks

Assistant Principal: Mr. Kevin Deans

Assistant Principal: Dr. Danielle Fulton

Address: 106 Appenheimer Ave, Buffalo, NY 14214

Phone: [\(716\) 816-4110](tel:(716)816-4110)

Fax: (716) 897-0893

WELCOME TO **Dr. Lydia T. Wright BPS #89**

The students, staff, and community are proud of

Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence and hope that your school experience will be meaningful and rewarding.

We welcome you to our school!

School Vision

The vision of Dr. Lydia T. Wright is to work with stakeholders to become an exemplar of excellence in academics and character development. Our parents and families are one of the most important stakeholders we have in our school community. Nurturing parent/family relationships addresses the whole child; as parent/family relationships are cultivated student learning will excel in high school and beyond. This commitment will help students achieve academic success.

School Mission

The mission of Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence is to help our students become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. We will use data to create differentiated instruction in order to facilitate a rigorous and enriched learning environment. We will treat students with positive regard and culturally responsive acceptance in order to give students the necessary strategies, using a growth mindset as an opportunity to succeed. We exist because we know every child is capable of achieving.

Academic Planners

- Keep track of letter days
- Write down assignments everyday for each class.
- Check off assignments as you complete them
- Note holidays, early –release days, appointments, sports practices/games club meeting.
- Write down dates for quizzes, tests and assignment due dates. And schedule in the times you will study for your classes- including tests and completing assignments.

Attendance

Regular school attendance in all Grades PreK-8 is essential for success. Students are required to be in school every day. Students need to be present from 9:10 AM to 4:05PM. Regular school attendance is one of the eligibility standards for participation in student activities.

Parents are asked to notify the school when their child is unable to attend school due to illness or other reason(s). A dated note which explains the absence, signed by a parent or legal guardian, must be sent into school on the day they return. Absences not accompanied by a note are recorded as illegal absences.

Students who arrive at school after 9:20 a.m. are tardy and should come to the front entrance of the building. They should report to the sign-in desk for a late pass before going to their classrooms. When students are tardy, it affects their attendance record and their success in the first lessons of the day.

Parents are encouraged to request a list of assignments that were missed during their child's absence by calling the school office 816-4110.

The school day ends at 4:05 p.m., with instruction ending at 3:30. If a child is picked up early, they are missing portions of the lesson which could negatively affect their grades.

Parents are asked to schedule non-emergency medical and dental appointments before or after school hours.

Parents are asked to notify the school if their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease such as COVID, H1N1 virus, impetigo, conjunctivitis, monkey/chicken pox, etc. This will allow us to take appropriate precautions.

Communication is important when a child has chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, sickle cell anemia, and allergies. Please confer with teachers about special needs or concerns for your child.

Parents/guardians are asked to notify the school when your child is unable to attend school due to illness or other reason(s). For an absence to be excused, a parent or legal guardian must write and sign a dated note explaining the absence (vacations are NOT excused absences). Please send the excuse to school upon the student's return. Absences not accompanied by a note are recorded as illegal absences. More information regarding BPS's attendance policy is available

at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/ps50/page/attendance>

Address and Telephone Changes

Please notify the school at least two weeks prior to an address change. This will enable the school to make transportation arrangements and/or prepare student records if your child will be leaving School #89.

Two proofs of new address must be provided for ALL address changes. See family welcome packet for examples of acceptable proof of address documentation. Address changes will NOT be taken over the telephone. It takes a minimum of 10 school days for a new bus stop to be created. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to transport student to school until a bus is provided.

Please remember to notify the school of any changes in the telephone numbers you have provided for home, work, and emergency contacts. Please make sure that the teacher and school office are notified of any changes.

Athletics

Students in grades 7-8 will have access to BPS athletic teams. There are student-contracts that will need to be followed for students to participate, including behavior and academic standards. Students who tryout and receive a spot on any team are expected to maintain an overall GPA of at least 80%, attendance rate of at least 90%, and maintain a positive behavior record. Student-athletes will receive a contract in the beginning of their season that outlines their expectations. Specific information about athletics can be found on our webpage under the “student” section.

Building Security

- Safety Drills & Drills: We appreciate the support and partnership of our LTW families and want all families to feel welcome in our school. It is imperative that we continually work to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, staff and visitors and worked with our District level security to implement procedures to establish and maintain a safe building. We appreciate your support in adhering to these policies. In alignment with [District Safety Protocols](#), School 89 will conduct practice fire drills and safety drills to ensure students and faculty are aware of the procedures and comfortable with carrying out these procedures. Prior to our first safety drill, parents will be notified via a phone call from our automated system and a letter home in your child's Tuesday take-home folder.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria offers a nutritious breakfast and lunch program. Cafeteria menus are available on the District website www.buffaloschools.org. Breakfast will be served from 9:10 – 9:30 AM. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please ensure they arrive at 9:10 AM. Any student who arrives after 9:30 AM will be directed to their classrooms; breakfast is done being served after this time. Breakfast procedures and expectations during will be discussed and practiced with students throughout the first days of school. Each classroom teacher will provide

parents with information regarding snack for their child's classroom. Students are encouraged to have water bottles (labeled with their name) in their classrooms with only water in it. A doctor's certificate is required of all students who have allergies. Please alert the school office, cafeteria manager, the school nurse and teacher if your child has food allergies and/or food restrictions. If an allergy plan is necessary for a student, this will be created.

The cafeteria is an extension of your kitchen or dining room. We expect that students will treat the cafeteria as you do in a restaurant or your own dining area. Procedures and rules for the cafeteria will be discussed with all students on the first day of school.

Students can bring their own lunch at any time. Soda pop, glass containers; candy or large-size bag of snacks are not permitted at breakfast or lunch.

Please note: If students bring their own lunch from home, school staff are not permitted to microwave the items.

Calendars



Buffalo Public Schools 2026-2027 School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Supt. Conf. Day (Professional Development)
- 2 Teacher Set-up Day
- 3 First Day for Students
- 7 Labor Day

OCTOBER

- 12 Indigenous Peoples' & Italian Heritage Day

NOVEMBER

- 3 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 24-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY

- 1 Winter Recess (cont.)
- 15 Dr. MLK Jr. Day
- 26-29 NYS Regents Exams (high school)

FEBRUARY

- 15 Presidents' Day
- 16-19 Mid-Winter Break

MARCH

- 10 Eid al-Fitr
- 25 Good Friday
- 29 Easter (observed)
- 30-31 Spring Recess

APRIL

- 1-2 Spring Recess (cont.)
- TBD WIDA Speaking Test Window
- 13-14 NYS 3-8 ELA Testing
- 27-28 NYS 3-8 Math Testing

MAY

- TBD WIDA Listening, Reading, and Writing Test Window
- 4 NYS S&S Science Testing
- 12 Early Release Day
- 13-14 Supt. Conf. Days/NYS Test Scoring
- 31 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 15-24 NYS Regents Exam (high school)
- 18 Juneteenth Holiday (observed)
- 24 Last Day for Students
- 25 Rating Day/Last Day for Faculty

JULY

- 5 Fourth of July (observed)

CALENDAR DAYS

	FAC	STU	FAC	STU
SEPT	21	19	FEB	15
OCT	21	21	MAR	18
NOV	16	16	APR	20
DEC	17	17	MAY	20
JAN	19	19	JUN	18

Total Faculty Days: 185
Total Actual Student Days: PK - 12 = 180 (incl. Regents exam dates for grade 9-12)
Credited Student Days: 183 (incl. 3 Supt. Conf. Days)

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**2 Supt. Conf. Day & NYS Test Scoring in May

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- H.S. Regents Exams
- 3-8 NYS testing

- Supt. Conf. Day & NYS Test Scoring
- Central Office Also Closed

- Early Release Day
- Schools Closed

Approved by
Board of
Education
04/15/2026

Important Dates

September

- 03 First Day of Classes
- 10 Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 29 SBMT 8:00 a.m.

October

- 09 Progress Reports Close
- 12 Indigenous People's Day- No School
- 22 Use Your Noodle Night 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 27 SBMT Meeting 8:00 a.m.

November

- 03 Election Day- No School
- 11 Veterans Day – No School
- 13 Marking Period 1 Report Cards Close
- 24 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Recess – No School

December

- 11 Marking Period 2 Progress Reports Close
- 22 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 24-31 Winter Recess – No School

January

- 1 Winter Recess – No School
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
- 19 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 29 Marking Period 2 Report Cards Close

February

- 15 -19 Mid - Winter Recess – No School
- 25 Parent Teacher Conference 5:00- 7:00

March

- 10 EID- No School
- 23 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 26 Good Friday- No School
- 29-31 Spring Recess- No School

April

- 1-2 Spring Recess - No School
- 13-14 NYS ELA Assessment Grades 3-8
- 20 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 23 Marking Period 3 Report Card Grades Close
- 27-28 NYS Math Assessment Grades 3-8

May

- 04 NYS Science Assessment Grades 5 and 8

- 12 Early Release Day
- 13-14 Superintendent Conference Day - No School
- 18 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 21 Marking Period 3 Progress Reports Close
- 31 Memorial Day - No School

June

03 Family Fun Night 5:00-7:00 p.m.

- 15 SBMT 8:00 a.m.
- 21 Pre-Kindergarten End of Year Celebration
- 22 Kindergarten End of Year Celebration
- 23 Grade 8 Moving Up Day at 10:00am
- 24 Marking Period 4 Report Cards Close
- 24 Last Day for Students

Celebrate YOU! Assembly

Continuing to celebrate students during our monthly pep rallies that will be held in the auditorium. Not only will we recognize students who may have earned honor and merit roll, but we will celebrate students' efforts and progress in becoming a successful Dr. Lydia T. Wright Scholar and Citizen. We will recognize both academic and behavioral success stories.

Cell Phones and Portable Electronic Devices:

New York State's new distraction-free, no personal smartphones/electronics policy has taken effect in schools across New York State.

Please be aware that students are required to store their internet-capable personal devices from the first bell to final dismissal in a secure designated storage area at their school. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, cell phones with any internet capability, iPads, or similar devices. However, students will be authorized to access "school-issued" internet-enabled devices for their classroom instruction. This includes laptops or tablets provided by the school and used as part of instruction. Each school will also have a process for students to contact a parent or caregiver during the school day, if needed.

There will be a few exemptions to New York State's device restrictions, including:

- (A) Students who require access to an internet-enabled device to manage a medical condition
- (B) Use of electronics documented on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan for academic purposes
- (C) For other legitimate purposes, such as translation services or documented emergencies.

Cell Phone Collection: Students in grades 6-8 will have their cell phones collected upon entrance and stored in secured cases that are organized per homeroom. Cell phones will be distributed back to students in their

homerooms during dismissal. Students in all other grades will be required to give their phones to their homeroom teachers upon entering the classroom where they will be stored in a secured location until dismissal.

Refusal to surrender when requested – call home & parent conference, possible class removal

1st Offense – **teacher** calls home & phone is returned at end of the day

2nd Offense – **administration** calls home & the phone is given back at end of the day

3rd Offense – **administration** calls home & parent picks up the phone at the end of the day

4th Offense – **administration** calls home & parent comes in for a parent conference

Code of Conduct

In accordance with the District's Code of Conduct, it is important for all persons, including students, school personnel, parents/guardians and other persons, when on school property and at school functions to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with regard for school property and the rights and welfare of others.

All persons on school property and at school functions are prohibited from engaging in:

A. Disorderly conduct (running in halls, vulgar language, etc....)

B. Insubordinate conduct (disrupting the operations of the school, entering school premises without permission, etc....)

C. Disruptive conduct (failing to comply with directions of teachers, administrators, school personnel, etc....)

D. Conduct which endangers safety, morals, health or welfare of others (any forms of drugs/alcohol, threats, indecent exposure, false report of an emergency, etc....)

E. Misconduct on a school bus (excessive noise, pushing, shoving, fighting, moving while bus is in motion, etc....)

F. Academic Misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, altering records, assisting another in academic misconduct, etc....)

G. Instigation or encouragement of another person to violate the District's Code of Conduct H. Hats, coats, etc. are to be removed upon entering school A complete student and parent guide to the [Code of Conduct](#) will be published on the BPS Buffalo Schools home page for review by students, staff and parents/ caregivers. A copy of the District's Code of Conduct will be sent home with students at the opening of the school year.

Communication

The school and family partnership is important to the educational success of our students. Therefore, School #89 will be sending home important information every Tuesday in your child/s take-home folder.

Also, for ongoing communication throughout the school year please use one of the options below when you need

to contact teachers, administrators, or other support staff. Please keep the school updated with any changes in family contact information.

Calling a Teacher

- There may be times when you need to speak to a teacher. Leave the teacher a voicemail by calling the main office number at (716) 816-4110, press option 8, then dial the teacher's extension.

Email/Schoology Messages

- You may send a message to teachers via email or on Schoology, our online learning platform.

Change of Address/Phone Number

- Parents are required to provide a current home address, telephone number, emergency number, and a list of adults to contact in case of emergency.
- When telephone numbers change you may update your phone number online at www.buffaloschools.org/contact
- For changes of address, please call the main office and the homeroom teacher.

Conferences

If you need to conference with your child's teacher for any questions concerning your child's education; a conference can be set-up, ***please call the main office and leave a message for your child's teacher. He/ She will return***

your call in a timely manner. Our Parent /Teacher conference is scheduled for February 25th, 2027.

Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Cyberbullying: Takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior. The most common places where cyberbullying occurs are:

- Social Media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, 4chan, and Tik Tok
- Text messaging and messaging apps on mobile or tablet devices

- Instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chatting over the internet
- Online forums, chat rooms, and message boards, such as Reddit
- Email
- Online gaming communities

Bullying or cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyber-stalking are all examples of cyber-bullying. Don't be mean. Don't send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting, or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in a disciplinary action and possible loss of use of the device.

Discipline

It is impossible for teaching or learning to take place unless order is maintained. Students must adhere to a code of good behavior not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of others as well. Parents and students are expected to support these Six Pillars of Character; they are the core ethical values of the District initiative, Character Counts!



Progressive Discipline

- Verbal warning and feedback
- Notification of parent (written note/phone call)
- Parent/teacher conference with teacher/ administrator
- Other Supports put into place
- Removal from environment
- Short-term Suspension
- Long-term Suspension

Dress Code/ School Uniform

It is an expectation for students to follow the [District's Code of Conduct](#) dress code requirements.

- Headgear of any kind (including but not limited to hats, caps and hoods) may not be worn in school except when required for medical or religious reasons.

- Coats, jackets, hoodies, jean jackets, running suit jackets, gloves or clothing generally accepted as “outer wear” may not be worn during the school day.
- Jewelry that may be deemed as a weapon is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, rings covering multiple fingers, spiked necklaces or belts, belts with large removable buckles, chain-like neck wear, ninja-type stars, etc. Belts must be buckled.
- Backless sandals, slippers, clog-style shoes, roller blade sneakers, or other footwear that could be considered unsafe, dangerous, or unhealthy is not acceptable.
- Clothing that is associated with or identifiable as a symbol of a gang or street club, lewd, vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate against others, may not be permitted in school.
- Cover all underwear with appropriate outer garments.
- Clothing must not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- Skirts, dresses, skorts, shorts, cut-off pants must be within a maximum of four fingers from the middle of the kneecap when measured by the individual student with the fingers in a closed position.

Drop-off and Pick-up

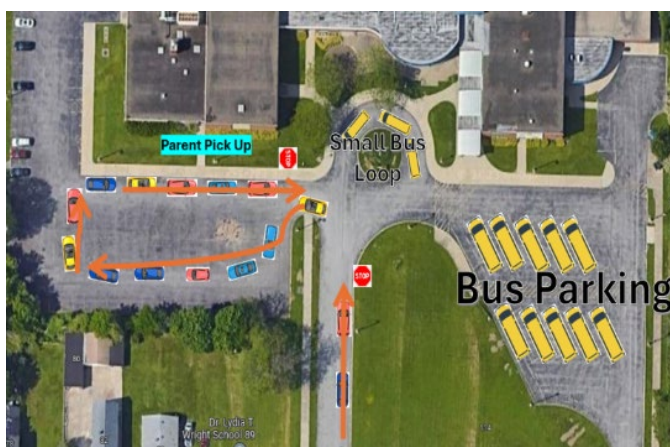
When dropping students off or picking students up, the following guidelines apply:

- Please use the Appenheimer Ave. main entrance from 9:10- 9:20 AM for drop off and from 3:30 – 3:45 PM for pick up.
- Do not drop students off prior to 9:10 AM. There is no one available to supervise these students.
- Students who arrive after 9:20 AM must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the office to sign in.
- Afternoon pick time is at 3:35 PM. Students will be called to the pick-up room at that time.
- Do not park in the main lot or exterior loop. These are our bus dismissal parking locations.
- Identification is required when picking up students.
- Only people on your pickup list will be allowed to pick up your child.
- Please send in a note or call the office by 12:00 PM regarding students being picked up early or for students who regularly ride the school bus home.

Emergency School Closing

In the event of a school closing, announcements will be posted on the Buffalo Public School District website (<https://www.buffaloschools.org/>) and made on local radio

and television stations. Remote learning day information can be found on School 89's Class Dojo page as well as on student's Schoology pages. A Connect-Ed (automated phone call) message will also be sent to all students and staff on the account of a school closure. In some cases, virtual learning will be in effect. Virtual learning days will be communicated by the District.



Snow Day Schedules (potential) if Virtual Learning is in Place

Students will have synchronous and asynchronous learning time reflected in their schedule. They will still have a full school day, but there will be times when they are in live lessons with teachers, and other times when they will be working independently or could ask peers or their teachers questions. Synchronous and asynchronous learning are outlined below.

Synchronous: Teachers and students work at the same time while interacting on the computer through Schoology and Microsoft Teams.

Asynchronous : Students work independent from the teacher on assignments, lessons, programs, and other tasks while being able to check in with the teacher.

Encore Classes

Your child will participate in Library, Physical Education Art, and Music. Library: Students may borrow books from the school library under the discretion of the librarian and their classroom teacher. The books must be treated with care, so they are not damaged. Students may not borrow a book until their book borrowed prior has been returned. Students are responsible for the return of library books and will be charged for lost or damaged books.

Physical Education (PE) Classes: New York State Law mandates that students (grades K and up) participate in PE classes. A doctor's note is required to excuse a student from these important classes. To ensure safety in the Gym, please be 15 sure your child is either wearing sneakers to school or has a pair that they can keep in their classroom cubby. If a student needs to miss a single class for a health concern, a note should be sent to school in the child's take-home folder.

Art: Students will participate in Art 1-2 times per week, depending on their grade level

Music: Students will participate in Music 1-2 times per week, depending on their grade level. Students in grades 4-

8 will have the opportunity to join School 89's Band. Students in Band will perform in a Winter and Spring Concert. In September, homeroom teachers will provide students with information on joining band.

Extended Learning Time

The afterschool program is available for NPCS students in grades 3-8, however there are limited seats. Information is released in September about afterschool program each year. The students will participate in both academic and enrichment activities each day. The ELT program will run from school dismissal until 5:10 pm. Students who are picked up late (twice) will be removed from the program. Requirements:

- Completed application (will be sent home in September)
- Signed agreement of ELT expectations
- Must be a student at LTW

Field Trips

Parents will receive a permission slip prior to any field trip. The slip should be completed, signed, and returned to school by your child. Your child's teacher must receive written parent permission prior to a field trip for your child to attend. Parents are always encouraged to chaperone field trips.

Fundraising

Parents will be notified of approved fundraising activities. Direct sales to students will be allowed with parent knowledge and approval only. The school

depends on the fund-raising proceeds to enhance our educational programs throughout the year.

Grading Policy

The following grading weighted categories are to be implemented to allow for consistency across grade levels. Report cards for Pre-Kindergarten will be issued during the 20th and 40th weeks

Grades K - 2

40% - Assessment

40% - Classwork

20% - Participation (use rubric as a guide)

Grades 3 - 8

50% Assessment

30% Classwork

10% Homework

10% Participation (use rubric as a guide)

For each marking period, five-week progress reports and ten-week report cards will be entered into Infinite Campus.

2026-2027
FINAL Grade Reporting Timeline

Grade Reporting Timeline	Report Card Grades Close	Teacher Grade Input Window	Report Cards Available in Infinite Campus Backpack
#1	Friday, Nov 13, 2026	11/13 – 11/20/2026	11/24/2026
#2	Friday, Jan 29, 2027	01/29 – 02/05/2027	02/09/2027
#3	Friday, April 23, 2027	04/23 – 04/30/2027	05/04/2027
#4	Thursday, Jun 24, 2027	06/14 – 06/25/2027	6/30/2027
Progress Reporting Timeline	Progress Report Grades Close	Teacher Grade Input Window	Progress Reports Available in Infinite Campus Backpack
#1	Friday, Oct 9, 2026	10/09 – 10/19/2026	10/21/2026
#2	Friday, Dec 11, 2026	12/11 – 12/18/2026	12/22/2026
#3	Friday, Mar 12, 2027	03/12– 03/19/2027	03/23/2027
#4	Friday, May 21, 2027	05/21 – 05/28/2027	06/02/2027

Passing grades for students in grades 3-6 is 65%, and 60% is the lowest mark recorded on their report cards. For students in grades 7 & 8, the passing grade is also 65%, and 50% is the lowest mark recorded on their report card.

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	4.0 Scale
97-100	A+	4.0
93-96	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
65-66	D	1.0
Below 65	F	0.0

Health Services

All health services are provided through our full service Kaleida Health Clinic. All students must enroll in order to receive any related health service; this includes dispensing medications, sick calls, or students receiving services due to injury. Student Medication: If a student has medication that needs to be administered at school, the parent is required to provide the medication in a script bottle filled specifically for school, a script from the doctor, and a consent signed by the parent. A student who would require over the counter medication on an as-needed basis (i.e. Benadryl) will only be able to receive this with signed consent from the parent and doctor. If a

student is in Pre-Kindergarten and must have medication administered in school, the parent will be notified via phone prior to that medication being given to the student for the first time to complete identification.

Please adhere to the Buffalo Public School health guidelines to ensure safety for all our staff and students. If a child has a fever, they should remain out of school until there are 24 hours fever free. As a community, when this is adhered to then we are able to keep more students healthy.

Immunizations

New York State requires all students to be immunized against diphtheria, polio, measles, German measles and mumps. Students not having the proper immunization will not be permitted to attend school effective September 17th 2026. Please have this documentation readily available. If you have any questions on your child's immunization status, please contact our school nurse. For more information, visit <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/1958>. Additionally, you can have your child immunized in our school clinic; please call (716) 897-8056 or (716) 897-8031 to make an appointment.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Parents have the right to access and monitor assignments, grades and attendance, as well as contact information, through the online Parent Portal. This resource helps parents stay informed and connected by providing day-to-day insight into their child's academic experience. If you need more information on

how to access the Parent Portal or how to request a portal letter, click the link below or type the address into your internet

browser. <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/2380>

Instructional Platforms

Schoology: All teachers at PK-8 will use the learning management system, Schoology, to facilitate the delivery, participation, and engagement of educational courses and instruction. Teachers will create courses and post course content in Schoology, including video and website links, virtual conferencing links, documents, PowerPoints, and Nearpod lessons. Students are also able to message their teachers through Schoology. Students can also login to Clever and then navigate to Schoology.

Microsoft Teams: Microsoft Teams is the District's video conferencing platform for use with students. Teams allows teachers to provide live online (synchronous) instruction and to host virtual office hours. Teachers will also schedule virtual conferences through Teams to support students individually and/or small groups. Links will be posted in Schoology.

Lockers

Elementary: Students in PK- K are assigned cubbies in their classrooms. Please refer to the teachers' syllabus regarding items that will be stored in cubbies. Students in grades 1-6 will be assigned lockers outside of their Homerooms to keep all belongings in that they will not need for class that day (i.e. jackets, backpacks). Students are not permitted to access their lockers during the school day except for right

before lunch for students that need to get lunches that are brought from home.

Junior High: Students in grades 7-8 will be assigned a locker close to their Homeroom. These lockers will have combinations assigned by School Security and Administration. Combinations will be provided to students on the first day of school by their homeroom teachers. Homeroom teachers will have access to their students' combinations to provide students if they are misplaced or forgotten. Students will be permitted to go to their lockers 3 times a day, at arrival, before lunch, and at dismissal. Backpacks are not permitted to be carried during the school day outside of arrival and dismissal.

Mindful Moments Room

The Mindful Moments room is a relaxing atmosphere with calming music, mats to stretch out on and soothing lights. The Mindful Moments room will offer a tranquil, relaxing and therapeutic environment for students who are experiencing social/emotional and behavioral challenges and require a quiet space to develop positive coping skills to manage stress.

Multilingual Support

Stand-Alone: Teachers will provide stand-alone instruction through the District's online platforms, Microsoft Teams. The ENL teacher will work with students from different classrooms who need the same instructional support.

Integrated English as a New Language (ENL): Teachers will provide integrated instruction through the District's online platform. ENL teachers and content area teachers will collaborate to plan, prepare and deliver lessons that include scaffolding and provide multiple opportunities for language development during content area instruction.

Additional ENL Considerations: Multilingual learners will receive independent skill-building exercises daily as assigned to address the four modalities. Parents will receive virtual training on the District's learning management system (LMS), Schoology, to provide families with opportunities to support and monitor their child's learning. The training will be offered in the District's top seven languages. Moreover, the District will facilitate virtual workshops and host office hours to support families of students in English as a new language programs. For more information visit: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/multilingual>

Parent Room

Our Parent room is in 149 and can aid families on items such as communication assistance, HR parent documentation, and volunteer opportunities. Our Parent Engagement Liaison (PEL) is housed in this room and can be reached by calling the Main Office (716) 816-4110. ALL visitors must be scheduled and sign the Visitor's Log, in the Main Office prior to attending a meeting in the Parent Room.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

PBIS is a proactive systems approach to establishing behavioral supports and social culture to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. As a response to intervention (RTI) model, PBIS applies a three-tiered system of support, and a problem-solving process to enhance the capacity of schools to effectively educate all students.

DR. LYDIA T. WRIGHT SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BEHAVIOR MATRIX								
								
Always Respectful	- Listen politely - Use kind words - Ask permission appropriately - Take turns, cooperate - Raise your hand and wait to be called upon	- Enter team meetings on mute - Be in a quiet location - Use the raise hand option when you have a question	- Respect the talking place - Speak and listen with respect	- Arrive on time - Respect others space	- Respect privacy & space - Use the bathroom in an appropriate and timely manner	- Use voice level 2 and kind words - Follow the rules of the driver/ade - Respect others personal	- Use voice level 2 and kind words - Stand and wait patiently in line - Follow directions of adults serving and in charge - Use table manners	- Use voice level 0 upon entering and exiting - Listen attentively - Use appropriate applause
Always Responsible	- Follow adult directions - Accept consequences - Be prepared with needed materials and homework - Complete work on time - Dress in appropriate uniform	- Attend to task as assigned by the teacher on device - Keep device charged - Handle device with care - Use the chat feature for on topic discussions	Participate in circle and share from your heart	- Walk on the silver line - Stay to the right - Listen for adult directions - Stand and wait patiently	- Keep the bathroom clean - Flush the toilet - Report any problems	- Keep bus clean - Get on and remain on the bus until appropriate stop - Be on time - Go directly to a seat - Remain in your seat	- Stay in assigned seat or table - Follow directions - Keep your area clean - Get all utensils, milk, and condiments when going through the line - Wash your hand and wait for a monitor to respond - Watch for teacher hand signals upon dismissal	- Follow directions the first time asked - Sit with your back against the chair, feet on the floor and hands in your lap - Keep your area clean - Make good choices
Always Safe	- Keep hands and feet to yourself - Use materials appropriately - Report any problems to an adult - Stay in seat or assigned area - Practice cleanliness	- Do not share personal information or passwords online - Keep your device in a safe place	- Personal information shared in the circle is confidential (except where safety is at risk) - Remain in circle	- Keep hands & feet to self - Face forward - Walk slowly - Hold onto handrail and walk one stair at a time - Report any problems to an adult	- Respect space & privacy - Be conscious of bathroom procedures - Place all trash in the garbage can	- Only speak with your seat partner - Keep hands and feet to yourself - Stay in your assigned seat - Keep aisles clear - Report any problems to an adult	- Keep hands and feet to self - Sit in your assigned area - Eat your own food - Wait in line patiently - Report any problems to an adult	- Listen, watch, and learn - Keep hands and feet to yourself - Keep the aisle clear - Walk when entering and exiting
Voice Levels	Voice Level 0-3	Voice Level 0-3	Voice Level 0-3	Voice Level 0	Voice Level 0-1	Voice Level 0-1	Voice Level 1&2	Voice Level 0
Always Model The Six Pillars of Character	Good Character is T.R.R.F.C. 	Trustworthiness -Be honest -Be Reliable -Do the right thing -Be loyal -Keep promises	Respect -Follow the golden rule -Be tolerant -Use Good Manners -Be considerate of others	Responsibility -Do what you are supposed to do -Do your best -Use self-control -Be accountable -Set a good example -Make healthy choices	Fairness -Follow the rules -Take turns -Listen to others -Treat all people fairly	Caring -Be Kind -Be compassionate -Show empathy -Express Gratitude -Forgive others -Help Others	Citizenship -Cooperate -Obey laws and rules -Stay informed and vote -Respect authority -Protect the environment -Volunteer	

School-wide PBIS Incentives:

- Incentives (Character Cart Friday)
- Class Dojo Points
- Aware Ceremonies
- Field Trips

- Raffles
- Movies
- Popcorn/Hot Chocolate
- School Carnival

Promotions

Pupil promotion is based on a child's academic achievement and evaluation of test scores.

Parents will be notified should it become evident that their child may be retained in his/her present grade level. This notification will take place at the beginning of the second semester of the school year.

Parents are required to sign a letter stating that they are aware that their child is having academic difficulties. Parents will be kept informed of their child's progress as the school year progresses.

Students will be required to successfully complete all academic requirements in order to be promoted.

Promotion Criteria

Pre-Kindergarten

All Pre-Kindergarten students will be promoted to Kindergarten.

Grades K-2*

Meet or exceed minimum progress benchmarks in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Art, Music,

and Physical Education. Based on multiple measures, a student may be required to attend the Summer Program (if available) and demonstrate measurable growth.

Grades 3-6*

*To be promoted to the next grade, a student must meet **all the grades K – 2 requirements and the following:***

Earn a final class average of 65%. The class average is based on the content areas of: English Language Arts (ELA). Meet or exceed minimum progress benchmarks in: Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies based on program assessments.

Based on multiple measures, including the New York State grades 3-6 assessments, a student may be required to attend the Extended Learning Opportunity Program and demonstrate measurable growth.

Grades 7-8*

Earn a final class average of 65% in three of the four academic subject areas. English Language Arts and mathematics **must** be two of the three academic subject areas used for the final class average. The third academic subject area used for the final class average would be either Social Studies or Science.

Earn a final class average of 65% in three of the special subject areas. These are: music, art, physical education, home and career skills, technology, languages other than English, or electives.

All promotion decisions will be based on classroom performance and assessment data.

Any 7th or 8th grade student who is identified as not having met the promotion criteria based on academic performance, must attend the Buffalo City School District's Summer Program (if available) to be promoted. All students who are identified for mandatory attendance must attend and pass their summer courses.

****Teachers will make recommendations and Principal will make the final determination of student promotion to subsequent grades based on measurable growth as indicated by multiple measures.***

Saturday Academy

BPS Community Schools continues Saturday Academy! Families are asked to pre-register for the activities you and your child are interested in. There will be activities for all age levels including parents! Be on the lookout for information of our upcoming Virtual Saturday Academies on your child's Schoology page and

the school's website and Facebook page. The complete list of dates is listed below.

October 31st Trunk or Treat

November 7th Harvest fest

December 19th Winter Wonderland

February 27th Multi Cultural

March 20th Self Love

April 24th Spring Fling

May 22nd Celebrating Mothers and Fathers

School Based Management Team (SBMT)

We host one SBMT (School Based Management Team) each month where we discuss important school information and collaborative decision making. We encourage parents to attend to become a part of our decision-making process.

September 29th 8:00 a.m.

October 27th 8:00 a.m.

November 24th 8:00 a.m.

December 22nd 8:00 a.m.

January 19th 8:00 a.m.

February 25th 4:30 p.m.

March 23rd 8:00 a.m.

April 20th 8:00 a.m.

May 18th 8:00 a.m.

June 15th 8:00 a.m.

STUDENT LEARNING & HOW TO SUPPORT AT HOME

Parents are provided with a “syllabus” that provides information about the content and skills their child will be learning for the school year. This will be used as a basis to monitor student learning and provide feedback to parents throughout the school year regarding their child’s progress. How to help your child learn:

- Start each day right; a calm beginning at home makes the school day much more successful.
- Check your child’s backpack for items that are distracting and should be left at home. • Make sure your child sleeps at least 9 hours each night. Attendance Counts! It is important for students to be at school daily to ensure their success.
- Help your child stay organized by checking his or her take home folder daily.
- Have a special place that your child can put their schoolwork.
- Ask your child what they did at school that day.
- Talk positively about the school experience. Even if your own school memories were not always pleasant, you can help your child by emphasizing the positive opportunity that school affords him.

- Talk positively about teachers, education, and homework. Your positive attitude can help your child develop an optimistic approach to school.
- Show interest in what your child is learning. By asking questions and letting your child share, you communicate that learning is important and stimulating. Again, emphasize the positive. Ask questions like, "What did you do that you really liked?"; "What did you feel good about?"; "What would you like to learn more about?"; "What are you reading?"
- Continue learning. Your child sees you as a model for many things. If you continue to expand your own knowledge and skills by reading or perhaps even taking a course, your child sees the value in learning.
- Let your child teach you. You can strengthen your child's learning by letting her explain new concepts to you.
- Help your child find ways to apply his learning to everyday life. The more practical information seems to be, the more motivated your child will be to tackle new material.
- Develop realistic expectations for your child. Encourage your child to do the best he can in school, keeping in mind that children will naturally do better in some areas than in others.
- Provide a quiet place and time for homework. Having a special place for homework, whether it's a quiet desk in their own rooms or at the kitchen table, helps build a routine and an atmosphere conducive to work.

- Encourage your child to read at home. Reading is the cornerstone of much learning. The more your child practices this essential skill, the better he'll do in all his subjects.

Student Online Safety

The parent/guardian must agree to monitor student use at home. The best way to keep students safe and on task is to have a parent/guardian present and involved. The device has the same functionality at home as it does in the classroom. While every effort is made to filter undesirable content on the device, the system is not failsafe. For this reason, it is important for parents/guardians to monitor their students' online activity. For schools and parents/guardians alike, student safety is always the highest priority. The precautions described in this section are intended to help students be safe on the path to and from school. Student safety always comes first.

- Use of the Internet must be supportive of and consistent with the educational objectives of the District.
- Users should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Users should recognize that among the valuable content online, there is also unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content.
- Users should remember not to post anything online that they wouldn't want students, parents,

teachers, or future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it's out there and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways you never intended.

- Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission.
- Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others.
- Users should never agree to meet someone who they meet online in real life. If you see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes you concerned for your personal safety, bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or staff if you're at school; parent if you're using the device at home) immediately.
- Students may not post or otherwise disclose personal identifying information about themselves or others, including pictures, video footage, descriptions or name(s).
- Students and families must be cautious to protect the safety of themselves and the identity of others.
- Student dress code should be appropriate when operating the device camera and/or webcam.

- Parents are to monitor the use of the computer at home to ensure that its primary function is academic and that students are completing assigned work.

Parents can assist with students' online safety by ensuring students adhere to the following Do's and Don'ts:

- Do use Schoology, the district's Learning Management System (LMS), to support personal educational objectives consistent with the educational goals and objectives of the District.
- Do not submit, publish, display, or retrieve any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or illegal material.
- Do abide by all copyright and trademark laws and regulations.
- Do not reveal home addresses, personal phone numbers or personally identifiable data, including login information, unless authorized to do so by designated school authorities.
- Do understand that electronic mail or direct electronic communication is not private and may be read and monitored by school-employed persons.
- Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt the use of the network by others.

- Do follow the District's Student Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Do not attempt to harm, modify, add/or destroy software or hardware, nor interfere with system security.
- Do ask a person's permission before video or audio recording them or taking photos. You may never record a person (this includes, parents, students and staff) without their permission.

Parent Resources for Digital Technology at Home:

- Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Teens, Social Media, and Technology, 2024 (Pew Research Center)

<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2024/12/12/teens-social-media-and-technology-2024/>

- Social Media Algorithms Explained (3 minute) Video (older children or early adolescents) (CBC Kids News)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5tz887wXCy>

- Common Sense Media Parent Guides

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parents-ultimate-guides>

- Internet Matters Apps Guide

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/>

- Cyberbullying Research Center: Most Popular Social Media Apps

<https://cyberbullying.org/most-popular-social-media-apps>

- 4 Science-backed Tips for Parents on Kids' Social Media Use (American Psychological Association)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7zmz0tZ1Xk>

- Snapchat Family Center

<https://parents.snapchat.com>

- Instagram parent website

<https://about.instagram.com/community/parents>

- Roblox – Parents, Safety, and Moderation

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/categories/200213830-Parents-Safety-and-Moderation>

- Common Sense Education Digital Citizenship Resources for Family Engagement

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/family-resources>

Student Support Services

School #89 has several supports for students and families on site. We are staffed with a Guidance Counselor, a Community School Navigator, a School Psychologist and two Social Workers. We also have a Kaleida Health Social Worker and a Psychiatric Social Worker provided by Kalida Health.

Support personnel is here to partner with parents and teachers to develop academic and/or behavioral supports for students. Their goal is to work with families to create intervention techniques to help children succeed.

If your child is experiencing any of the following: understanding concepts in class, poor grades, short attention spans, excessive behavior or emotional problems, please feel free to contact a building Administrator at 816- 4110. Your child's teacher may also make a referral to this team. All support staff personnel are here to partner with parents/guardians and teachers to develop academic and/or behavioral supports for students, as needed. The goal is to work with families to create interventions and to implement supports to help children succeed. Your child's teacher may also make a referral to this team. Some of the interventions available include: Check In Check Out (CICO), Social and Academic Instructional Groups (SAIG), attendance support, psychological and educational assessments, parent consultation and support, school-based counseling, and mental health counseling provided by Kalida Health.

LUNCH BUNCH groups – These groups are for all students that serve a purpose of providing semi-structured social time in a small group. The groups are facilitated by members or our student support team . All students have an opportunity to participate on a rotating basis.

More information on the District's Student Support Services can be found on the District

Website: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/o/dept-student-support-services/page/student-support-services>

Leigh Zimmerman (Susan Pyne)	School Psychologist	A-F Day
TBD	School Social Worker	A-F Day
Gabrielle Brainard	School Social Worker	A-F Day
Erin Maier	School Counselor	A-F Day
Christine Jedd	School Counselor	A-F Day
Maria Magavern	Kaleida Social Worker	A-F Day
Jillian Miller	Crisis Prevention & Response Coordinator	District Personal/By Appointment
Kim DeGeorge	PBIS/MTSS-B Coordinator/Coach	District Personal /By Appointment

Technology

The BPS Code of Conduct requires that the conduct of all students, teachers, and other school personnel will adhere with the BPS Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology. Students in grades 2-3 will be provided with iPads; grades 4-8 will be provided with

laptops. The District has distributed iPads to students in grades PK-1.

Acceptable Use Policy Any computing device and additional hardware/accessories issued are the property of the Buffalo Public Schools. All resources will be utilized for instructional purposes.

Students are responsible for proper care and handling of the resources; the District can recall the computing device and accessories at any point for maintenance or spot checking for compliance with the student contract. The Buffalo Public Schools reserves the right to monitor and access all information on the computing devices, including Internet histories. Students and parents should clearly understand there is no expectation of privacy on school equipment. To reiterate, District officials will spot check computing devices at any point and have the right to recall computers. The District's acceptable use policy for students can be found at <https://www.buffaloschools.org/page/2176>

Technology Support

Information on technology platforms for students and families is located on the "Learning from Home" BPS web page: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/domain/9532>

Contact the BPS IT Help Desk at 716-816-7100 (option 1) for assistance troubleshooting any technical problems with your iPad/Laptop device.

- Families can request a Hot Spot Request Form - <https://www.buffaloschools.org/HotSpotRequest>

- Bring damaged or inoperable iPads/Laptop devices to the BPS Center for Innovation, Technology and Training at 1515 South Park Avenue for repair. Students should never disassemble iPad/Laptop devices and attempt their own repairs. Families should not take BPS devices to outside agencies/businesses for repair.
- Return iPad/Laptop devices to the BPS Center for Innovation, Technology and Training at 1515 South Park Avenue upon request or if leaving the district.
- Report any loss, or theft of your computing device immediately to the District. For theft, obtain a police report and provide to the District by emailing a copy, including student name and information to bpsinventory@buffaloschools.org within five (5) days.
- Students who forget their username or password can use the BPS Helpline (716-816-7100) to retrieve their correct username and password.

Transportation

All students are required to ride their assigned bus to and from school daily.

Under no circumstances will one day passes be issued.

In order to pick a child up, a note must be sent to the office or a parent must call the school by 12:00pm.

Please include on any request a **phone number** where you can be reached. Parents are asked to review the following school bus safety rules with their child:

2. Get on the bus in a single line.
3. Sit with seatbelt fastened while the bus is in motion.
4. Talk quietly and be courteous.
5. Obey the rules of the bus driver and aide.
6. Open windows with permission only.
7. Respect yourself and others.
8. Do not touch emergency doors and windows.
9. Do not eat or drink on the bus.
10. Keep aisles clear.

Visitors In the Building

All doors are locked during the instructional day. Please press the “call button” next to the Main Entrance (entrance at circle drive) door. Office staff will answer the intercom and unlock the door. Visitors should report directly to the main office, provide office staff with the reason for visit, produce a government issued photo identification (driver’s license, passport) sign-in, and wear a visitor ID pass while in the building

- School visits requesting a meeting with school staff will be by appointment or invitation only.

- If you would like a conference with your child's teacher or a school administrator, please make an appointment by calling the main office or sending an email to sch089vm@buffaloschools.org.