Elementary Pollinator Gardens

back to SCHOOL

2021-2022

BUTLER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our *Mission* and *Beliefs*

The mission of the Butler Area School District, a community committed to fostering a culture of forward-thinking, innovative and lifelong learning, is to prepare students to succeed in an ever-changing global society through academically rigorous and individualized learning experiences within a nurturing and safe environment.

Our Beliefs

We believe in lifelong learning.
We believe in empowering individuals.
We believe that diversity must be respected.
We believe that creativity powers innovation.
We believe that all individuals are able to learn.
We believe in dignity and respect for all.
We believe in the power of community pride.
We believe that everyone has a right to learn.
We believe in collaborative communication.

Our Objectives

All students will have an individualized rigorous academic plan.
All students will meet or exceed individualized rigorous growth targets.
All students will respect themselves and others.
All students will create an ongoing interest-based portfolio that provides a foundation for career planning.
All students will read with accuracy, fluency and comprehension by the end of 3rd grade.
All students will demonstrate the social, emotional and problem solving skills required to be successful in their lifelong learning.

Our *Leadership*

Dr. Brian J. White, Jr. — Superintendent
Dr. Brian Slamecka — Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Julie Hopp — Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development
Mr. Aaron Royhab — Director of Special Education
Mrs. Cari Boozel — Assistant Director of Special Education
Mrs. Heather Bonzo — Director of Finance & Operations
Mrs. Kristen Clouse —Director of Human Resources
Dr. John Wyllie — Principal, SHS
Ms. Alicia Beighley — Assistant Principal, SHS
Mr. Doug Ford — Assistant Principal, SHS
Mr. Stephen Dobransky — Principal, IHS
Mrs. Gretchen Crissman — Assistant Principal, IHS
Mr. Harold Dunn — Assistant Principal, IHS
Mr. Jason Huffman — 6th Grade Principal, BMS
Mr. Joshua Hundertmark — 5th Grade Principal, BMS
Mrs. Vanessa Boyd — Principal, Broad Street
Mrs. Theresa Cherry — Principal, Center Township
Mr. Roylin Petties — Assistant Principal, Center Township and McQuistion
Mrs. Hope Hull — Principal, Connoquenessing
Dr. Cassandra Pencek — Principal, Emily Brittain
Dr. Carrie Morgan-Davis — Principal, McQuistion
Mr. Matt Martinez — Principal, Northwest
Mr. Chad Broman — Principal, Summit
Mr. Keenan McGaughey — Principal, Center Avenue

Our *School Board*

Mr. Alvin Vavro — President
Mrs. Jennifer Cummings —Vice President
Mr. John Conrad
Ms. Jennifer Daniels-Wells
Mr. Bill Halle
Mr. Thomas Harrison
Ms. Alice Nunes
Mr. Gary Shingleton
Mrs. Mary Waggoner

The Butler Area Board of School Directors meets on the second and third Monday of the month. The meetings are open to the public.

2021-2022 Meeting Location & Times
Butler Intermediate High School Board Room
551 Fairground Hill Road, Butler, PA 16001
6:00 pm — Committee of the Whole
7:30 pm — Regular Meeting

Welcome Back!

Dear Butler Area School District Community,

I am excited for the return of our students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year. For some of our students, this will be the first time back to school in person since March of 2020! The past 18 months have impacted all of us and all of our students in different ways. We are focusing our efforts to address both our students' academic needs as well as their social and emotional needs by focusing on relationships.

Academically, we are asking our teachers to differentiate instruction and learning to meet the individual needs of the students in their classroom. This will be most pronounced in elementary classrooms where multiple levels of learning are occurring in every classroom. What is this and what could it look like?

According to Carol Ann Tomlison, differentiating instruction means that you observe and understand the differences and similarities among students and use this information to plan instruction. This means there may be times when not every student in the same classroom is engaged in the same activity to learn the same content.

Building positive relationships is an important ingredient in meeting the needs of all students. Research has shown that students who feel connected to school are much more likely to be successful in school. That is why we have developed a Framework for Accelerating Learning, which has a focus on building relationships across the school district. You can find more information about the Framework for Accelerating Learning on page 8.

As we implement our Framework for Accelerating Learning, we will also focus on positive behavior. Across the district, our schools are implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), however it looks a little bit different at each school. You may know this program as the 3Bs, the 4Bs, SOAR, BEAT, Be Tuff/ Stand Up, or STORM. Having had a long break in the routine of attending school is going to be a transition process for some of our students. We will all need to be patient, flexible and understanding as we use PBIS to help acclimate our students back to the classroom. Learn more about PBIS on pages 10-11.

We are welcoming some new people to our school district as well as initiating new programming and reopening Broad Street Elementary School. We are also proceeding with our school organization plan, which includes adding classrooms and instructional space to the Senior High School to increase capacity for the 9th grade.

We are taking this opportunity to conduct a renewal process focused on the Senior High School. I encourage anyone interested to participate. More information can be found on pages 12-13.

While I am excited to welcome our students and staff back to school, I'm also very aware that COVID mitigation recommendations and county COVID data can impact our school district at any time. A summary of our current health and safety plan is on page 5. The full plan is available on our website. Please be aware that this is our starting point and is subject to change based on federal and state mandates as well as our local COVID data and information that we receive.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and I hope you are looking forward to the upcoming year as much as I am. I look forward to working with all of you for the success of our students and community.

Sincerely,

Brian J. White, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent, Butler Area School District

Save the Date

Jump Start Kindergarten
- Kindergarten only: Aug. 24 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Device Distribution
- Secondary (Grades 7-12): Aug. 26 and Aug. 27
- Cyber (Grades K-12): Aug. 18 and Aug. 19

Cyber Orientation
- Elementary (Grades K-6): Aug. 18 from 9:00-10:00 am
- IHS: Scheduled Individually
- SHS: Aug. 18 from 5:00-6:00 pm & Aug.19 from 9:00-10:00 am

Orientation
- 7th Grade: Aug. 19 from 9:00-11:00 am

Senior High School Soft Start
- Juniors and Seniors: Aug. 26 from 7:30-11:00 am
- Sophomores: Aug. 27 from 7:30-11:00 am

Intermediate High School Soft Start
- 7th Grade: Aug. 26 from 7:30-11:00 am
- 8th & 9th Grade: Aug. 27 from 7:30-11:00 am

Back to School Night
- Elementary (Grades 1-4): Aug. 24 from 6:00-7:00 pm
- BMS (Grades 5-6): Aug. 24 from 6:30-7:30 pm
- IHS (Grades 7-9): Sept. 14 from 6:30-8:30 pm
- SHS (Grades 10-12): Sept. 9 from 6:30-8:30 pm
- Center Ave (Grades K-12): Sept. 15 from 5:00-7:00 pm

Welcome New Principals

Mrs. Vanessa Boyd, Principal of Broad Street Elementary School

"I feel very humbled to have this opportunity to be a part of a community where we can work together to build something special to serve young scholars. I love the community vibe in Downtown Butler. We already have so much incredible support from our community. I am thrilled with the passion of the current staff and look forward to cultivating an academically prosperous Broad Street campus where fostering strong relationships with our scholars, families and community is an utmost priority."

- Mrs. Vanessa Boyd

Mr. Chad Broman, Principal of Summit Elementary School

"This is an exciting time for Summit Elementary as we implement the Community Agricultural Partnership at Summit (CAPS) program. Our goal is to provide engaging learning opportunities based around agriculture, conservation and environmental education. This will take a team effort from the staff, parents, community, along with myself, to make sure our students are thriving with this new approach."

- Mr. Chad Broman

Mr. Roylin Petties, Assistant Principal of Center Township Elementary School and McQuistion Elementary School

"I am excited to get to know the students and help them grow into great scholars. I believe all stakeholders need to be at the table in order to ensure the success of the students. Good, better, best never let it rest until the good gets better and the better is best! This is my philosophy on education. We can always give our best!"

- Mr. Roylin Petties

Health & Safety Plan

Board Approved -- June 21, 2021

The following information is an abbreviated version of the district's health and safety plan related to COVID-19. The full plan is available on our website (visit www.basdk12.org and click "COVID-19" in the blue bar at the top of our website).

Butler Area School District is committed to fully opening our schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Based on the current information the school district has, we intend to begin the school year with the following strategies in place.

MASKS: Masks are not required by the Butler Area School District. Any individual who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to wear one at school and school district functions. Masks are required on all public transportation, including school buses, per the current federal mandate.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: The district intends to operate a regular 5 day instructional schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Should the cases of COVID-19 increase, the school district would return its "Enhanced Green" model, which includes social distancing wherever possible, limits student movement in grades K-6 and increases physical distance at lunch for all students K-12.

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE: Presentations on handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be presented to all students. In addition, signage and reminders will be provided.

CLEANING: The district will continue its current cleaning strategy including disinfecting areas where an individual with a confirmed case was present. All staff will be encouraged to open windows in class-rooms. The two schools with forced air HVAC systems are set to bring the maximum amount of outside air in as possible.

CONTACT TRACING: The district continues to contact trace when cases are identified and informs parents. As required, all contact tracing information is reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

DIAGNOSTIC SCREENING: The district has health/temperature screening stations in all schools. If Butler County is at the "Moderate" Level or higher, the health/temperature screening stations will be activated.

VACCINES FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY: Butler Area School District is a partner with Butler County and Butler Health System. As such, information regarding health resources are disseminated to parents and guardians. A vaccination clinic is located within the school district boundaries. At parent/guardian request, the school district provides logistical support for students to receive health services.

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS: The Butler Area School District strives to serve all students. The Director of Special Education is authorized to work with special education teachers, IEP Teams and parents to make needed accommodations for the welfare and inclusion of students.

COORDINATE STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS: The district participates in Butler County's Joint Incident Command meetings when called or scheduled. In addition, the district participates in state webinars if they are scheduled.

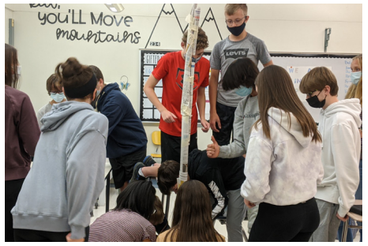
What's *New*

BASD Early College Pioneers

Butler Area School District is excited to offer our Senior High School students the opportunity to participate in the Early College Pioneers Program!

The Early College Pioneers Program is a partnership between Butler Community College and Butler Area School District. Participating students will have the opportunity to fulfill BASD credit requirements and also earn college credits.

Thanks to the generous support of The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, there is no financial cost to our students. This is truly a unique opportunity for students in their senior year of high school.



IHS Advisory Period

The Advisory Program is a component of the Butler Intermediate High School educational program. The Advisory Program promotes student adjustment and success in school, to develop a student's positive self-concept, establish positive relationships, and encourage student involvement. The program is designed to prepare students for future opportunities, as they become responsible members of society. The program hinges on all participants believing in the program and accepting the responsibilities of the program.

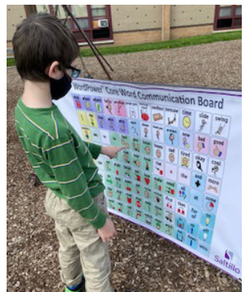
Food Service

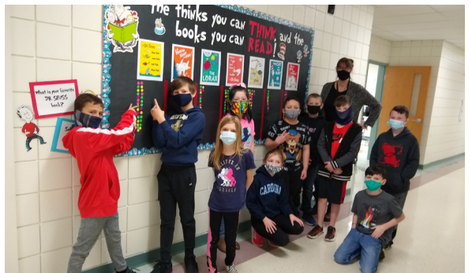
Butler Area School District will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in the 2021-2022 school year. This program is available to schools and districts as part of the waivers issued by USDA on April 20, 2021.

All students who are enrolled at Butler Area School District are eligible to receive a nutritional breakfast and lunch each school day at no charge to your household. No further action is required. We do recommend that you still apply for free/reduced lunch status if you think your family may qualify. There are additional benefits for families with free or reduced status.

Pollinator Gardens

The Butler Area School District received a 2020 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education grant to install pollinator gardens at the K-4 elementary school buildings in the district. In addition, staff worked with educators from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania to modify curriculum for using these garden areas with students. Classroom assemblies were conducted in the buildings at the end of the 2020-2021 school year for students to become familiar with pollinators and their habitats. As a bonus, pollinator gardens were also installed at Broad Street Elementary and Center Avenue Community School thanks to the efforts of staff members at both buildings. As these gardens mature over the next several years, it is hoped that they will become a focal point for environmental education activities at Butler. When visiting these schools, please look for these garden areas and the informational signage that is available to learn about pollinators in our community and the impact they have on our lives.



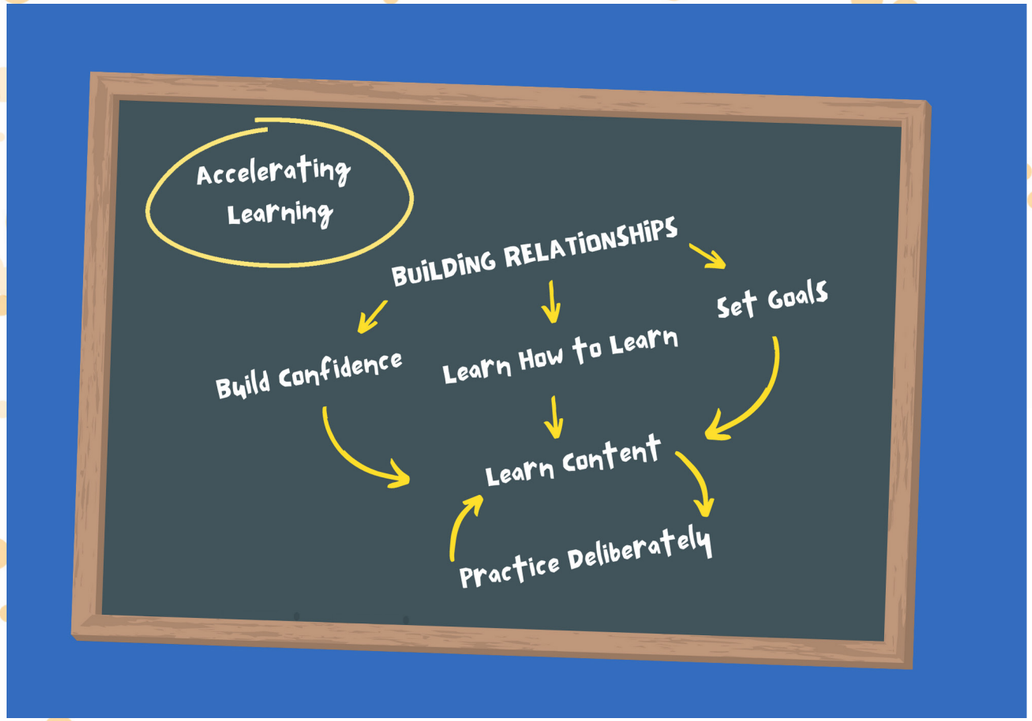


We're Hiring!

Our goal is to operate on a normal schedule every day. Unfortunately, like many businesses and other organizations, we are being impacted by staffing shortages.

The Nutrition Group, our food service provider, is actively seeking individuals interested in working in the district's cafeterias. In addition, Valley Lines, our transportation provider, is actively seeking bus drivers.

The school district also has open positions. We are seeking crossing guards, custodians (full-time and part-time), paraprofessionals (part-time), and substitute teachers. Please visit www.basdk12.org/employment to see a full list of our open positions. Please contact careers@butler.k12.pa.us with any questions.



Framework for *Accelerating Learning*

While some students thrived during the last school year, many of our students experienced challenges. This year, we are implementing a framework for accelerating learning to meet the individual needs of our students and move them forward.

The principles of accelerating learning, drawn from brain science and research about learning, mean that we must reinvent school in ways that center relationships, give educators tools to deeply understand what children know and have experienced so they can build on it and draw connections to new learning, lead with social and emotional supports and skills, fully integrate with academic learning and enable children to see their strengths and what they do know — to feel competent and confident that they can learn.

Building Relationships: Significant learning does not occur without significant relationships. Relationships fuel learning.

Principal ⟷ Teacher
Teacher ⟷ Teacher
Teacher ⟷ Student
Student ⟷ Student
Student ⟷ School Community
Student ⟷ Their Own Learning
School ⟷ Family

Build Confidence: Students feel connected and gain confidence, context and relevance.

Set Goals: Students are working toward something meaningful.

Learn How to Learn: Students develop the tools needed to learn and retain new information.

Learn Content: Target unfinished learning.
- Pre-assess (formal or informal) to identify unfinished learning.
- Pre-teach these prerequisite skills using targeted learning to whole group, small group or individual.
- Proceed with regular course or grade level curriculum.

Practice Deliberately: As students learn content, they will continue to practice the material.

FIXED MINDSET

The belief that we're born with a fixed amount of intelligence and ability. People operating in the fixed mindset are prone to avoiding challenges and failures, thereby robbing themselves of a life rich in experience and learning.

GROWTH MINDSET

The belief that with practice, perseverance, and effort, people have limitless potential to learn and grow. People operating in the growth mindset tackle challenges with aplomb, unconcerned with making mistakes or being embarrassed, focusing instead on the process of growth.

- Carol Dweck

Growth Mindset

As we work to accelerate learning this year, you will notice an emphasis on growth mindset. So, what exactly is growth mindset? Carol Dweck's definition of a fixed mindset vs. a growth mindset is on the graphic above.

Your child will be immersed in the growth mindset while at school. This means students will be asked to take educational risks while teachers reinforce the importance of approaching the process of learning with grit and determination as opposed to praising students for their mental quickness or natural intelligence.

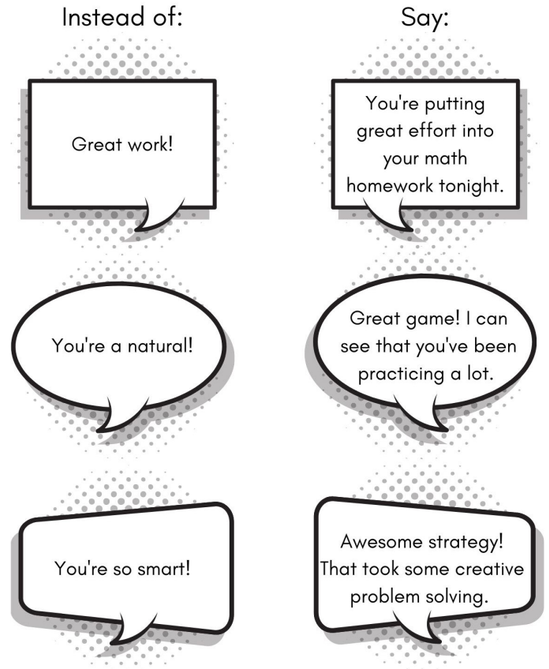
We'd love for all parents to get involved by showing their children the value of growth and improvement at home. Here are a few things you can do.

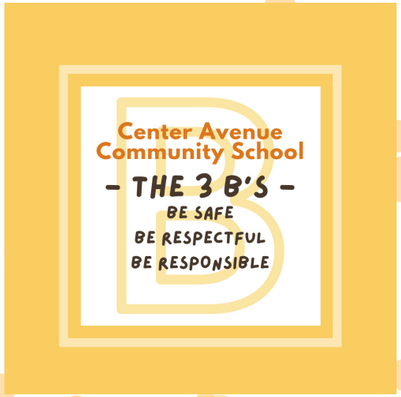
- Encourage your child to take risks and tackle new challenges at school and at home.

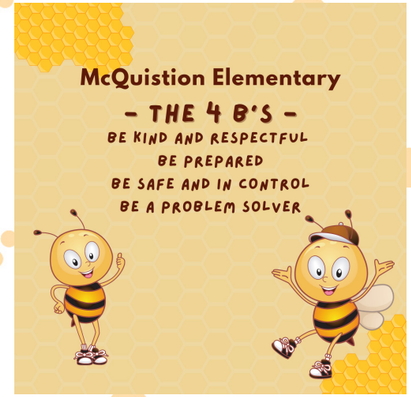
- Praise your child not for their mental quickness or natural talent, but for the amount of effort he or she puts into the learning process. Emphasize perseverance and effort.

- Communicate with your child's teacher and encourage your child to do the same. We all have the same goal of helping your child succeed!

Rephrase Your Praise







Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

All Butler Area School District schools will continue to implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this year. Both Center Township Elementary School and Center Avenue Community School have already been recognized for their work in PBIS.

The intent of PBIS is to encourage and reinforce positive behavior from students by creating school-wide expectations. PBIS is part of the larger Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) that the district has been implementing. This system of supports includes both behavioral and academic components. What I Need (WIN) Time is an example of an academic support in the elementary schools.

Since every school is at a different step in the implementation process, each school has a PBIS Team that works to create an individualized framework for that particular building.

The PBIS guiding principles include:

- Every child can learn proper behavior.
- Stepping in early can prevent more serious behavior problems.
- Each child is different and schools need to provide many kinds of behavior support.
- How schools teach behavior should be based on research and science.
- Following a child's behavioral progress is important.
- Schools must gather and use data to make decisions about behavior problems.

Each of our schools has their own PBIS program. While the goal is ultimately the same, it's fun for each school to take a unique approach. So what does PBIS look like at each school? Check out the graphics to see your school's theme!

Butler Best Buddies

Butler Senior High School's Best Buddies Program recently received national recognition. The program was named the Overall Outstanding High School Chapter of the Year by the Pennsylvania Best Buddies Organization. There were 21 chapters nominated for this honor and the Senior High was #1! Congratulations to all of the members of the Best Buddies Club at the Senior High School!

Learning with Lambs

Mr. Dave Andrews, BASD Instructional Coach for Student Engagement, is passionate about creating unique learning opportunities for our students and making learning fun! As part of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, students were rewarded for their positive behavior with a visit from Mr. Andrews and his lambs!

The students really enjoyed reading a story about sheep and visiting with the lambs. They asked fantastic questions as they engaged with the animals.

High School *Renewal Process*

In the fall of 2018, we began the school reorganization process with a series of eight focus groups to solicit community feedback. At the forums, stakeholders reviewed a variety of possible school organization scenarios. New possible scenarios were added that were brainstormed by community members. The goal was to gather feedback and information from as many of our stakeholders as possible.

Ultimately the following school configuration was selected based on community feedback.

Elementary Schools — Grades K-5
Middle/Intermediate High School — Grades 6-8
High School —Grades 9-12

The physical changes we are making to our schools to facilitate our new school configuration are now underway. When completed, the ninth grade will move to the Senior High School. This move will create both opportunities and challenges.

This year we will engage in a renewal and redesign process of the education offered at Butler Area School District's high school level. Throughout this process, we will be discussing who our students are; we will be exploring the work world in which our students will live and work; we will be reflecting on the programs, supports and resources we already provide; we will be challenging ourselves to identify gaps and areas where we can improve; and we will be reimagining the future for our students.

All of this will culminate with the development and

adoption of our portrait of the Butler graduate. The portrait of the graduate will define the attributes and key skills that we believe every graduate should possess.

Our hope is that students, parents, community members, business partners, higher education representatives, municipal, county and regional leaders, educational experts, professional staff, administrators and school board members will all be part of this renewal process.

We hope you will consider being a part of the high school renewal process!

Those who are interested in participating must be able to commit to attending four meetings. The dates and times are listed below.

- August 24, 2021 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am
- October 11, 2021 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am
- February 18, 2022 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am
- March 18, 2022 from 8:00 am - 11:00 am

If you would like to participate, visit our website (www.basdk12.org) or scan the QR code to sign up.

ikm

Broad Street Elementary
A Community Centered School

An elementary school that provides a forward-thinking, enthusiastic educational environment, focused on preparing students and families for the future through a community-centered approach led by an inspired faculty and staff.

Mission Statement

Broad Street is committed to...
- Investing in the ongoing development of lasting relationships and partnerships in a joyous environment where knowledge is personal.

- Using an innovative approach to pair explicit instruction and active learning to find solutions to problems.

- Developing learners to make ongoing positive, informed contributions to their community.

Building Philosophies

- Infuse creativity and excitement through the inclusion of STEAM in all subject areas.

- Promote ownership of learning and personal growth through real life experiences.

- Support a sustainable, nurturing environment for families.

- Work collaboratively to support the continued growth of the community.

CAPS
BUTLER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Agricultural Partnership at Summit

An elementary school experience dedicated to immersing our students in a world of agriculture, conservation, and environmental education through dedicated resources, a committed staff, and active community partnerships.

Mission Statement

CAPS is committed to...
- Using an innovative agricultural focus to expand the walls of student learning by utilizing explicit instruction, paired with authentic experiences, to meet the needs of the whole child.

- Cultivating lifelong learners and informed citizens with respect and appreciation for conservation, agriculture, and the outdoor environment.

- The ongoing development of lasting partnerships to ensure the long term sustainability of this model program serving our school and local community.

Building Philosophies

- Immerse agriculture, using explicit instruction and hands-on personalized learning, into existing curriculum to create a "beyond the books" experience.

- Utilize outdoor learning spaces as a regular part of classroom activities in all seasons.

- Work with a school and community advisory team to develop training, planning, scheduling, and implementation of ag-focused activities and experiences.

- Participation in professional learning opportunities and school responsibilities, in gaining knowledge of best practices, to foster real-life agricultural learning for staff and students.

The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.

WHAT BEGAN in the fall of 1990 as a small group of concerned alumni interested in replacing the condemned bleachers at the Butler Senior High School stadium, in time became The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. The Scholastic Foundation is a non-profit, public supported organization administered by a volunteer Board of Directors whose mission is to support excellence in the Butler Area School District. Financial support is generated through grants, fundraisers, and contributions from businesses and individuals.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. awarded over $120,000 in scholarships to the Butler Class of 2021!

CREATIVE TEACHING GRANTS
In the last five years, The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. has awarded $98,803.23 in Creative Teaching Grants. These grants support the innovative work of BASD faculty and have impacted more than 16,051 students over the past five years!

FINE ARTS & BEYOND (FAB) SHOWCASE
Each spring The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. hosts The Fine Arts & Beyond (FAB) Showcase. This community-wide event showcases the artistic work and musical talent of Butler Area School District students and professional community artists. Proceeds from FAB help The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. provide funding to a number of programs, including Creative Teaching Grants, Kids' Weekend Backpack Program, scholarships for graduating seniors with financial need and classroom technology.

KIDS' WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM
The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. and our school community have come together to help fight hunger by supplying weekend food for students in need. These students receive child-friendly snacks and easily prepared meals each week. Monetary and food donations are accepted to help support the program.

TUFF TORNADO RUN
Save the date for the Tuff Tornado Run on Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 1-4 pm at Alameda Park. This fun run with 20 obstacles is great for all ages. Register online at GoldenTornadoScholasticFoundation.org. Register by September 15 to receive a free t-shirt!

Contact Us

Main Line: 724-287-8721

Administration: 724-214-3106

Business Office: 724-214-3104

Athletic Office: 724-214-3232

Food Services Department: 724-214-3223

Student Services Department: 724-214-3127

Communication Office: 724-214-3106

Transportation Department: 724-287-8723

Senior High School
Grades 10-12
Phone: (724) 214-3200
Fax: (724) 287-1596
120 Campus Lane
Butler, PA 16001

Intermediate High School
Grades 7-9
Phone: (724) 214-3400
Fax: (724) 287-5457
551 Fairground Hill Road
Butler, PA 16001

Butler Middle School
Grades 5-6
Phone: (724) 214-3600
Fax: (724) 287-7847
225 East North Street
Butler, PA 16001

Broad Street Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-3630
Fax: (724) 282-3673
200 Broad Street
Butler, PA 16001

Center Township Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-3800
Fax: (724) 282-3503
950 Mercer Road
Butler, PA 16001

Connoquenessing Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-4040
Fax: (724) 789-7478
102 Connoquenessing School Road
Renfrew, PA 16053

Emily Brittain Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-4200
Fax: (724) 282-1013
338 North Washington Street
Butler, PA 16001

McQuistion Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-3900
Fax: (724) 287-1119
210 Mechling Drive
Butler, PA 16001

Northwest Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-4100
Fax: (724) 287-2516
124 Staley Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

Summit Elementary School
Grades K-4
Phone: (724) 214-3880
Fax: (724) 287-2734
351 Brinker Road
Butler, PA 16002

Center Avenue Community School
K-12 Alternative Education/Special Needs
Phone: (724) 214-3960
Fax: (724) 287-0263
102 Lincoln Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

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