

Hello Excel Academy and Excel V students and parents,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health and peaceful times. I am pleased to welcome everyone to the Excel program for another year of growth and achievement. We are looking to make Excel a place where students feel welcomed and are able to reach their goals. We truly want to partner with you and your student in order to assist them on their path towards eventually earning their high school diploma. We will do this by focusing on building strong relationships with our students and encouraging them to become engaged both in the classroom and in the world around them.

I am a 26 year veteran of the Bedford City School District serving in many different positions. I started as a 3rd and then 5th grade teacher at Carylwood and eventually moved to Heskett where I taught 7th grade social studies. While at Heskett, I was the department chairman and led the annual 8th grade Washington DC trip. And while I did not attend BCSD as a student, I feel as though I truly did grow up as a Bearcat. My father was both a teacher in the district and "The Voice of the Bearcats" on Friday nights. I have such great memories of being in the pressbox with him cheering the Bearcats on to victory. Really, Bedford has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

On a more personal note, my wife and I have been married for almost 29 years and we have 3 wonderful children. Our oldest is a Cleveland State University graduate and is in his last year of law school, our daughter is soon to be a graduate of Kent State University with a degree in Public Health and our youngest just graduated from The Ohio State University and has started his first year of law school. While I am proud of what they have done, I am more proud of who they are and am extremely blessed to be surrounded by this group of people.

At Excel, we live by the saying that "One size does NOT fit all". Different students need different approaches in order to succeed. The goal of the staff at Excel is to meet our students where they are and to assist them on their educational journey. We will continue to work on forming great relationships with our students and we look forward to watching our students FLEX (Focus, Learn and EXcel) in the 2023-24 school year.

Best,

Andrew Johnson  
Principal, Excel Academy