



THE PAWPRINT

WHERE BEARCATS ARE SEEN, HEARD, AND CELEBRATED!

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Dates to Remember

- Columbus Conferences 3/12 & 3/13
- Carylwood Conferences 3/13
- Central Conferences 3/14
- Columbus ELA Family Engagement Night 3/19
- School Board Mtg 3/21
- HMS- Drama Club & SEL Production 3/21
- Early Release Day for Students only 3/22
- SPRING BREAK 3/25 - 4/1



BEDFORD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

@BEDFORDCSD

The Bedford City School District's celebration of Black History focused on the history of our four communities, and we hope that you enjoyed learning about Black History in Bearcat Country. From being a stop on the underground railroad to being the home of the J.C. Tibbs and The Road To Freedom Mural, the cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills have TONS to celebrate. We are proud to say that the celebration did not stop with learning about the history of our communities, but it continued with celebrations that took place in each of our schools. As Black History Month concludes, please enjoy some pictures from our individual building celebrations.

Central Celebrates Hip Hop Music

Hip Hop was born August 11, 1973 under the open sky of a public park in Bronx, New York by African American youth. Hip Hop artists used their lyrics to shed light on the realities of life in the inner-city, addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and systemic oppression. Hip Hop became a voice for the voiceless, a means to challenge the status quo and a demand for change. The students and staff at Central Primary School centered their month long celebration of Black History around Hip-Hop. From a RUN-DMC day to a Pre-K-2nd grade Hip Hop concert, Central Primary celebrated Black History and paid respect to Hip Hop on its 50th year of existence.



Music Teacher, Ms. Buttrill & her two students had fun celebrating Hip Hop!



Principal, Ms. Taylor, Dean, Mr. Gaines Secretary, Ms. Grzybowski dressed as RUN-DMC



Mrs. Wilkins with her students smiling bright.

Glendale's Dashiki Day



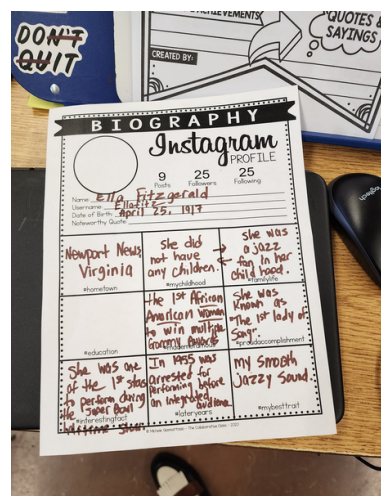
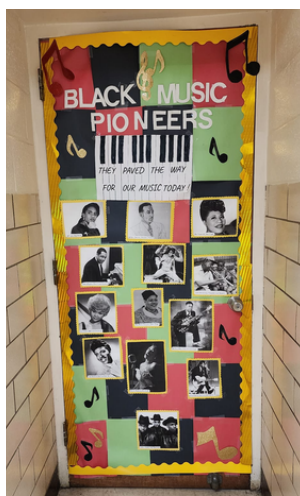
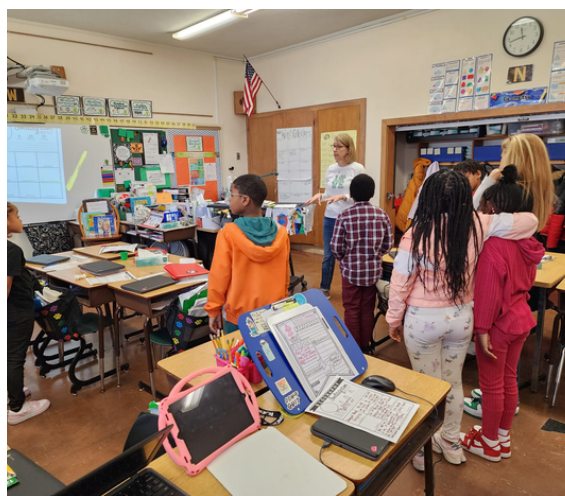
Dean, Mrs. Lipford and the students looked great celebrating in their Dashikis.

A dashiki (/dā'SHēkē/) is a loose brightly colored shirt or tunic that originated from West Africa. Many African-Americans have worn dashikis to celebrate their African history and promote Black pride since the late 1960s. Many men and women wear the dashiki as a unisex item during Black History Month. In the early 21st century, the dashiki has managed to make its way into the mainstream fashion industry and has gained popularity in many other cultures. Dashikis are an iconic African piece. However, even if you are not African, wearing a dashiki is a great way to celebrate African and African American culture. Indeed, our young Bearcats at Glendale Primary School looked fantastic as they celebrated Black History month in their Dashikis.

The Past, The Present, and The Future

Students at Carylwood Intermediate school research African Americans

The students and teachers of Carylwood Intermediate School celebrated Black History using academic research. The students dug deep to identify events and African American leaders that endured and/or overcame hardships. The students also learned how those events and people of the past directly connect to the present while extending their learning to include plans on how they personally plan to make contributions to Black History in the future. Indeed, ALL Bearcats should learn about Black History. It allows students who are and who are not African American to have a deeper understanding and appreciation for the contributions that African Americans have made to the world we live in today.



Columbus Celebrates Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Prior to the Civil Rights movement, Historically Black Colleges and Universities were some of the only educational institutions to offer African Americans a supportive, inclusive environment as they pursued professional careers, earned graduate degrees, and advanced their education. Today, HBCUs continue to serve a vital role in higher education and exposing our Bearcats to HBCUs is important. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have the beautiful history of embracing diversity, educating ALL ethnicities and those are facts that instill pride in our students.



Guidance Counselor Ms. Young McCants, Principal Huff, and Mental Health Therapist Ms. Cromity dressed in HBCU gear with Columbus students.



Door decorating contest that highlighted Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Heskett's Soul Food Dinner & Black History Program

For nearly two decades, Heskett Middle School has celebrated Black History with an amazing program that highlights the talents of its students and the culinary skills of its staff. Indeed, 2024 was another awesome Black History celebration that will not be forgotten. The evening centered around the poetry of Cleveland Native and African American literary pioneer, Langston Hughes. In addition to the poetry, the jazz and vocal performances had everyone in the auditorium clapping their hands and tapping their feet. After the inspiring performances, guests had a delicious meal that was prepared and served by Heskett teachers and staff. Heskett's Jazz Band serenaded the guests as they ate, and pleasant conversations and bright smiles filled the cafeteria.



SEL interventionist, Mrs. Henderson & Executive Director of Community Relations, Dr. Threat and ALL of the Heskett students performed beautifully.



Families enjoyed fried chicken, macaroni & cheese, black eyed peas, cornbread, candied yams, potato salad, pound cake and sweet tea.



Heskett Students painted this lovely mural of Rev. Dr. King, Shirley Chisholm and Rosa Parks

Excel Academy's Collective Art & Bedford High School

Students participate in Thurgood Marshall Oratorical Contest

Congratulations to the Bedford High School students as they represented well during the Thurgood Marshall Oratorical Debate student forum. Students from NEO had the opportunity to debate the topic, "History of Black Wall Street - Community of Unity". Special shout-out to Kayla Butler who was a panelist who responded to rigorous Q & A during the debate. According to history, Black Wall Street became an enclave for Black entrepreneurs and a gateway for economic prosperity. As a self-sustaining district, it became a beacon of wealth for business owners, while establishing independent school systems and public services. At the time, several millionaires emerged out of the thriving metropolis. This day would end on May 31, 1921 when an accusation would change the lives of prosperous Black Americans. Racial hate, violence, and death came upon more than 1100 people.



Pictured to the left-

This collaborative project for Black History Month was created by the students and teachers in The Excel program. Each person contributed a portion of the picture. When all the sheets were colored and assembled, they create this beautiful piece. The mission of this project was to teach students that they themselves can and WILL make history with their own unique skills.

During Black History Month, we acknowledge those who offer us knowledge and remind us to see beyond ourselves. Their words help us remember where we come from and how we move forward. Notable, influential, and inspiring Black Americans speak powerful words to our communities — and have for centuries.

Employment Opportunities in our Communities

Benefits of Employment

~**Socialization:** It can connect you with others, which can help you learn more about the world by interacting with customers, clients or coworkers to feel more connected to society.

~**Fulfillment:** You may feel you achieved a goal within your career or personal life with the job you are currently working.

~**Income:** A job may make you financially secure at the moment and in the future by providing resources to pay for necessities.

~**Skills:** A job offers an opportunity to learn new skills such as customer service, organization or public speaking.

~**Wellness:** Some jobs offer an opportunity to move our bodies throughout the day, which may contribute to overall health.

If you are looking for employment, visit these websites:



**Bedford City
School District**



City of Bedford



**City of Bedford
Heights**



Oakwood Village



**Village of
Walton Hills**



Bearcat Leadership

Dr. Cassandra Johnson
Superintendent

Tabitha Armstrong
Treasurer

Board of Education

Eva Boyington, President
Sharyn Macklin, Vice President
Anthony Akins
Danielle Turner Birch
Angelic Carter

School Community Resource Room Open to Students, Families, and Senior Citizens

If you are in need of clothing, food, school supplies, and/or toiletries, contact your school's social worker and set up an appointment to visit our Community Resource Room!

**We're here
to help!**

Our students, families, and all senior citizens in our district are welcome to use the Community Resource Room!