



SUMMER 2024

The ROAR Report

Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

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Dear Bearcat Family,



I can't believe it is that time of year again! Though we will shortly bring this school year to a close, I can't thank our teachers, support staff, students, families, administrative team, and community members enough for another wonderful year! We had so many exciting things happen this school year in addition to some trials and tribulations.

With this being stated, we would not have been able to move forward as a district without each and everyone of you.

As we move forward, I would like to continue to solicit the excellent feedback from our four municipalities to assist us to achieve our goals:

- **GOAL 1:** By 06/30/2025 the Bedford City School District will improve the 4 year graduation rate to 97.00 % as identified by the State Report Card.
- **GOAL 2:** The BCSD will utilize evidence-based strategies to increase the performance of each student in all grades by 10.00 % in reading and math by 06/30/2025.
- **GOAL 3:** The BCSD will utilize evidence-based self-regulation strategies to decrease discipline occurrences by 75% by 06/30/2025.
- **GOAL 4:** The BCSD will improve school and community engagement by increasing the input and participation of all key stakeholders by 15% by 06/30/2025.

Though we continue to move in the right direction, there is room for improvement. Your feedback is imperative for the positive growth and change that is necessary to close the achievement gaps as required to ensure each child is on a path toward success regardless of their individual goals.

Therefore, as we head toward the next year, we will continue to implement the communication plan, high quality curriculum in the areas of math, ELA, and training as required for the science of reading. We will continue to provide more opportunities for each child to be actively engaged beyond the classroom by targeting their personal interests, and being engaged with each of the municipalities via community service, visibility, and partnerships.

#WEAREBEARCATS!

By Dr. Cassandra Johnson, Superintendent, Bedford City School District

Tabby Armstrong

Treasurer

**Treasurer's Tee-Off:
Swinging into Mental
Health Awareness**

Members of the Bedford City
School District,



Spring has transitioned into summer, bringing new opportunities for growth and reflection. As we move forward, I want to take a moment to acknowledge a day we all enjoyed last month—April Fools' Day. While it brought its usual share of light-hearted pranks, I want to shift our focus to something more serious: Mental Health Awareness Month.

True to what I'm sharing in this article, we emphasized the importance of mental health during our Treasurer Staff Appreciation meeting on May 10, 2024. At this event, our department reflected on the progress we've made so far this fiscal year, geared up for Year-End, and spent time addressing the importance of mental health through engaging exercises. I also provided useful materials for the team to refer to, underscoring our commitment to this critical aspect of overall well-being.

Mental Health Awareness Resources

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, we have several resources available to support our staff:

- **EAP Webcast (May 22nd):** This week, we had a webcast open to all employees and their families, focusing on "Minding Your Mental Health." The session highlighted the importance of investing in your own mental wellbeing. If you missed the live event, a recording is available. Visit the Benefits Help Desk for more information and a direct link to the webcast.

Upcoming Wellness Webcasts:

- **June 5th:** "Thriving During Financial Challenges" will offer strategies to manage stress related to financial issues.
- **June 19th:** "Eat Well to Feel Well" will explore the connection between nutrition and mental health. As with all EAP webcasts, these sessions are available live or as recordings at www.Cigna.com/EAPWebcasts.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Our EAP offers a range of resources to support your mental health:

- **Wellness Video Library:** Access dozens of recorded webcasts on various topics at www.Cigna.com/EAPWebcasts.
- **Benefits Help Desk:** Visit the Wellbeing page for more information about past and upcoming EAP topics.
- **Employee Navigator:** Log in and click on the Document Library button for more information about the EAP.
- **Immediate Assistance:** Call 877.622.4327 or visit myCigna.com using Employer ID BCSDEAP for resources and support.

Continuing Our Journey

As we continue to strive for excellence, it's crucial to remember that mental health is as important as any other aspect of our well-being. Our commitment to Precision, Accountability, and Reliability remains steadfast, but so does our commitment to supporting the mental health of our staff.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier Bedford City School District.

Mrs. Tabby Armstrong
Treasurer, Bedford City School District



Scan with your camera app to visit
bedford.k12.oh.us/departments/treasurer.

Tad Ellsworth

Executive Director of Operations

I am very happy to introduce the team that will be designing and building the new PreK-2 School, Middle School and High School for the Bedford City School District.



The architects are the GPD Group. GPD has a long history of excellence in designing educational facilities. Their skills lie at the intersection of education and architecture, meeting the constantly evolving needs of teaching and learning and preparing the students of today for the challenges of tomorrow.

The Construction Manager at Risk is Panzica Construction. Panzica has extensive experience in building schools in Northeast Ohio, as well as having a history of many successful projects working with our architects, GPD Group. The team that will work with Bedford is known for its professionalism, expertise, and commitment to efficiency and budget management.

Additionally, of all the firms we interviewed, Panzica offered the most competitive pricing and exhibited creative insight into the unique needs of the Bedford City School District.

Over the next four years, the teams at GPD and Panzica will partner with the District to completely transform the Bedford City School District's educational environment for current and future generations of students. We are working collaboratively to design our new facilities with input from a wide range of stakeholders across the school district.

Keep a lookout for announcements for community engagement events as we work through the design process together. It is a very exciting time to be a Bearcat!

Kenya Harrington

Executive Director of Academic Achievement

The Bedford City School District's academic program includes the following highlights from the 2023-2024 school year:



- As there are six Report Card Components that buildings and districts are rated on by the state of Ohio, Bedford High School received a 4-Star rating in the Progress Report Card Component. Columbus Intermediate received a 5-Star rating in the Progress Report Card Component. Additionally, Grade 5 students demonstrated Significant Evidence that the school exceeded student growth (or by a larger magnitude) in all tested subjects. Central Primary School received a 4 Star rating in the Gap Closing Report Card Component and Heskett Middle School received a 4-Star rating in the Progress Report Card Component.
- The district embarked on the Home Libraries Initiative for our elementary schools (Carylwood Intermediate, Central Primary, Columbus Intermediate and Glendale Primary). The initiative focused on providing books to students and families 2-4 times per year. The goal was to ensure we promoted reading and supported learning with themed focused supplemental resources, which engaged families.
- The district continued to offer preschool at both Central Primary and Glendale Primary. Glendale continued to receive a 5 Star rating from the state and on April 21, 2024, Central earned the distinction of being rated 5 stars as well.
- The district brought back our Career & Technical Education Program. As the emphasis is providing opportunities for students to be exposed to pathways for career exploration and selection, 11 new courses were created to support this focus. Fourteen career pathways exist to provide opportunities for student interest and selection into the CTE program.

Dr. JaTina Threat**Executive Director of School and Community Relations**

Exciting times lie ahead for Bedford City Schools. With the introduction of seven new Career Technical Education programs coming back to BCSD, a broader spectrum of students will have the chance to immerse themselves in technical education, whether they're aiming for a two-year or four-year college path or entering the workforce directly. This initiative ensures that BCSD students are well-prepared for their future endeavors.

Moreover, the Office of School and Community Relations remains dedicated to involving community members in various engagement events related to our facilities project, community health needs, family and community fun events and engaging with our business advisory groups. Our objective is to maintain transparent communication, ensuring that our community stays informed about the dynamic developments taking place within our district.

As we conclude the 2023-24 school year, we proudly reflect on our accomplishments. We successfully organized several community events, including the Autumn Festival, which featured the Superintendent's State of the School Address, and our Community SEL Day. We also hosted several Community CTE Nights, showcasing the seven pathways offered this year, allowing parents and community members to explore our CTE programs. We had our first Kindergartner Sneaker Ball where we welcomed our class of 2037 to Bedford City Schools. For our senior citizens, we held a Valentine's Dance and the Fantastic Voyage Prom.

The Office of School and Community Relations congratulates our 2024 graduates and wishes them the best in their future endeavors. To our new students and incoming kindergartners, we warmly welcome you to Bedford City Schools. You are now part of a district that values Pride, Tradition, and Achievement.

**Samuel Vawters****Executive Director of Human Capital, Equity & Inclusion**

As we close out on another successful year, we have had several goals as it relates to Human Capital Equity and Inclusion accomplished this school year.

This year we will celebrate our annual employee recognition where we honor those Bearcats for their years of service as a dedicated Bedford City School district employee. This year we will honor more than 65 employees who have served our district for 5 to more than 30 years.

Next, the HCEI department along with the School and Community Relations department teamed up to do some heavy recruiting throughout the state of Ohio. This year we had a major focus on recruiting minority educators in all areas of education for our students. Our departments have visited the campuses of Kent State, University of Akron, Bowling Green and have attended HBCU college recruiting fairs.

Lastly, as you may know, the district has had a strategic focus on equity and inclusion. This year we partnered with Dr. Erica Glover to strategically work with and implement strategies that focus specifically on equity and inclusion. She has worked with our principals, our teaching staff, our classified and support staff and yes even our students. We believe that the work that Dr. Glover is doing and has done, will create spaces where there is unity and belonging for all, and we believe we are all in this together!



J.C. Commander

Athletics Director

The B.C.S.D. Athletic Department continues to support both our coaches and student-athletes as they compete in interscholastic athletics. Spring has seen our baseball, softball, boys volleyball, girls flag football, and track & field programs flourish.



The baseball program, led by Coach Incarnato, has produced multiple wins this season both in Lake Erie League play and out of conference as well. **Senior, Jaylen Thomas**, has been a big part of their success this season. The softball program has also had a productive year under the leadership of Coach Browning as they too have been able to pile up multiple victories this season thanks in part to consistent play from **freshman, Emma Davison**. The girls flag football program led by Coach Toth, continued to shine as they put up a strong enough showing in their regular season to qualify for postseason play. As a direct result, our varsity team was selected to play in a tournament at the Cleveland Browns practice facility in Berea, Ohio along with an additional postseason tournament which afforded them the opportunity to play at First Energy Stadium. **Junior quarterback, Madison Burks**, played "lights-out" all season for the Lady Bearcats! Coach Kirsop and our boys volleyball team made the jump from a club team to being an officially recognized OHSA program which gave the boys the chance to compete in the OHSA tournament this spring. The program was led by the stellar play of **sophomore, Caleb Harkness**, throughout the season. Last, but certainly not least, our track & field program prepared for the district meet which was held on 5/15/24 and 5/17/24 at Nordonia High School. The boys program has shined this year via the performances of **junior hurdler (and 4x200m relay member), Daren Morrow**. The girls program has "roared" as well with the girls 4x100m relay placing on the podium at multiple invitationals along with individual performances from both **junior, Kyndall Worthy**, in the open 200m and **junior, Trinity Pollard**, in the triple jump.

As we begin to close out the 2023-24 school year, please continue to follow our athletic department and programs via social media on Instagram: @bhsbearcats_athletics, Twitter: @bhsbearcatsport, and our athletic website: <https://bhsathletics.org/>. #riseofthebearcats

Jamie C. Cole

Communications Coordinator

As many of you know, I spent two decades teaching in The Bedford City School District, watching students grow and thrive, and working alongside dedicated educators who are truly making a difference in the lives of our students.



As I transition into my new role as Communications Coordinator, I am excited to bring my passion for education and my knowledge of our district's strengths and challenges to this new position. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work closely with our superintendent, administrators, teachers, and staff to develop and execute comprehensive communication strategies that will help The Bedford City School District better serve our students, families, and community.

As I look ahead to the future, I am committed to strengthening our relationships with our community, fostering a culture of transparency and openness, and promoting our district's achievements and initiatives.

Here are some key initiatives that I plan to focus on for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Increasing our online presence by enhancing our website and social media platforms to ensure they are user-friendly, engaging, and provide easy access to important information.
- Improving internal communication by establishing regular communication channels with administrators, teachers, and staff to ensure that everyone is informed and engaged.
- Promoting and highlighting our district's achievements and successes consistently and frequently.

Thank you for your continued support of our school district, and I look forward to focusing on these initiatives. I ROAR with pride as I serve as your Communications Coordinator, and I look forward to continuing to work with each of you to Build a Brighter Future for our students. I hope that you enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the **Juneteenth Celebration at Bedford High School on June 19, 2024**.



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Board of Education

Eva Boyington, President

Sharyn Macklin, Vice President

Anthony Akins

Danielle Turner Birch

Angelic Carter



If you are looking for employment, visit these websites:



Bedford City School
District



City of Bedford



City of Bedford
Heights



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Walton Hills

Bedford City School District
475 Northfield Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
440-439-1500



BEDFORD CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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