



BOBCAT BULLETIN



A newsletter for the residents of the Bowling Green City School District

FALL 2024

Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Ted Haselman,
Superintendent



Dear Members of the Bowling Green City Schools Community,

Welcome to the Bowling Green City Schools revived printed newsletter! Revitalizing our school district newsletter marks a significant step in enhancing transparency and keeping our community well-informed. By integrating this with our comprehensive communication strategy, which includes daily social media updates, bi-monthly e-newsletters, bi-monthly radio spots on The Morning Show, Superintendent Coffee Chats, and a newly refreshed website, we aim to provide a clear and consistent flow of information. This multifaceted approach underscores our commitment to ensuring that every community member stays engaged and up-to-date with the latest developments and opportunities within our district. We plan to have two printed newsletters each year to help inform our community.

The 2024-25 school year is off to an exceptional start at Bowling Green City Schools, with vibrant energy and enthusiasm permeating our classrooms. Each day brings new opportunities for students to engage in dynamic learning experiences, showcasing remarkable growth and achievement. Our dedicated educators are delivering innovative and impactful instruction, ensuring that students grasp key concepts and enjoy their educational journey. It's an exciting time as we witness our students thrive and make the most of the enriching experiences offered this school year.

The recent release of the Ohio State Report Card highlights Bowling Green City Schools' impressive progress and commitment to excellence. This year, our district earned a commendable 4.5 out of 5 stars in the overall rating, a notable improvement from last year's 4-star rating. This achievement reflects our students' significant gains and underscores the high-quality education they receive. The continued upward trajectory demonstrates our dedication to raising the bar and providing outstanding educational experiences for every student. For a detailed overview of the District's report card, please visit my Community Report Card Letter on the district's website.

Next month, there is a 0.75% income tax levy on the ballot. This levy will fund the district's day-to-day operations such as bus fuel, classroom supplies, facilities maintenance, personnel costs, textbooks, technology, transportation, and utilities. The passage of this operational levy is crucial to the district's financial stability. The district continually strives to be fiscally responsible, looking for ways to cut costs, and has taken advantage of many grant opportunities to offset district expenses (almost \$2,000,000 in grant funds last fiscal year alone!). It has been 14 years since the community has passed additional operating funds for the district! Next month's levy is a direct impact of rising costs. With the district's revenue only increasing an average of 1.75% yearly but expenditures increasing an average of 2.42% yearly over the last 10 years, therein lies the challenge. During those same 10 years, inflation has increased an average of 3.18% yearly—this is proof the District has controlled our costs as our expenditures have increased at a significantly lower rate than inflation! The passage of this levy is needed to continue the great opportunities afforded to our students. Without additional funding, student opportunities and services would not be able to look the same. A 2024 Operating Levy Frequently Asked Questions document has been created and is located on the district's website, along with a QR code in this newsletter, so you may learn more about the levy. I ask you to review this information so you may make an informed decision and, additionally, I ask you to please exercise your right to vote on November 5, 2024.

I am honored to serve the students, families, community, and staff of Bowling Green City Schools. I promise that our District will work hard to improve each day to provide a high-quality education for our students, a financially sound organization for our stakeholders, and be a point of pride for the entire community.

Go Bobcats,

Dr. Ted Haselman, Superintendent

Building Reports

BOWLING GREEN HIGH SCHOOL

Bowling Green High School has had a great start to the school year, full of vibrant activities and athletic events. Our Music Department is showcasing the incredible talents of our students with the recent performance by our high school orchestra followed by our high school choir concert on October 8 and the high school band concert on October 16. It was great to see alumni return for the homecoming football game and our students had a wonderful time at the homecoming dance!

In early October, juniors and seniors attended the ThinkFast Interactive presentation by Wood County Safe Communities. This engaging program combined music, videos, and even a game show, all while delivering important messages about distracted driving, seat belt safety, and the dangers of drunk driving. Students left understanding that simple actions, such as wearing a seat belt, can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for the fall play, Shakespeare's Macbeth, which will run from October 31 through November 3, featuring student actors and crew members bringing a fantastic production to life. In addition, we successfully offered an ACT prep session at the start of the school year and have another prep session planned for January. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to stay tuned for more details via email.

BOWLING GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bowling Green Middle School has been bustling with activity! We want to thank everyone who participated in our recent fundraiser. Our 7th graders had an exciting field trip to William Henry Harrison Park, where they explored the river, collected water samples, and studied local wildlife. The new outdoor classroom has also been a valuable resource for hands-on learning. We recently hosted a Manufacturing Day in collaboration with the BG Economic Development and local manufacturing businesses. Students learned about high-demand job opportunities in the manufacturing industry by providing a firsthand look at potential career paths in our community. Many of these jobs are available right after high school or with a two-year degree.

On October 17, students are participating in the Women in STEM program at BGSU, an event designed to inspire 6th-8th grade girls to explore STEM education and careers. This day includes hands-on activities, interactive sessions with successful women in STEM, and a keynote presentation. It's a great opportunity for our students to connect what they're learning to real-world applications. There's a lot to look forward to at BGMS! We are preparing for our Veterans Day Assembly on November 11. We are also hoping to do a bigger PBIS incentive in November or December to honor positive behavior. Our Winter Band, Orchestra, and Choir concerts are in December.

CONNEAUT, CRIM, AND KENWOOD ELEMENTARY

The start of the school year has been filled with exciting programs and activities for all of our Bowling Green elementary schools. Conneaut, Crim, and Kenwood participated in the 1BookBG annual literacy project, which encourages a love of reading in our students. Each K-5 student received a book by author and illustrator Jarret Lerner thanks to the generous donations of our community. Mr. Lerner also visited in person to inspire our young readers. This visit was made possible through the generous support of the Wood County District Public Library, and it was a memorable experience for students across the district.

The 2024 Bioblitz, held from September 16 to October 4, had students and teachers documenting plants and animals in their school prairies. Guided by Toledo Zoo staff and using iNaturalist and Seek, students explored, took photos, and cataloged their findings, connecting with nature while contributing to a citizen science project.

Our fifth graders had the opportunity to attend Camp Michindoh for a five-day outdoor education experience in late September. This trip gave students a chance to step outside their comfort zones, with many experiencing new challenges like holding reptiles, performing skits, and climbing walls. It was a memorable week of personal growth and learning in the great outdoors.

Our elementary schools have also seen updates in technology, with new digital projectors, interactive whiteboards, and new Wi-Fi access points in classrooms. Crim Elementary hosted a Math Camp facilitated by BGSU students, where kids explored math concepts through creative, hands-on activities. Meanwhile, Conneaut celebrated the installation of new accessible playground equipment, Girls on the Run kicked off at both Conneaut and Crim, and Kenwood Elementary is excited for the start of their STEAM Club, Kiwanis K-Kids, and the annual Monster Mash dance. It's been a great start to the year for our elementary students!

Enhancing Instruction Through Professional Development

Thanks to state-funded grants, we began the school year with job-embedded professional development. Math consultants Jason Bragg and Janis Heigl have been working with our elementary and middle school math teachers, helping them engage students and refine their teaching practices. Teachers are benefiting from their expertise to enhance their instructional methods.

We are pleased to welcome a group of 17 dedicated educators who are new to the district. They participated in The Kid Whisperer professional development training where they received a copy of The Classroom Behavioral Manual. This invaluable resource equipped them with strategies for building strong relationships with students, sharing control in the classroom, and teaching positive behaviors.



A Message from the Finance Office

Matt A. Feasel, CFO and Treasurer

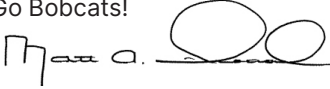
As the new Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Bowling Green City Schools, one of my primary focuses was to review our district’s financial position, including an in-depth analysis of the May five-year financial forecast. This forecast provides not only a look back at our financial history but serves as a “roadmap” for what the future may hold, helping us navigate both opportunities and challenges.

As I’ve immersed myself in the district’s finances, one thing has become crystal clear: this community deeply values and supports our schools. Education is not just a priority – it is the foundation of everything we do. Both the administration and the Board of Education share a commitment to ensuring that our students receive the best possible education and school experience.

Over the years, our district has faced numerous challenges, but we have always come together as a community to do what is best for Bowling Green City Schools. The recent passage of the bond issue and the ongoing community collaboration that is taking place for the November levy request is a testament to the strength and unity of this community. The upcoming operational levy is critical for providing the financial resources necessary to maintain high-quality instruction and services in the district. I invite you to review the 2024 Operating Levy Frequently Asked Questions document on our website to learn more.

While it’s important to plan for the future, we must also think creatively and proactively to ensure our students are prepared for life beyond Bowling Green High School. From a financial perspective, one of the most significant challenges we face is finding the right balance between our educational aspirations and the financial realities of school funding. Far too often, financial constraints limit the programs and opportunities we can offer. However, our goal is to ensure that our educational vision drives our financial decisions, not the other way around.

We are on the right path. Our focus remains on providing the best educational opportunities at the greatest value for our community. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that Bowling Green City Schools remains a place where students, staff, and families can thrive. This is an exciting time for our district, and I am confident that together, we will continue to achieve great things for our students and our community.

Go Bobcats!

Matt A. Feasel, CFO/Treasurer



Board of Education



L to R: Mr. Ryan Myers, Mrs. Tracy Hovest (President), Mrs. Peggy Thompson, Dr. Howard “Ardy” Gonyer, Mr. Norm Geer (Vice President)

The Board of Education meets in regular session on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and in special sessions as needed.

Meetings are typically held in the Performing Arts Center lobby at 540 West Poe Rd. Changes to dates, times and locations are posted on our website: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us

BGCS Earns 4.5 Stars on 2023-24 Ohio School Report Card



The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce has released the 2023-24 Ohio School Report Cards, and BGCS achieved an impressive 4.5 out of 5 stars! This is an improvement from last year’s 4-star rating, highlighting the amazing progress our students and staff have made. Please read the letter to the community from Superintendent Dr. Ted Haselman on our website or scan the QR code.



Superintendent Coffee Chats



Meet with Superintendent Dr. Ted Haselman to ask questions and have open dialogue on topics relevant to Bowling Green City Schools.

- October 23, 5-6 p.m. at Grounds for Thought
- January 23, 9-10 a.m. at Novel Blends
- March 20, 5-6 p.m. at Biggby Coffee
- May 7, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Juniper

Lubrizol Learning Lab

Bowling Green Middle School is excited to announce the completion of the Lubrizol Learning Lab, an innovative outdoor classroom made possible by a generous \$45,000 grant from the Lubrizol Foundation. We are deeply grateful to Lubrizol for their generous financial contribution and the hard work of their volunteers, who, alongside BGCS staff and student volunteers, helped bring this vision to life. This new learning space will provide hands-on educational opportunities for years to come.



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New High School Update



We’re excited to share updates on the new high school construction. Geothermal well tests confirmed that a geothermal system is viable, with fewer wells needed than initially expected. Tyler Athletic Fields completed the athletic field relocation earlier this fall. The Board of Education awarded the Construction Manager-At-Risk contract to Rudolph Libbe, Inc., who will oversee the project. Numerous design and planning meetings have focused on creating a sustainable, efficient facility with input from many stakeholders. We anticipate breaking ground in mid-2025, with a ribbon cutting planned for fall 2027. CORE TEAM planning meetings will continue to ensure a smooth construction process. We look forward to keeping you informed as the project progresses.

Fifth Grade Goes to Camp



Our fifth grade students recently attended Camp Michindoh for their annual Outdoor Education Camp. This week-long adventure, a part of the fifth-grade science curriculum, allowed students to unplug from technology, connect with nature, and bond with classmates. For many, it was their first time away from home. Students participated in hands-on activities such as canoeing, archery, rock climbing, campfire building, orienteering, fishing, tie-dying, and learned about reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. They also visited a pioneer village and performed group skits. Thank you to our staff, BGHS student volunteers, and donors for making this experience possible.

2024 Operating Levy

FAQ?

HOW WILL THIS INCOME TAX AFFECT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS?

Social security benefits are NOT taxed. In addition, seniors receive a \$50 senior citizen school district income tax credit which is allowed against the tax liability for each return filed. It may be claimed if the taxpayer is 65 years of age or older anytime during the tax year.

To read the full list of frequently asked questions regarding the 2024 operating levy, scan the QR code or visit our website: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION WITH DR. HASELMAN

Dr. Haselman will be giving an informational presentation regarding the 2024 Operating Levy on October 18 at 11 a.m. at the Wood County Senior Center, located at 140 South Grove St., Bowling Green. All community members are welcome to attend.

Our vision is to provide excellent instruction and equitable opportunities for each student.