



FALL 2024

The ROAR Report

Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

Superintendent's
Office 1

Office of Facility
Improvements and
Special Projects 2

Office of Academic
Achievement 2

Office of Operations 3

Office of Human
Resources & SPED ... 4

Office of Athletics 5

Communications
Corner 5

Board Members &
Employment
Opportunities..... 6

Dear Bearcat Family,



As we settle into another exciting school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable progress we've made together in our district. Our shared vision to foster a learning environment that ensures success for every student is yielding positive results, and it's because of the commitment and collaboration between our students, staff, parents, and community partners.

I'm proud to highlight a few key areas where we've seen substantial growth and outline our ongoing efforts to reach even greater heights.

Academic Achievement: Rising to New Levels

Over the past year, we've seen a steady improvement in academic performance across grade levels. State assessments and internal evaluations show our students are not only meeting but exceeding proficiency in key subjects like math, reading, and science. These gains are a testament to the hard work of our students and teachers and the tailored interventions we've put in place to support those needing extra assistance. We remain committed to identifying and implementing evidence-based instructional practices to continue this upward trend.

Graduation Rates: Moving Toward Our Goal

One of our most significant focuses has been on improving graduation rates, and I'm pleased to report that we're making steady progress. Through targeted support systems, expanded tutoring programs, and more personalized pathways to graduation, we've been able to ensure that more students stay on track for success. We are closer than ever to achieving our goal of a 100% graduation rate, and we will continue to push forward, ensuring that every student has the resources and guidance needed to walk across that stage prepared for life beyond high school.

Expanding Career & Technical Education Programs

Preparing students for success after graduation means offering pathways that align with their interests and future career aspirations. Our district has significantly expanded its Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, offering students hands-on learning opportunities in fields like healthcare, information technology, construction, and more. These programs not only give our students practical skills but also open doors to internships, certifications, and college credits, helping them graduate career-ready and equipped for the demands of the workforce. The response from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're excited to continue growing these offerings.

Strengthening Community Engagement

Our community's involvement has been vital in every step of our journey, and we're committed to strengthening that partnership. This year, we've hosted more community forums, parent engagement nights, and partnership events with local businesses and organizations than ever before. The feedback and collaboration we receive from you are invaluable, helping us create programs that truly meet the needs of our students. As we move forward, I encourage everyone to stay engaged, whether through volunteering, attending school events, or simply sharing your insights with us. Your voice matters, and together, we can make an even greater impact.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support of our district. While we are proud of the progress we've made, we know there is still more work to do. Our mission to improve academic achievement, boost graduation rates, nurture a positive school culture, and prepare students for their future remains at the heart of everything we do. With your continued partnership, I am confident that we will achieve these goals and more. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey toward excellence. Let's continue working together to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Warm regards,

Dr. Cassandra J. Johnson

Superintendent, Bedford City School District

Tad Ellsworth

Executive Director of
Facility Improvements
and Special Projects

The design work on the New Bedford Middle School and Bedford PreK-2 Primary School continues at a feverish pace.

We just completed the first phase of design work, called the schematic design phase. We are working through the first budget estimates based on those designs and making adjustments to ensure the new buildings are on time and on budget.

Soon we will be sharing conceptual drawings with the community as we enter the next phase of design, called Design Development. This second of three phases of design will add more detail as we continue to refine the designs, working with students, staff and facilities experts to craft buildings that are modern, sustainable, flexible, energy-efficient, and geared toward an ever-evolving 21st Century education.

The third and final phase of design, the creation of the actual Construction Documents, will begin this winter. We still expect construction to begin in the Spring of 2025 on the first two buildings. Design work on the New Bedford High School will begin in the next few months. I am very excited to share our progress with the community with exciting digital renderings of the new schools in the near future.



Kenya Harrington

Executive Director of
Academic Achievement

The Office of Academic Achievement extends a warm welcome to everyone as we embark on the 2024-2025 school year. Our goal for this year is to ensure we update our One

Needs Assessment as a district to support the development of our District One Plan (Three-Year Plan) and each building's new Three-Year Plans and goals. Additionally, we want to ensure all teachers complete the Science of Reading Pathway(s) while also providing professional development opportunities that support the growth and development of our teachers and staff.

Finally, we will continue focusing on our data findings to inform us of our teaching and learning needs. Therefore, working to improve our ratings on the Report Card for each component. The Office of Academic Achievement looks forward to working diligently and collaboratively to create an enriching environment for all students this year and for years to come.



Academic Program Highlights

The Bedford City School District's academic program includes the following highlights from the 2022-2024 school years:

- Bedford High School received the Momentum Award in 2023-2024. The momentum award is for districts and buildings that have demonstrated outstanding improvement in achievement while also continuing to show growth. The momentum award is for districts and buildings that have improved their performance index by 3 or more points from the 2021-2022 report card to the 2022-2023 report card AND received a value-added progress rating of 4 or more stars.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, our K-5 ELA & 6-12 Curriculum Committee made the recommendation for SAVVAS to Dr. Johnson and the Board for approval. This updated ELA curriculum will be fully implemented at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, teachers and administrators began working on their respective Pathways (A-F) for The Science of Reading training. The courses are developed to satisfy the professional development requirements under House Bill 33. They are designed to extend educator knowledge of the science of reading, including evidence-based language and literacy instruction, supporting students with reading difficulties, and instructional strategies for reading and writing. These professional development opportunities will continue to be an area of focus for the 2024-2025 school year.
- The district continued to offer preschool at both Central Primary and Glendale Primary. Glendale continued to receive a 5-Star rating from the state. Central received a 5-Star rating from the state during the 2023-2024 school year. Both Glendale and Central were chosen by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to become part of the Heading to Kindergarten Cohort 3.
- The audit held by the Department of Education and Workforce during 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 with regard to Federal Programs was successful with no negative findings.

Samuel Vawters**Executive Director of Operations**

With all the excitement and buzz around us building new buildings, we in the operations department have two primary goals centered around quality and environment for our students and community.

Our first goal is Quality. The operations department will maintain a high quality level of service to our Students, our Staff, our Buildings/Grounds and Community. This year we will evaluate all of our custodial and maintenance staff to ensure performance that models top care and upkeep of our present facilities. This in turn will set parameters and expectations of goals to carry over to our new facilities. We also have applied standards and procedures to our daily practices of cleaning/custodial and maintenance staff. We work in conjunction with the purchasing department to help ensure efficient and effective buying of products. Lastly, we have created spreadsheets for routine preventive maintenance check off. (i.e) playground inspection reports, fire extinguisher, AED, etc.

Our second goal is focused on the environment of our buildings for our staff and students. We will ensure that all Bedford City School District students will receive a high quality, comprehensive, and meaningful education through a healthy, clean and safe environment. This summer we fulfilled all major safety requests from principals and teachers in regards to their schools and classrooms for student learning. We also have prepared our schools for teaching and learning with vigorous cleaning of the walls, desks, floors stripped and waxed. This was done to ensure that all of our students and staff upon their return will have a safe, healthy and clean learning environment.

In closing, our department consists of Transportation, Nutritional Services, Information Technology, Registration, Buildings and Grounds, Attendance and Student Welfare. All of our department's are committed to ensure that we provide the best service to all of our students, staff, employees and our community, so that we can continue to operate at a high level as a district.

Dr. JaTina Threat

Executive Director of Human Resources & SPED

This school year marks a new path as I am the new Director of Human Resources and Special Education for the Bedford City School District.

In addition to overseeing human resources and special education, I also oversee the nursing department, career technical education (CTE) and the social emotional learning (SEL) department.



My goals as Executive Director of Human Resources and Special Education are multifaceted. First, I aim to enhance recruitment and retention strategies to ensure we attract and keep the best talent in our district. By fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment, I hope to empower our educators and staff to thrive.

Our school nursing department is crucial for supporting the health and well-being of our students. We will maintain our focus on ensuring that students are healthy and prepared to learn, as our nursing staff significantly contributes to a safe and nurturing school environment. Their commitment to both physical and emotional health enhances resilience and promotes overall academic success.

We remain committed to the expansion of BHS Career Technical Education pathways, ensuring they align with industry demands and provide students with real-world skills. A key aspect of career technical education is fostering partnerships that allow our students to gain hands-on experience. We will continue to collaborate with local businesses and educational institutions to build these partnerships, enhancing learning opportunities and providing our students with valuable work-based learning experiences.

As of the 2024-25 school year, we are proud to have the following career technical pathways for our students:

- Audio Visual Production
- Auto Tech
- Barber School
- BioMed
- Business Management
- Clinical Health
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Culinary
- Cybersecurity
- Engineering & Robotics
- Marketing
- Sports Medicine & Exercise
- Teaching Academy

In the realm of Special Education, my goal is to promote inclusivity and ensure that every student receives the support they need to succeed. I will focus on enhancing our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure that every student receives the tailored academic and emotional support they need to thrive. We will continue to develop personalized learning plans and improve staff training to more effectively support our diverse student population.

Lastly, our Social Emotional Learning initiatives provide programming that equips students with the skills to navigate challenges and cultivate healthy relationships. By incorporating SEL practices into our curriculum, we can create a supportive school environment where every student feels valued.

With these goals in mind, I am excited to embrace this new journey and continue to contribute to the vibrant community that Bedford City Schools represents.



J.C. Commander

Athletics Director

The B.C.S.D. Athletic Department has gotten off to a strong start so far this school year as our fall athletic programs have been experiencing success early and often in competition. We have also taken some positive steps in securing partnerships with local businesses who are excited to support our student-athletes.



The football team, led by head coach **Zac Toth**, sits at 4-2 on the season and is currently riding a two-game win streak. The program has a tremendous senior class led by the likes of outside linebacker, **Terrance Brown Jr.**, and running back, **Jaivon Hudson**. The volleyball program, led by first year coach, **Sydney Adamson**, is also notching wins as they sit at a record of 5-5 on the season with two of those losses going all the way to five sets. Juniors, **Chayse Jackson** and **Leah Grimes**, have been forces for the Lady Bearcats while senior **Kyndall Worthly** is currently ranked second in the Lake Erie League in kills. The boys soccer team sits at 6-1-3 on the season. Led by head coach, **Nick Schaefer**, the boys have put up 53 goals this year thanks to the play of seniors, **Blais "Mykey" Gosse**, and **Al Sidibe**. Senior goalie, **Daniel Bridgeforth**, has been fierce at the net only yielding 19 goals this season. Coach **Chan Coleman** and the Lady Bearcats soccer team have been steady as well this season with a current record of 3-4. Senior, **Anna Ningler-Farone**, has been a big part of the team's success this season including a win over Akron Ellet where she scored three goals in a 3-1 win. The cross country team led by head coach, **Leah McKeen**, has put up some great individual performances by the likes of sophomores **Josiah Chapman** and **Antione Cole** while freshman **Ryan Cunningham** was recently named Lake Erie League "Athlete of the Week" for knocking a full 2 minutes off his 5K time while competing in his first race as a high school athlete at the McDonough Invitational.

As always, please continue to follow our athletic department and programs via social media on **Instagram: @bhsbearcats_athletics**, **X: @bhsbearcatsport**, and our **athletic website: <https://bhsathletics.org/>**. **#riseofthebearcats**

Jamie C. Cole

Communications Coordinator

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year, Bearcats!



As we start a new school year, I am thrilled to share my goals as your Communications Coordinator. One of my primary goals is to enhance communication both internally within our schools and externally with you, our supportive community. I will work extremely hard to cultivate and strengthen relationships with our community partners, including local governments, churches, agencies, and businesses, to create a more interconnected environment for our Bearcat students and families.

This year, we will also magnify our online presence by increasing the use and functionality of our website and social media platforms. Each school has a Webmaster that is responsible for their building's social media and website. I work closely with each Webmaster, and we are committed to highlighting the success of our wonderful students, staff and community with enthusiasm and frequency.

With excitement, I will supervise our School Communications Broadcast Operator, who will be responsible for advanced video production work. This addition means that we will launch video communications alongside print publications, our bi-weekly Paw Print newsletter and quarterly ROAR Report both created by me to keep our community engaged and informed.

Additionally, I will oversee the media specialists/ librarians in each school. With my background of twenty years of experience as an English teacher, creative writing coach and Toastmaster, I am immersed in literacy, and I am eager to use my literary experience to collaborate with them to enhance our resources and support our students' learning journey and the overall educational journey of the Bearcat community.

Listed below are some important Bearcat Dates:

- Help find a cure for Breast Cancer: Pink Out Day - Oct. 10
- NEOEA Day & Instructional Improvement Day: No school on Oct. 11 & Oct. 14
- Make a Difference Day - Hosted at HMS: Oct. 26
- Election Day: Nov. 5
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 25 - Nov. 29



FALL 2024

The ROAR Report

Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

Board of Education

Eva Boyington, President

Sharyn Macklin, Vice President

Anthony A. Akins

Danielle M. Turner Birch

Angelic M. Carter



If you are looking for employment, visit these websites:



Bedford City School
District



City of Bedford



City of Bedford
Heights



Oakwood Village



Walton Hills

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



BEDFORD CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



@BEDFORDCSD