



Hurricane Highlights

Tradition. Pride. Excellence.

Fall 2024

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools



Superintendent
Dr. Theodore Caleris

Dear Hurricane School Community,

I want to extend my congratulations to our students, staff, and families on a successful first grading period. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and I want to recognize the effort and commitment you have demonstrated to start this school year.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our First Community Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences in October! Your presence and enthusiasm truly showcased the strength and spirit of our community. Seeing families, students, and community members come together to support our schools is a reminder of the incredible partnership we share.

As we move into the second grading period, let's continue this momentum. I encourage all students to stay active and get involved—whether through athletics, clubs, or other activities. Being part of these experiences helps build lasting connections, school pride, and memories that will shape your time with us. I wish each of you an amazing second quarter filled with growth, discovery, and success. Your hard work, dedication, and support are what make our District a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Here's to a fantastic rest of the fall season!

Warm regards,

DR. CALERIS

Dr. Theodore Caleris, Superintendent
Brooklyn City Schools

BROOKLYN CITY SCHOOLS DEMONSTRATES ACADEMIC PROGRESS ON STATE REPORT CARD

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the results of the school district's performance on the State Report Card for the 2023-24 school year, and the Brooklyn City Schools achieved an **overall district rating of 4 Stars (exceeds state standards in academic achievement.)** These results reflect the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our entire school community! The graphic below provides a summary of the district's ratings on key components of the State Report Card. While important, the district's report card results shared by the Ohio Department of Education provides a "limited snapshot" of academic achievement and growth assessment data. Nonetheless, Brooklyn City Schools is grateful for the overall progress the district has made and will continue to use all assessment data and programming results to make improvements in our academic offerings.

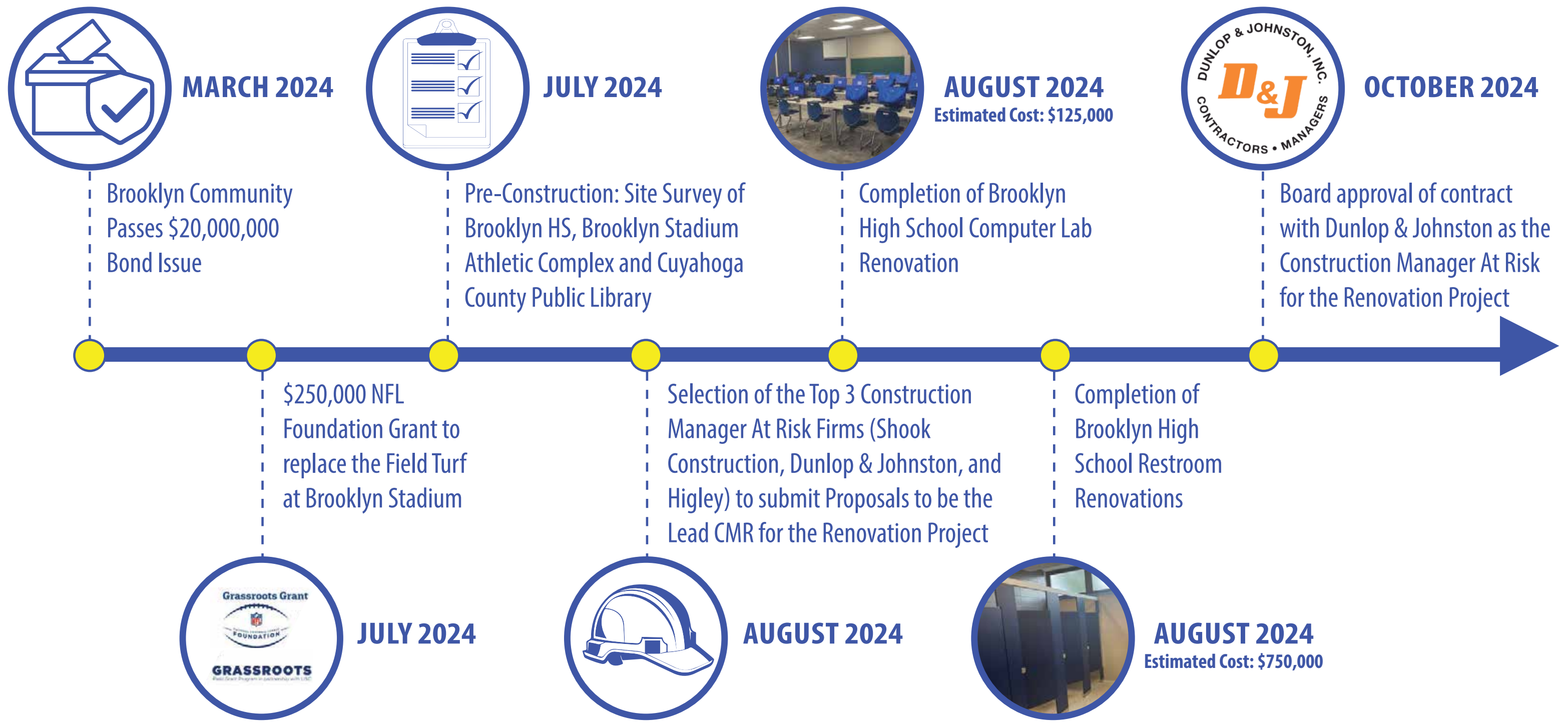
For additional information and highlights from this year's State Report Card, please [view the following message from Dr. Caleris.](#)

District Component Rating	Rating
Overall District Rating	4 Exceeds state standards
Achievement	2 Needs support to meet state standards
Progress	4 Exceeds state standards
Gap Closing	4 Exceeds state standards
Early Literacy	3 Meets state standards
Graduation Rate (4-year)	4 Exceeds state standards
Graduation (5-year)	4 Exceeds state standards
Brooklyn High School (Overall Rating)	4 Exceeds state standards
Brooklyn School (PK-7) (Overall Rating)	3.5 Meets state standards



As part of the district's Master Facility Plan, the Brooklyn City Schools continues to make progress on planned renovations to the High School, Auditorium, and Hurricane Alley Athletic Complex. Members of the community can view a summary of the completed projects in the timeline below. For more information, please visit the Hurricane Construction Update page on the district's website.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS TIMELINE



Brooklyn Early Childhood & Family Resource Center - Opening 2025-2026 School Year

The former location of the Brooklyn Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library will be renovated and become the home of the Brooklyn Early Childhood & Family Resource Center for the 2025-2026 school year. View the renderings below for the soon to be renovated facility.



Classroom A-115



Classroom A-120



Indoor Playground



Board Room

Ninth Graders Explore Career Opportunities in Manufacturing

Ninth grade students got a first-hand look at in-demand jobs and careers in manufacturing on a recent visit to the Cleveland location for MAGNET, The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network. The freshmen class was divided into three small groups of twenty-five students, with each group visiting MAGNET on one of three specific dates, Tuesday, 9/24, Thursday, 9/26, or Friday, 9/27. During the visit, students learned helpful information about Northeast Ohio's manufacturing industry, including available jobs and salaries. Students also participated in an immersive learning experience which featured a facility tour, and hands-on exploration of various machinery and tools. Brooklyn students also used their collaboration skills in a friendly competition to construct motorized cars. The group which successfully built the fastest, heaviest, and cheapest car won a free soda served by a robot! Throughout the entire program, students were engaged and were excited for the opportunity to explore new career skills and opportunities.



Brooklyn Ninth Graders engaged in hands-on learning with manufacturing technology during the recent MAGNET site visit.

Art Honor Society Students Explore The Cleveland Museum of Art

Brooklyn students in grades 7-12 who belong to the National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS) and National Art Honor Society (NAHS) had the opportunity to explore and be inspired by the fantastic art collections located at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Throughout the guided tour, the students were engaged and provided insightful responses during discussions. The students' passion and interest for the many types of art that spanned the globe and centuries was evident during the entire visit. Brooklyn students and staff also took advantage of the sunny weather to enjoy a picnic lunch at nearby Wade Park. Thank you to Brooklyn Arts Educators Joanne Becker, NJAHS Advisor, and Chris Kaspar, NAHS Advisor, for providing an enriching learning experience for our students.



Visits to the Cleveland Museum of Art are one of many learning enrichment opportunities provided to students.



Brooklyn students enjoyed interactive activities related to the artwork on display.

Medical Mutual Welcomes Brooklyn Students for IT and Data Analytics Symposium

Several Brooklyn High School students seized the opportunity to gain more experience about career paths and innovative technology within the health insurance industry at the inaugural Medical Mutual IT and Data Analytics Symposium held at the company's Brooklyn headquarters on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. The visit included an engaging presentation on the increasingly pivotal role of data, analytics, and IT in the health insurance industry. Students also listened to and interacted with members of a speaker panel which provided valuable insights on the key attributes Medical Mutual seeks in student applicants for internships and full-time positions. Additional break-out discussions and exhibit topics included application and development, IT security, infrastructure, data analytics and data engineering. The site visit to Medical Mutual is part of the High School Career Exploration and Planning Program and aligns with the Career and College Readiness pillar featured in the District's Strategic Plan. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, thank you to Medical Mutual for providing our students an in-depth career exploration experience.



Several BHS students were able to meet with area IT professionals at the recent symposium hosted by Medical Mutual.

BHS Students Play Key Role in Launching New School Supply Closet

Brooklyn High School students and staff now have access to a ready stock of school supplies thanks to the dedicated efforts of fellow classmates. Students in the classrooms of Brenda Campbell and Kelly Marsico have played a key role in launching the new school supply closet by organizing a large donation of school supplies courtesy of the local Walmart. The list of donated items is extensive and includes folders, spiral notebooks, markers, pens, pencils, dry erase boards and markers, glue sticks, headphones, and more! Over the course of several weeks, students sorted approximately ten to fifteen full pallets of school supplies, measured the walls for shelving units and broke down the empty boxes for recycling.

The inventory of school supplies is now available to the entire school. Brooklyn staff members can submit orders through an online Google form for a specific student, to restock classroom supplies, or for personal use in the classroom. Under the direction of Brenda Campbell and Kelly Marsico, students receive, fill, and hand deliver the orders to each classroom. In the process, they learn valuable life and career skills, such as stocking shelves, taking inventory, filling orders, and providing customer service. Teachers and peers alike have been appreciative of their timely assistance. The Brooklyn City Schools would like to thank Brenda Campbell and Kelly Marsico for providing guidance and support to their classrooms, and proudly congratulate all participating students for their hard work in helping to launch the school's new supply closet!



BHS students now have access to free school supplies thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Marsico's and Mrs. Campbell's classrooms.

District Launches Hurricane Family Resource Center Community Food Pantry

Brooklyn City Schools are excited to introduce the Hurricane Family Resource Center Community Food Pantry, a new resource dedicated to supporting district students and families in need of additional assistance throughout the school year. Our goal is to provide access to essential food items for our students and families, ensuring everyone can obtain the support they need.

To participate, families must submit an online order no later than the Sunday before the scheduled pick-up date. Any requests submitted after this deadline are unable to be filled. Pickups will be held in the White Lot at the back of Brooklyn High School. Pick-up times are either 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.- 2:15 p.m. Interested district families must submit an online order form.

The district is proud to serve our amazing community and looks forward to helping those in need. Specific questions regarding this program can be directed to Paula Jones, Director of Pupil Services, at paula.jones@bcshurricanes.org.

Highlights from the First Quarter!



Celebrating the Brooklyn City Schools Hall of Fame Class of 2024



Congratulations to the distinguished alumni, former faculty, and athletic teams listed below who were recognized at the induction ceremony held on September 19, 2024. To learn more, visit the Hall of Fame page on the district website.

- Robert "Bob" Kelber** (Class of 1966)
- Ken Friedl** (Class of 1983)
- Dominick Grassi** (Class of 2004)
- Nicholas Latimer** (Class of 2004)
- John S. Phillips** (former faculty member)
- James Verba** (current faculty member)
- 1983 Wrestling Team**
- 2002-2003 Girls Basketball Team**
- Earl Bloam** (Ron Szudy School Community Engagement Award)



Artwork by Jarianny Dominguez Calderon Selected for Display in Columbus



Jarianny joins a select group of students to have their artwork chosen for display at the Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibition.

Congratulations to Brooklyn High School junior Jarianny Dominguez Calderon who recently achieved the proud accomplishment of having her artwork selected for display at the 2024-26 Ohio House of Representatives High School Student Art Exhibition. This distinct honor is only granted to one single student in each of the state's ninety-nine Ohio House districts. The artwork is titled "A Rainy Day" and will be on display at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in Columbus through May 2026. The two-year student art exhibit is made possible through a partnership between the Ohio Art Education Association, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Ohio House of Representatives. In addition to the exhibition, Jarianny will also receive a certificate and a \$100 award from the Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA). Congratulations once again to Jarianny Dominguez Calderon on her impressive artistic accomplishment!



"A Rainy Day" by Jarianny Dominguez Calderon



BCS Financial Update - Fall 2024



Treasurer
Robert Schirhart

Brooklyn City Schools

From time to time, the Treasurer's Office from the Brooklyn City Schools desires to share important top-level updates of nuances taking place in our department, as a manner of open communications and transparency. For this edition of the Hurricane Highlights newsletter, a few important topics will be discussed. As always, citizens in our community are encouraged to contact the Treasurer's Office at any time with questions or concerns about district finances. Remaining sound fiscal stewards of tax dollars is our top priority.

First, all of us experienced the county's sexennial reappraisals this past summer and have likely received updated property values. While those values have also likely fluctuated for most residents, some upward and some downward, please keep in mind that the Brooklyn City Schools will experience a very minor impact on its finances.

5-Year Forecasts Required by State Law, Positive Cash Reserves

Twice each year, school districts in Ohio are required to submit 5-Year forecasts to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce as a tool to assess the financial health of our operations. For the most recent 5-Year forecast submission, the Brooklyn City Schools has put itself in a strong position through 2029, provided that all expected renewals of current funding remain intact. In fact, our district will anticipate a positive five-year forecast due to strict financial planning and wise decision-making.

Pursuing Alternative Funding Sources Through Grants

The district has also pursued purposeful cost-savings measures, including wise staffing decisions. We have also been awarded significant alternative sources of funding to pay for large dollar expenses, such as the recent \$250,000 NFL grant to help upgrade and enhance our football stadium, track and field, and adjoining co-curricular activities. In an equally significant grant awarding, the Brooklyn City Schools earned a \$266,000 CTE grant from the State of Ohio has also helped the Brooklyn City Schools to offset costs as well. These two grants represent more than half a million dollars in funding offsets, and the pursuit of grant dollars will continue to be a priority for the district.

Finally, the Brooklyn City Schools, as with all schools in Ohio, must rely on taxpayers for a major source of the funding we need to operate, and the Board of Education and leadership team are considering a renewal issue this May 2025. Keep in mind, the renewal will not raise taxes and will renew funding that has been continuously approved by our voters over time. The Treasurer's Office will remain open, transparent, and communicative about the district's finances. As always, please contact our office at 216-485-8115 or email at any time to treasurer@bcshurricanes.org.

