



# Hurricane Highlights



*Tradition. Pride. Excellence.*

Winter 2025

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



**Superintendent  
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Families & Community,

As we welcome the spring season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous efforts and achievements of our students, teachers, and staff throughout this school year. Your continued partnership and support have

been invaluable in creating a positive and nurturing learning environment for all.

I encourage you to stay connected with your child's school and take advantage of the many resources available to support their success. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and important dates as we approach the final months of the school year.

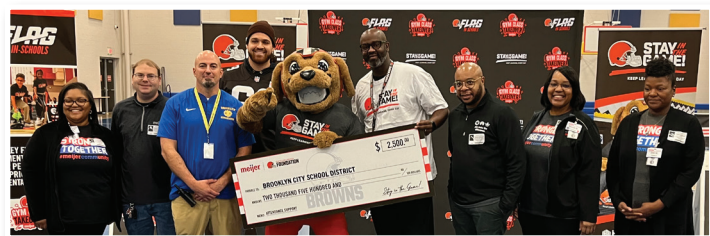
Thank you for being an essential part of our school community.

Warm regards,

Dr. Theodore Caleris, Superintendent

## DISTRICT RECEIVES \$2,500 GRANT TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGN

In recognition of the district's participation in the Stay in the Game! Network (SITG) attendance awareness campaign, representatives from the Cleveland Browns Foundation and Meijer recently presented a \$2,500 grant to Brooklyn School administration. Congratulations to all Brooklyn students for their commitment to strong school attendance!



## RYAN HILCU SELECTED TO OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL TEEN AMBASSADOR BOARD

Congratulations to junior Ryan Hilcu on being selected as a member of the Ohio Attorney General's Teen Ambassador Board for the 2024-2025 school year. As a Teen Ambassador, Ryan will join peers from across the state to advise the Ohio Attorney General's office on issues affecting teens and collaborate to develop solutions. The experience will include in-person events in Columbus featuring small groups advised by an Assistant Attorney General, along with virtual subcommittee meetings dealing with a current issue facing teens. Participants will also meet with Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, hear from other elected officials, and visit one of the locations of the Ohio Bureau of Investigations.

Ryan is a member of the Varsity Bowling Team and serves as Vice President of the Key Club. After graduation, he hopes to earn a degree in Political Science, with a concentration in National Security/International Relations from the University of Akron. His career goal is to become an attorney and use his training to help those in need. Congratulations, Ryan, and best wishes for continued success in the future!

## Ohio Attorney General Teen Ambassador Board

*2024-2025 School Year*



*Ryan Hilcu*

*Congratulations to Ryan Hilcu on his proud accomplishment and commitment to serving his fellow peers!*





# Hurricane Renovation Construction Update

An exciting new chapter in the Brooklyn City Schools began in January 2025 with the start of renovations on the former location of the Brooklyn Library. The site will become the new home of the Brooklyn Early Childhood and Family Resource Center at the start of the 2025-26 school year. A special thank you to the City of Brooklyn for their support with waiving permit fees and assisting with the building transition.



Classroom A-120



Sensory Room

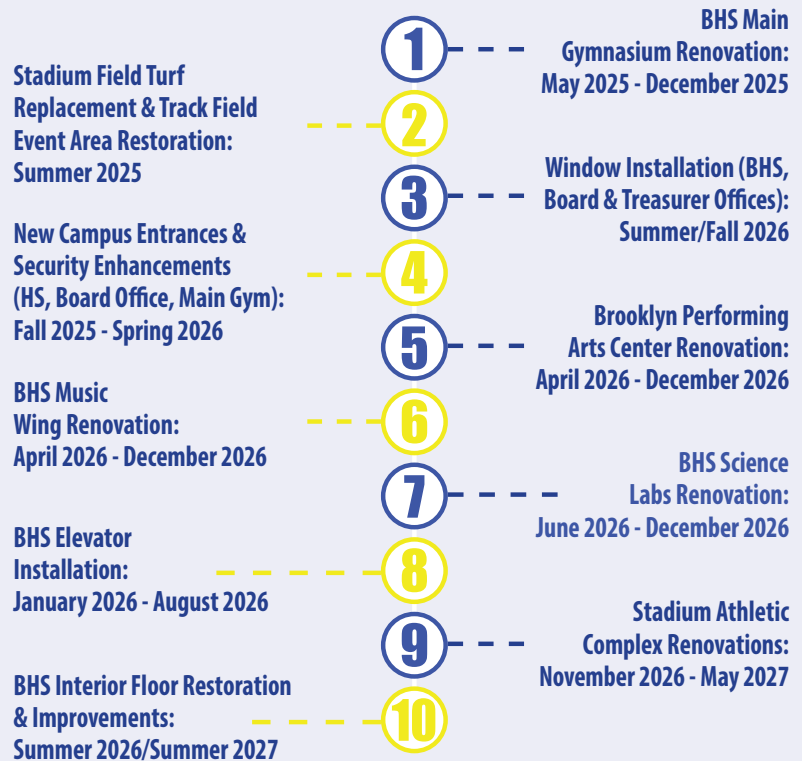
The Brooklyn City Schools community is encouraged to review the timeline of future facility construction projects below.

**For more information, please visit the Hurricane Construction Updates page on the district website (under the About menu option) at [www.bcshurricanes.org](http://www.bcshurricanes.org).**



## Brooklyn City Schools

### FUTURE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



## Students Support District Families Through Community Food Pantry



*Students are learning valuable life and career skills by helping to manage the district's community food pantry.*

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Brooklyn High School students, district families in need of additional assistance now have access to essential food items through the Hurricane Family Resource Center Community Food Pantry. Students in the classrooms of Brenda Campbell and Kelly Marsico have played an integral role in organizing and shelving donated items, filling orders from an online form, labeling and sorting bags by last name, and delivering orders to vehicles on scheduled pick-up dates. Since being launched in October 2024, the food pantry assists thirty to forty district families each month. This new district initiative was made possible through a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation grant in the amount of \$15,000 which was submitted by Superintendent Dr. Caleris, Director of Pupil Services, Paula Jones, and Intervention Specialists Suzy Marquis and Kelly Marsico. Congratulations to all participating students for their hard work and service on behalf of the school community!



## ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2025

- Issue 19 is a **renewal levy** that the Board has voted to place on the May 6th, 2025, ballot for the public’s consideration.
- If passed, Issue 19 would **not raise taxes, as it would be a renewal of an issue first passed by voters in 2013 and since renewed in 2018.**
- If passed, funds generated by Issue 19 are not to exceed 6 mills and will collect an estimated \$1,762,000 annually for the Brooklyn City Schools.
- If passed, funds generated from the levy would be used for services and operations of the district, including personnel, technology, performing and creative arts, and athletics.
- The community can learn more factual information about the Brooklyn City Schools and its finances and programs by visiting [www.bcshurricanes.org](http://www.bcshurricanes.org).



## District Financial Update



**Treasurer  
Robert Schirhart**

The Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education have voted to place a renewal levy that is not to exceed 6 mills on the May 6, 2025, ballot for the public’s consideration. If approved, this levy would not increase taxes.

### What Is the Levy for?

If approved, the renewal levy would generate approximately \$1,762,000 annually in funding, which would be used for the general operations of Brooklyn City Schools. More specifically, these funds would be used for:

- Day-to-day operational supplies
- Educational resources and curricular needs
- Staffing and personnel costs

### How is the Renewal Levy Different from the Bond Issue?

The Board placed a bond issue on the ballot in 2024 for the public’s consideration, which was passed in March 2024. The March 2024 Bond Issue generates funds for capital improvements and renovations. More specifically, bond issue funds are used for projects like:

- Updates to the Early Childhood Center
- Auditorium improvements
- Renovations to science labs, the music wing, and the main gymnasium

As noted above, if approved, funds generated by the renewal levy would strictly be used for operational expenses, not new construction or facility upgrades.

### What Happens If the Levy Is Not Renewed?

If the renewal levy is not renewed, the district will face a significant revenue loss starting as early as January 2026. This shortfall would directly affect the resources and services available to students and staff.

### Stay Informed

We encourage community members to learn more factual information by visiting the financial section on the Brooklyn City Schools website. There, you’ll find details about the proposed renewal levy, the district’s five-year financial forecasts, and other information about the district’s fiscal health.

Thank you for taking the time to learn factual information about the renewal levy.

*The information being provided is merely factual. District personnel are not allowed to advocate for or against the passage of the levy or bond issue during times they are being compensated by the district.*



Brooklyn City School District  
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 Brooklyn, OH 44144

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**3/20 - 3/22** Brooklyn HS Spring Musical  
 "The Wizard of Oz"

**3/27** Brooklyn (PK-7) Literacy Night, 6 pm

**4/12** Hurricane Community Open House -  
 "A Walk Through Time: Honoring our Past,  
 Building the Future; 10 am - 1 pm

**4/12** Spring EGG-Stravaganza 12 pm - 2 pm

**4/16** State of the Schools/State of the City  
 Presentation, 10 am (City Council Chambers)

**5/17** Safe Routes to School, Touch-A-Truck:  
 Bike Rodeo, 10 am

## Brooklyn Celebrates Hurricane Heritage Week

The halls of the Brooklyn City Schools were filled with the sights and sounds of countries from around the world during the district's annual Hurricane Heritage Week parade on Friday, January 31st. Students across all grade levels participated in the highly anticipated cultural celebration, wearing a variety of attire and jewelry from countries around the globe. A special thank you to all teachers and staff for their coordination and support for this year's Hurricane Heritage Week festivities. Finally, thank you to our students for proudly representing the Brooklyn City Schools and the rich tapestry of cultures that compose our school community!

