



Strengthening the Connection Between Our Schools and Community

Superintendent's Update

Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,



Engagement, activity, and empowerment have been core themes around which the district has continued throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Since our first State of the Schools presentation in October, when our new strategic plan was unveiled to the community, our efforts to outreach our citizens, families, and stakeholders have intensified. Such modes of supplemental communications have included the initiation of the Superintendent and Treasurer Coffee Chats, which have been scheduled for the third Thursday of each month since November, rotating between the Coffee Club in Broadview Heights, as well as Panera Bread, in Brecksville. Our very first Bee Empowered Key Communicators meeting also recently took place during the last week of January 2025. The idea behind such methods of connecting with our community is simple: **To educate. To empower. To engage.** This has become the basis of our renewed mission in the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools, and we thank you, and applaud you, for your willingness to embrace our new path forward.

New BBHCSD Website Coming Soon!

In addition to the various meetings, the BBHCSD has embarked upon a complete web redesign, to enhance the usability and visibility of our online presence. Many of you have shared feedback through email about what the community would like to see on the new website, and we've listened. In the very near future, the website will be unveiled to the community for use, access-to-information, important updates, financial figures, and reminders in our school district. Redesigning the website has also been an important step in fulfilling our strategic plan as well. The BBHCSD will definitely remain on the move to enhancing our outreach and communications with the public.

Kindergarten Registration to Open March 1st

As we look to the future, the onboarding of new students in our school district will formally begin as of March 1st, 2025, with the opening of Kindergarten Registration. If you know a child who will be five years old on or before August 1st in our district, please encourage them to visit the



Mr. Harrison and Mr. Jakub accept the National Blue Ribbon Award in Washington, D.C., late last year.

website to learn more. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is due online in order to secure your child's placement, and the tuition payment itself will be due at the building. Visiting the **Resources Tab** on our home page, and clicking through to the Kindergarten Registration portal is the best way to learn more about the process. Please take a moment to get informed!

More information from the buildings, student and staff successes, and other important reminders are contained within this edition. Thank you for your continued support!

GO BEES!

Sincerely,


Jeffrey D. Harrison
Superintendent of School


BEE ENGAGED





With Superintendent Jeff Harrison and Treasurer Craig Yaniglos

COFFEE HOUSE VISITS

 Thursday, February 20th @ Panera in Brecksville

 Thursday, March 20th, @ Coffee Club in B.H.

 Thursday, April 17th @ Panera in Brecksville

 Wednesday, April 30th - Key Communicators Meeting
7 p.m. @ BBHMS

Informal, but informative. Come to ask questions or listen to an update of important items within the BBHCSD. This is your chance to Bee Engaged!

BEE Empowered Key Communicators Forum Takes Place on January 29th, 2025

The BBHCSD hosted the first of a series of informative and important discussions during its kick-off *BEE Empowered* Key Communicators event during the last week of January. As the first of two Key Communicator meetings planned this school year, the gathering is designed to be an open forum of topics important to the parents, families, and community members at the time of its hosting. With no formal agenda, Superintendent Harrison led off the discussion by addressing an important matter in the community at the present time, and then remained after with members of the staff to answer questions. The BEE Empowered Key Communicator event supplements the Coffee Chats taking place in the community with the Superintendent and Treasurer Yaniglos during the third Thursday of each month at the Coffee Club or Panera Bread in Brecksville. The next Key Communicator event is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 30th at 7 p.m. at BBHMS** in the auditorium. Thank you all once again for your attendance and participation.



Superintendent Harrison meets with a gathering of community members during the BBHCSD's very first BEE Empowered Key Communicators meeting on January 29th. The next Key Communicator meeting will be Wednesday, April 30th at BBHMS in the auditorium at 7 p.m.



BBHES Families Enjoy BINGO Night

BBHES students and families gathered for a memorable evening of fun during a BINGO Night sponsored by the BBHES PSO on Thursday, January 23, 2025. Special guest callers for the BINGO games included Superintendent Jeff Harrison, Director of Teaching and Learning Dr. David Martin, and other members of the administrative team. In addition to the BINGO games, students enjoyed the photo station inside the cafeteria which featured an assortment of props, sunglasses, and silly masks. The dedicated individuals who lead and comprise our BBHES PSO are to be commended for their creativity, time, energy, efforts, and willingness to be a valuable collaborative partner between the school district, our children, and our families. Thank you to the BBHES PSO for providing this fun and interactive event for our families!

Special thanks to the BBHES PSO for their organization and leadership of the Family Bingo Night. All had a wonderful time!

BBH Middle School Innovation and Design Class Putting Critical Skills to Use

Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School STEM classes are putting the critical skills of its curriculum to good use for future endeavors and real-world scenarios. Eighth grade students in BBH Middle School's *Innovation and Design* class are using various hands-on skills they have learned throughout the year to create an obstacle course or carnival-type game for players to use, in which Sphero robots can "play." Sphero's are robot toy balls that are controlled by an app and serve as fun and educational tools. Middle Schoolers were instructed upon, and then utilized the engineering design process to work through brainstorming, designing, building, testing and evaluating, redesigning, and finally sharing out. When completed, the 8th grade students actually played in each other's games! The Sphero's robots can be programmed by coding, or run using different modes in an app, and were purchased by a grant won by 8th grade Innovation and Design instructor Mrs. Cathy Roderick, who is a BBHMS STEM and Science Teacher. Great job to the BBHMS students, who have used their imaginations to challenge each other with educational and innovative games!



BBHMS students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (S.T.E.M.) sessions learning how to practically solve problems, think critically, and make hands-on adjustments during experimentation.

Investing in Our Future, Responsibly:

We're proud to share this update on the financial health of the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools. Our district's strong financial position allows us to continue providing an excellent education for our students while being mindful of our community's investment. We believe in transparency and accountability, and we're committed to keeping you informed about how we are utilizing your tax dollars. This newsletter also addresses the recent property reappraisal and its impact on your school taxes along with some other important topics and data points.

A Record of Responsible Stewardship:

Since 2017, the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District has not requested any additional operating revenue from our community. This demonstrates our commitment to efficient resource management and our ability to prioritize student needs within our existing budget. We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and we constantly strive to maximize the impact of every dollar spent.

Sexennial Reappraisal and its affect on BBHCSD (REMINDER):

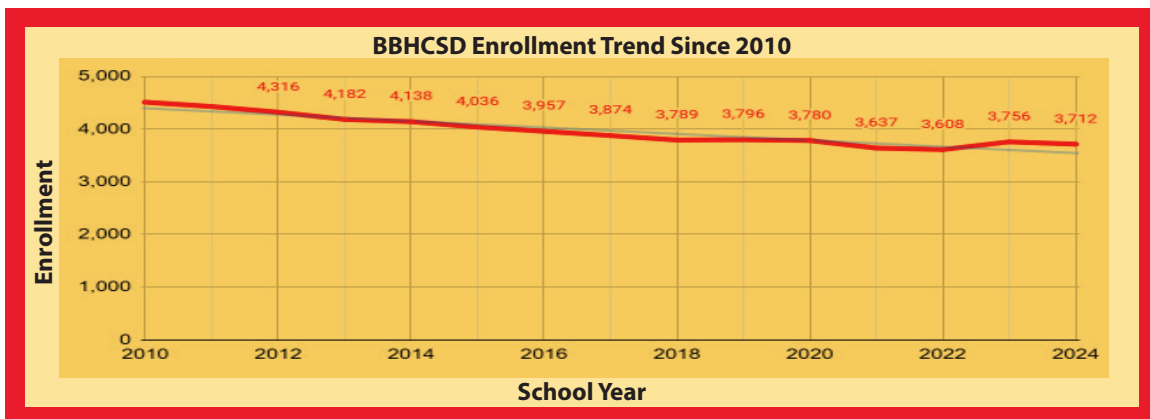
Cuyahoga County recently completed its sexennial reappraisal of property values. This process, mandated by the state, aims to adjust property values to reflect current market conditions. As a result, many property owners have seen changes in their property tax bills. Please see below to learn more.

Limited Impact on School Funding:

While your overall property tax bill may have increased due to the reappraisal, the impact on the school district's funding is limited. The district receives only a small portion of your total property tax payment. Specifically, only the 4.69 mills considered "inside millage" are directly affected by the reappraisal. This "inside millage" represents a small, fixed portion of your property taxes allocated to the schools, and any increase generated by the reappraisal within this portion goes directly to the district. Note that "inside millage" is different from any voted millage. BBHCSD has not asked for additional operating millage since 2017.

How Student Enrollment Trends Affect our Budget:

Our District has experienced a slow but steady decline since 2010 as indicated in the chart below. This data helps inform our long-term financial planning and resource allocation to ensure we are effectively serving our student population. Given that the cost of employee salaries and benefits account for almost 87% of our total budget, our administrative team must continually use enrollment data to efficiently staff our schools and departments. Ultimately, this results in a delicate balance between course offerings and class ratios and the number of staff we employ. We must also keep in mind that while property taxes comprise the bulk of our revenues, the state also contributes. However, the state only provides minimal funding on a per-pupil basis (in 2024 this was approximately \$2,700 per pupil).



Where Your Tax Dollars Go:

Your investment in our schools, including the small portion affected by the reappraisal, directly supports:

- **High-Quality Instruction:** We prioritize attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to student success. This includes ongoing professional development to ensure our educators are equipped with the latest teaching strategies and resources.
- **Modern Learning Environments:** We provide safe and engaging learning spaces that foster collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. This includes maintaining and upgrading our facilities to meet the evolving needs of our students.
- **Comprehensive Educational Programs:** We offer a wide range of academic, extracurricular, and support programs designed to meet the diverse needs of our student population. From advanced placement courses to arts and athletics, we continue to provide a well-rounded educational experience.
- **Technology Integration:** We recognize the importance of technology in preparing students for the future. We are committed to integrating technology into the classroom to enhance learning and provide students with the digital skills they need to succeed. Our permanent improvement dollars are a true testament to creating these modern learning environments with a recent refresh of all staff computers, the installation of Interactive Flat Panel devices in every classroom, and a large increase of our internet capacity and speed. These upgrades have taken place over the last three years thanks to these valuable permanent improvement dollars provided by our communities.

Transparency and Accountability: We are committed to open communication and providing our community with access to clear and concise financial information. Financials are discussed monthly at all board meetings and documents are uploaded and archived in BoardDocs. Also, be sure to attend any of our community Key Communicator meetings or monthly Coffee Talks in the near future to ask any questions.

Investing in Our Future:

We believe that strong schools are the cornerstone of a thriving community. Your support allows us to provide our students with the tools and resources they need to succeed. We are committed to continuing our tradition of excellence while being responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

Brecksville Broadview Heights
City School District
6638 Mill Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141



Superintendent of Schools

Jeffrey D. Harrison
harrisonj@bbhcsd.org

Treasurer

Craig G. Yaniglos
yaniglosc@bbhcsd.org

Board of Education

Mark Dosen, President
dosenm@bbhcsd.org

Ellen Kramer, Vice President
kramere@bbhcsd.org

Lisa Galek, Member
galekl@bbhcsd.org

Tish Kwiatkowski, Member
kwiatkowskit@bbhcsd.org

Eva O'mara, Member
omarae@bbhcsd.org

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT:

BBH High School Students Arya and Amiya Bindra Publish Very Own Book, Spotlighted in Local Publication



The pages of this newsletter are designed to showcase the talents and capabilities of the students and staff in our district, and this particular edition of our spotlight shines brightly on a very unique accomplishment by twin sisters at the High School. BBHHS sophomores Arya and Amiya Bindra were recently reported about in the January 2025 issue of *Brecksville Magazine* for their inspiring accomplishment of publishing a book promoting the themes of diversity and empathy. Entitled, *The Magic Rainbow*, the story features a group of girls who explore different cultures around the world and learn important lessons in the process. Arya and Amiya demonstrated their leadership, creativity, organization, and literary skills on an elevated level during this book authoring, and now others are able to enjoy their work and benefit from the lessons they share. The Bindra twins were inspired to pursue this theme and author the book as a result of a life-changing trip they took

to India at a very young age. There, they learned the value of understanding different cultures, and the beauty of acceptance. Both Bindra sisters are involved academically and athletically at BBHHS, and have balanced their educational responsibilities with the time needed to write the book. Proceeds from the book will benefit a charity launched by both BBHHS students to help advance an important cause in which both students believe. Reading the full story can be done by visiting www.scriptype.com to read the article which is authored by a BBHHS journalism student in conjunction with a partnership between ScripType Publishing and The HyBreeze. Congratulations to Arya and Amiya Bindra on their impressive accomplishment and for demonstrating a commitment to showing kindness and making a positive impact on the world!

