



SUMMER 2025

The ROAR Report

Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

End of Year Report



Dear Bedford Staff, Families, and Community Partners,

As we bring the 2024–2025 school year to a close, I want to extend my deepest appreciation for your continued partnership, commitment, and support of the Bedford City School District. This has been an extraordinary year—one that has marked a new era of growth, collaboration, and innovation across our district.

Among our most visible and exciting milestones were the groundbreaking ceremonies for our new **K–2 Primary School** and **6–8 Middle School** buildings. These projects represent more than just bricks and mortar; they are powerful symbols of our community’s investment in the future of our children. These modern learning environments will provide innovative, student-centered spaces designed to inspire excellence and nurture creativity for generations to come.

In addition to these historic moments, we have worked tirelessly to improve communication, engagement, and awareness around the remarkable achievements of our scholars. Through community feedback sessions, listening tours, and town halls via the Board of Education, we’ve gained valuable insight into how we can better serve all of our stakeholders—students, families, staff, and business partners alike.

This year, we also made bold strides in enhancing **academic and athletic excellence**. By collaborating with surrounding districts, we have laid the foundation for a new athletic league focused not only on competition but also on **academic achievement, leadership development, and coaching excellence**. This league emphasizes the hiring of highly skilled coaches and a shared commitment to ongoing professional development—ensuring that our student-athletes grow both on and off the field.

We are especially proud of the work of our **Students of Excellence Committee**, a student-led advisory group representing all seven schools in our district. Selected by building leadership, these scholars have provided critical insights on issues ranging from nutrition and school climate to dress code, cell phone policies, and extracurricular opportunities. Their voice continues to drive change that is meaningful, inclusive, and forward-thinking. This year’s committee consisted of:

- Kyla Merriweather - BHS
- Camran Stewart - BHS
- Kerby Taylor - Excel
- Jeffery Kotnik - Excel
- Savannah Johnson - Heskett
- Lae’onna Jacobs - Heskett
- Ask’iya Meade - Carylwood
- Pe’tlyn Pruitt - Carylwood
- Jameer Koonce - Columbus
- Savannah Anderson - Columbus
- Diamond Dash - Central
- Brielle Darden - Central
- Bryson Wright - Glendale
- Isabella DeJesus - Glendale

Superintendent’s Office 1

Treasurer’s Office 2

Office of Academic Achievement 3

Office of Facility Improvements 4

Office of Human Resources 4

Office of Athletics 5

Communications Corner 5

Board Members & Employment Opportunities..... 6

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we are excited to deepen our two-way communication efforts. We will launch enhanced feedback tools, including surveys and forums, to better understand and support the evolving needs of our community. Our focus will remain on **bridging generational gaps**, improving digital literacy, and clarifying the evolving expectations of public education.

In a time when the value of public education is too often called into question, it is more important than ever that we stand united in our mission. We must continue to boldly articulate **who we are** – and **who we are not**. We are not closing doors. We are not limiting dreams. We are here to serve **all** students, and we are unwavering in our belief that every scholar can achieve greatness with the right guidance, opportunity, and support.

Thank you for making this a year of purpose and progress. Together, we are building a future where every Bedford student is empowered to thrive—today, tomorrow, and beyond.

With gratitude,

Dr. Cassandra J. Johnson
 Superintendent, Bedford City School District

Taylor Friedrich

Treasurer/CFO

Members of the Bedford City School District,

As we approach the end of another fiscal year, we want to take a moment to share some encouraging updates and express our appreciation for your continued support of the Bedford City School District.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the successful issuance of bonds for our building project. This milestone represents a major investment in the future of our schools and our community. The funds will allow us to begin much-needed upgrades and construction that will modernize our learning environments, improve safety and efficiency, and ensure that our students have access to the tools and spaces they need to thrive.

We are incredibly grateful to the residents of the Bedford City School District for your trust in supporting this initiative. Your backing of this project demonstrates a shared commitment to providing our children with facilities that match the quality of the education they deserve.

As we look to the future, our focus remains on managing expenses with care and transparency. While we are excited about



the opportunities ahead, we know that fiscal responsibility must remain at the forefront of our operations. We continue to monitor economic conditions, state funding, and local revenue trends closely, and we will adjust our financial strategies as needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of our district.

Our goal is to balance progress with prudence – to move forward with improvements and innovation while maintaining a stable financial foundation. We are confident that, with continued community engagement and support, Bedford City Schools will remain a place where students can grow, achieve, and succeed.

We believe that a strong school district is the heart of a strong community. As we look ahead to the new fiscal year, we do so with optimism, determination, and a shared sense of purpose. Thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and supporting the success of every Bedford student.

Mr. Taylor Friedrich
 Treasurer/CFO, Bedford City School District



Scan with your camera app to visit bedford.k12.oh.us/departments/treasurer.

Dr. Kenya Harrington

Executive Director of Academic Achievement

The Office of Academic Achievement has embarked on several initiatives and exciting work for the 2024-2025 school year:



- The district completed our One Needs Assessment, which identifies key areas of priority to assist in the development of our new Three-Year plans. These plans will include goals for the district and schools with specific strategies and action steps/tasks to address areas of need. Additionally, central office and each school will monitor their Three-Year plans by focusing on evidence gathered and a process of analysis to determine sustainability or produce new action steps/tasks.
 - GOAL 1: By 2028 BCSD will increase our report card component ratings for Achievement, Early Literacy, Gap Closing, & Graduation by improving student achievement for ELA (elementary) and Math as evidenced by student performance on the OST and district I-Ready reading and mathematics assessments.
 - GOAL 2: By June 2028 BCSD will increase our report card component ratings for Attendance and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness. These areas of growth will be evidenced by increased student enrollment in CTE pathways, attendance by 6% (88.94% as of 3/25) at all grade levels and improving student to teacher relationships and student to student relationships. This will be measured through enrollment/attendance data, student CTE performance (assessments, projects, internships/externships) and through SEL curriculum and surveys.
- The district continues to assist in identifying deficits in learning and students who might be at risk for Dyslexia by transitioning to DIBELS administration online, which is now mClass for grades K-6. Also, teachers and administrators participated and completed professional development for the Science of Reading. The professional development was created to assist teachers and administrators in understanding how students learn to read and write. Additionally, the goal is to implement reading instruction that is effective based on scientific evidence. Finally, those who participate in professional development are equipped with the skills and knowledge to improve all students' literacy outcomes, including those who have difficulty with reading.
- Bedford High School established a partnership with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) to assist students with college and career opportunities. Through the partnership, we as a district understand that "the mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness." As the high school engages with AVID there will be an emphasis on the following strategies: writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading.
- Bedford City School District Implemented a new curriculum for ELA. The curriculum selected for grades K-5 was SAVVAS MyView. For grades 6-12, SAVVAS MyPerspectives was chosen. Additionally, the district has begun exploring a new science curriculum for the 2025-2026 school year.



Tad Ellsworth

Executive Director of
Facilities Improvements



The Building a Brighter Future Project is officially underway, with site work started at both the new Middle School location on Northfield Road across the street from Bedford High School, and at the new K-2 Primary School located on Perkins Road behind Heskett Middle School. Construction will be ongoing for two years, with the brand new buildings opening for students in Fall 2027.

We are also proceeding through Schematic Design for the new High School, the first of three phases of architectural design. While we do not yet have any renderings to share, the new High School will be located on the same property as the existing high school, sitting on the north end of the property approximately in the same location as the current Board of Education building and the North House of the existing BHS. This time next year, we will demolish the BOE building and North House, moving the students and staff to the central and southern portions of the building during construction of the new high school. Construction is scheduled to last two years with the new building opening in Fall 2028. When the new school opens, the remaining portions of the high school will be demolished to make way for new parking areas and room for future development.

Great things are happening in the Bedford City School District, and we can't wait to share our new buildings with the students, staff and community. Thank you to everyone who supported our Bond Issue to bring 21st Century facilities to the children of the Bedford City School District!



Dr. JaTina Threat

Executive Director of
Human Resources



It is a busy time of year as Human Resources works diligently to ensure that positions are filled and staff are in place for the first day of school. As the landscape of public education continues to evolve, so too must our HR practices. At Bedford City Schools, the Human Resources Department remains focused on recruiting high-quality candidates, streamlining onboarding processes, and supporting current staff through meaningful professional growth and well-being initiatives.

Beyond recruitment, we've refined our onboarding process to ensure that every new hire feels welcomed, prepared, and confident. From the initial orientation process to check-in meetings throughout the year, we're committed to making transitions smooth and successful for all employees. To further support our staff, we are strengthening our focus on employee wellness and social-emotional learning by integrating mental health supports and building leadership capacity across teams.

In addition to Human Resources, my department also oversees Special Education, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and Career Technical Education (CTE). In Special Education, we've enhanced the quality of professional development focused on autism strategies, behavior support, and writing compliant IEP goals. The BEAR program continues to grow, and we work hard to successfully transition students back to their home schools. Our CTE program continues to be a point of pride. This year, we ran sixteen career pathways, giving juniors access to hands-on learning and supporting seniors as they completed credentials. For the 2025–2026 school year, we're excited to launch a new Visual Communication pathway. As we expand, we remain focused on aligning programs with industry needs and preparing students for life after graduation.

Finally, our SEL programming continues to flourish, offering students critical supports tailored to their social and emotional development. Through a variety of in-person and virtual events, we've strengthened community engagement and will continue investing in SEL to empower both students and families.

J.C. Commander

Athletics Director

B.H.S. was proud to have numerous programs in competition including outdoor track & field, baseball, softball, girls flag football, and even coed volleyball. The track and field programs led by head coaches **Eugene Sanders (girls)** and **Marcus Green (boys)** continued their success where they left off during their indoor season with **MANY** Bearcats (and Lady Bearcats) advancing to the OHSAA regional meet. The **girls 4x100 (Amiyah Hardimon '27, Brooklin Turman-Shropshire '25, Trinity Pollard '25, and Iyannah Lawson '26)** was strong all year long in numerous invitationals. Meanwhile, the boys team held their own as well with their 4x100 relay (**Tristan Jackson '26, Clayton Carmichael '26, D'Sani Donaldson '25, and Rob Pearson-Hendon '25**) making quite a bit of noise maintaining a state ranking for most of the year. **Khamarion Reid '25** (boys long jump) and **Trinity Pollard '25** (girls long jump) also successfully advanced to regionals to cap off tremendous careers here at B.H.S. **Daren Morrow '25**, secured a trip to Columbus for the OHSAA State T&F Finals in the 300m hurdles where he also had a great showing. On the diamond, the baseball team won a share of the Lake Erie League title for the first time in nearly ten years behind both the outstanding leadership of **head coach Nick Incarnato** and brilliant play of multiple Bearcats including **Jaivon Hudson '25 (2025 Lake Erie League Baseball MVP)**. The softball team wasn't far behind with both an improved record and their own all-league honors as **head coach, Chrissy Browning was named 2025 Lake Erie League Coach of the Year!** Last but not least, the girls flag football program led by **head coach Rondale Reid** had a great year led by the play of **quarterback, Madison Burks '25, and running back, Brooklin Shropshire-Turman '25**. Turman impressed enough to garner an opportunity to extend her playing career as she will be headed to Ursuline College in the fall to compete as a member of their women's flag football program. **Head coach, Sydney Adamson**, led our coed volleyball team to a 500 record and a home playoff game this season. **Caleb Harkness '26** put together an outstanding season for B.H.S. leading the team in kills!



Instagram: [@bhsbearcats_athletics](#), X: [@bhsbearcatsport](#)
Athletic website: <https://bhsathletics.org/>. [#riseofthebearcats](#)

Jamie C. Cole

Communications
Coordinator

I am proud to reflect on the many accomplishments in communications within the Bedford City School District during the 2024/2025 school year, and I am honored to serve the Bearcat community. With the addition of Gary Schuler as our school communications broadcaster, our community engagement has significantly increased through his engaging videos and active presence at district events, boosting school spirit and connectivity. Our redesigned website has also played a key role, providing a modern, user-friendly platform for our families and stakeholders. Independently, I have worked to strengthen community relations by increasing participation in clergy meetings, fostering productive conversations around shared goals. As Gary's supervisor, along with overseeing our district librarians and building-level webmasters, my focus for 2025-2026 will be aligning librarian objectives with the district's academic and literacy goals, promoting collaboration through regular meetings and content planning, and maximizing outreach efforts. I will continue producing our district publications, The Pawprint and the ROAR Report, ensuring our communities stay informed about district achievements. I cherish the personal touch of hand-delivering these newsletters to municipalities and community centers, maintaining a friendly and engaging connection. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their dedication and support. Wishing all of you a safe, sunny, and relaxing summer filled with well-deserved rest and rejuvenation.



Dates to Remember:

- School Board Meeting - July 10 @6
- Senior Portrait Day by appointment only - Aug 6 & 7 @8-4 pm
- School Board Meeting - Aug 7 @6
- High School Freshman Orientation - Aug 12
 - AM session @10-11:30
 - PM session @2-3:30
- New Teachers Orientation - Aug. 13
- Welcome Back, ALL Teachers - Aug. 18
- All Open Houses - Aug. 20 (check individual school for time)
- Welcome Back, Students - Aug. 21



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Board of Education

- Angelic M. Carter, President
- Sharyn Macklin, Vice President
- Anthony A. Akins
- Danielle M. Turner Birch
- Eva Boyington



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**