



2025 -
2026

welcome BACK TO SCHOOL

BUTLER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Welcome Back

Dear BASD Families,

At Butler Area School District, we believe learning is a lifelong journey, and it doesn't just happen within the walls of a classroom.

Sometimes, the most meaningful lessons are taught by a parent or guardian. Other times, they unfold through community experiences or are guided by a dedicated teacher. Whether it's at school, at home, or out in the world, learning can and should happen everywhere.

What we know from brain science is both fascinating and important: young people absorb information at a faster rate than adults, and the brain continues developing well into our twenties. Every student learns in their own way, but one universal truth is clear, when challenged and supported, the brain grows in powerful ways. Struggle, in fact, is often a key part of the learning process.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we remain committed to our core mission: student learning. While schools often serve many roles, our central purpose is to foster learning that prepares our students for life.

This year, let's keep learning at the center of everything we do, whether that learning takes place in school, at home, or in our broader community. And let's remember: one of the most critical ingredients to learning is simply being present.

Sincerely,



Brian J. White, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
Butler Area School District



Learning Happens
Everywhere

OUR MISSION AND BELIEFS

The mission of the Butler Area School District, a community committed to fostering a culture of forward-thinking, innovative and lifelong learning, is to prepare students to succeed in an ever-changing global society through academically rigorous and individualized learning experiences within a nurturing and safe environment.

Our Beliefs

We believe in lifelong learning.
We believe in empowering individuals.
We believe that diversity must be respected.
We believe that creativity powers innovation.
We believe that all individuals are able to learn.

We believe in dignity and respect for all.
We believe in the power of community pride.
We believe that everyone has a right to learn.
We believe in collaborative communication.

Our Objectives

All students will have an individualized rigorous academic plan.
All students will meet or exceed individualized rigorous growth targets.
All students will respect themselves and others.
All students will create an ongoing interest-based portfolio that provides a foundation for career planning.
All students will read with accuracy, fluency and comprehension by the end of 3rd grade.
All students will demonstrate the social, emotional and problem solving skills required to be successful in their lifelong learning.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Dr. Brian J. White, Jr., Superintendent
Dr. Brian Slamecka, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Laura Miller, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development
Dr. Carrie Morgan-Davis, Assistant Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development
Mr. Aaron Royhab, Director of Special Education
Mrs. Cari Boozel, Assistant Director of Special Education
Dr. John Wyllie, Assistant to the Superintendents
Mr. Curt Springer, Assistant Director of Behavioral Supports
Mrs. Heather Bonzo, Director of Finance & Operations
Mrs. Kristen Clouse, Director of Human Resources
Mrs. Kara Dronney, Director of Communications
Mr. Jason Huffman, Principal, SHS
Mr. Doug Ford, Assistant Principal, SHS
Mrs. Hope Hull, Principal on Special Assignment, SHS

Mr. Daniel Buzzard, Dean of Students, SHS
Mr. Justin Tanaka, Dean of Students, SHS
Mr. Stephen Dobransky, Principal, IHS
Mrs. Gretchen Crissman, Assistant Principal, IHS
Mr. Harold Dunn, Assistant Principal, IHS
Mrs. Vanessa Boyd, Principal, Broad Street
Mrs. Tanya Lewis, Principal, Center Township
Mrs. Nicole Munko, Dean of Students, Center Township
Ms. Alicia Beighley, Assistant Principal on Special Assignment, Connoquenessing
Mr. Joshua Hundertmark, Principal, Emily Brittain
Mrs. Theresa Cherry, Principal, McQuiston
Ms. Elizabeth Santillo, Dean of Students, McQuiston
Mr. Matt Martinez, Principal, Northwest
Mr. Chad Broman, Principal, Summit
Mr. Keenan McGaughey, Principal, Center Avenue Community School

OUR BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mr. Al Vavro, *President*
Mr. Gary Shingleton, *Vice President*
Mr. John Conrad
Mrs. Jennifer Cummings
Mrs. Jennifer Daniels-Wells
Mr. Phil Heasley
Mr. Terry Stivason
Mrs. Nina Teff
Mrs. Cecilia Tomko

The Butler Area Board of School Directors meets on the second and third Monday of the month. One meeting per month will be a traditional board meeting and one meeting will be a community engagement session. Both meeting styles are open to the public.

[Click here for more information](#), including a list of meeting dates, times and locations.



BACK TO SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- **The First Day of School** for all students is on Tuesday, August 26.

ORIENTATION

- **6th Grade Orientation** will take place on August 18 from 9:00-11:00 am at the Intermediate High School.
- **7th Grade Orientation** will take place on August 19 from 9:00-11:00 am at the Intermediate High School.
- **8th Grade Orientation** will take place on August 19 from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Intermediate High School.
- **9th Grade Orientation** will take place on August 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
- **SHS Cyber School Orientation (grades 9-12)** will take place on August 18 from 12:00-1:00 pm at the Senior High School.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

- **Kindergarten Only:** August 21 from 4:00-5:00 pm at your child's elementary school.
- **Elementary (Grades 1-5):** August 21 from 5:45 - 6:45 pm at your child's elementary school.
- **Senior High School (Grades 9-12):** September 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Senior High School.
- **Center Avenue Community School:** Family Fun Night on September 18 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Center Avenue Community School.

SUPPLIES

[Elementary School Supply List](#)

[Intermediate High School Suggested Supply List](#)

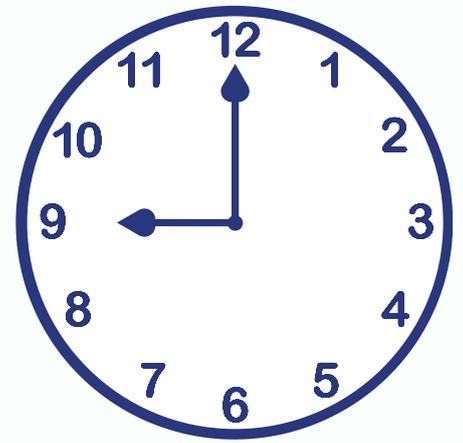
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL START TIME

The official start of the school day at our elementary schools is 9:00 a.m. In recent years, this time has functioned more as an arrival window due to transportation challenges, which often delayed the start of instruction.

This year, our goal is to begin instruction as close to 9:00 a.m. as possible. To help achieve this, the majority of our school buses are now scheduled to arrive at elementary schools by 8:45 a.m. This is a change from previous years and may result in earlier morning pickup times for some students.

In addition, the drop off window for elementary students is now 8:30 - 8:45 am. Specific instructions for parent drop off and pick up will come from your child's elementary school.

We appreciate your support in helping students arrive on time and ready to learn.



THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, students in grades K-8 who are chronically absent—defined as missing 10% or more of the school year—will be required to demonstrate content proficiency in order to be promoted to the next grade level, unless a qualifying mitigating circumstance is documented. This change reflects our commitment to ensuring that all students have mastered the essential skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the next grade.

Attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's academic success. When students are present and actively engaged in classroom learning, they are more likely to build a strong foundation in core subjects, develop positive relationships with peers, and gain the confidence needed to thrive. Chronic absenteeism, on the other hand, can result in significant learning gaps that may be difficult to close, even with extra support.

While we understand that life circumstances may sometimes lead to missed school days, it's important to note that simply completing missed assignments does not always mean a student has fully learned the material. In-class instruction, discussion, hands-on activities, and teacher guidance are all essential parts of the learning experience that can't be replicated through makeup work alone.

Additionally, chronic absenteeism places a strain on school resources. Teachers, interventionists, and support staff must spend additional time helping students catch up, which can take attention and support away from other students. By working together to prioritize attendance, we can help all students stay engaged and on the path to success.

We appreciate your continued support.



MTSS at BASD

As part of our continued commitment to student success, we are implementing a district-wide Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This approach helps every student thrive—academically, behaviorally, and emotionally—by providing the right level of support based on individual needs.

What is MTSS?

MTSS is a proactive, data-driven framework that brings together high-quality academic instruction, behavioral support, and strategies to help students manage their emotions—all within one connected system. It helps us support all learners, whether they need enrichment, additional support, or both.

MTSS includes three levels of support:

Tier 1 - Support for All Students: All students receive high-quality academic instruction, clearly defined behavior expectations, and regular opportunities to build skills such as self-management and responsible decision-making. This strong foundation meets the needs of most students.

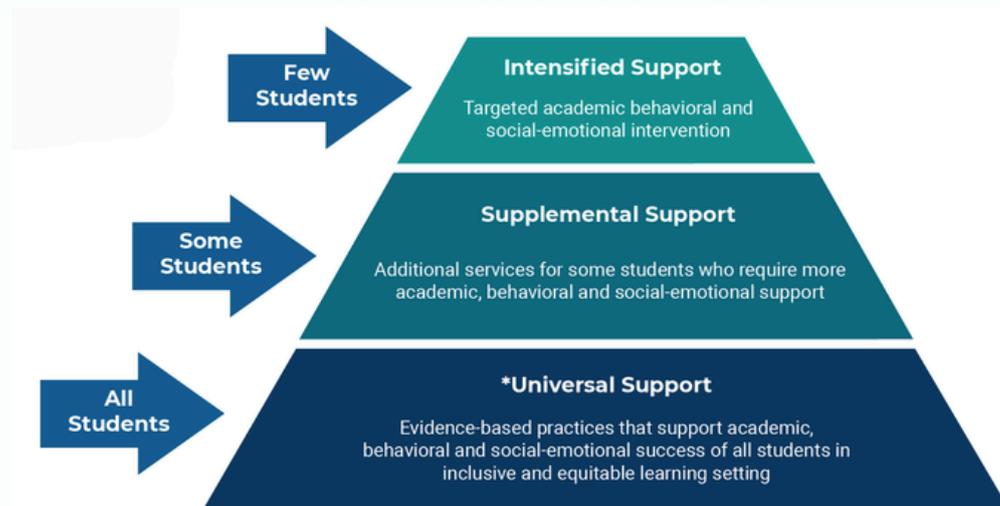
Tier 2 - Targeted Support: Some students may benefit from a little extra help. This might include small group instruction, behavior coaching, or other targeted interventions that build on what they already receive in class.

Tier 3 - Intensive Support: A few students may need more individualized and intensive support. This could involve one-on-one instruction, working with a counselor, or access to specialized services tailored to specific needs.

How We Monitor Progress: Our schools use regular academic screenings, classroom assessments, and behavior data to identify students who may need extra support or enrichment. We continuously monitor each student's progress to make sure supports are effective.

We are committed to ensuring every student feels safe, valued, and supported. An integrated MTSS model allows us to respond quickly and thoughtfully to student needs—so that all children have what they need to grow, succeed, and reach their full potential.

MTSS TIERS OF SUPPORT



*Universal Design for Learning, Differentiated Instructions, Integrated Education at ALL levels of support

UNDERSTANDING AI: Teaching Students to Navigate a New Reality

By: *Dr. Brian White, BASD Superintendent*

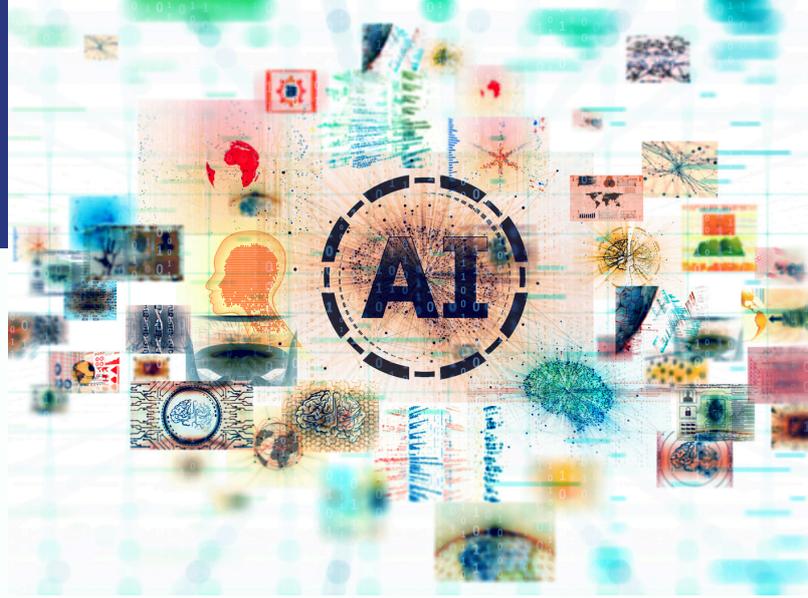
A few years ago, I stood in front of our faculty and demonstrated the capabilities of artificial intelligence using a few tokens I had purchased from OpenAI. That early version of the platform was clunky and not particularly user friendly. I was still able to complete tasks like writing a paper, answering final exam questions, and doing homework. Despite the system's awkward interface, it left a strong impression. Many were stunned that a machine could so easily replicate student work. At that time, using AI was a deliberate and intentional act. I had to choose to use it and pay for it.

Since then, like many other schools, we have begun exploring when it is and is not appropriate for students and staff to use generative AI. Important questions emerged: How will AI impact learning? How do we preserve academic integrity? Is it plagiarism if AI writes an essay for a student? While we have made progress in addressing some of these issues, many questions remain, and the landscape is only getting more complex.

Today, most of us interact with AI regularly, often without even realizing it. Whether we are typing and receiving text suggestions, using mobile apps, searching the web, or navigating recommendations, AI is constantly operating in the background. In fact, it now requires intentional effort not to use AI.

So where do we go from here?

We believe it is essential that our students learn about AI, not just how to use specific tools, which may change tomorrow, but how AI actually works. Understanding the principles behind machine learning and algorithmic logic is becoming just as important as understanding math, science, or civics. This year, we are asking our secondary social studies department to develop a framework to help students explore the broader implications of AI.



Why social studies? It may seem like an unlikely place to teach about artificial intelligence, but it is actually the perfect fit. Until recently, if you asked many AI systems what the moon was made of, they might have said "cheese." Why? Because the phrase "the moon is made of cheese" appeared more frequently in the data the model was trained on than accurate scientific descriptions. Eventually, AI was updated to reflect the truth: the moon is made of oxygen, silicon, magnesium, iron, and other elements.

But this raises a critical question: Who taught the AI that? And what happens if what it learns next is wrong or intentionally misleading? What if it is about our history? Or our identity? Or the values we teach in schools? Or the values taught at home?

This is why understanding AI must go beyond the technical. Our students need to grapple with philosophical and ethical questions: What is AI's role in our society? What is the role of humans in an AI influenced world? How do we define truth, originality, and trust? Teaching students to question sources, evaluate authenticity, and consider the consequences of emerging technologies is not optional, it is essential.

This is the path forward. Let's help our students become not just users of AI, but thoughtful citizens in a world shaped by it.

P.S. I did use AI to revise this message.

Amplify



Building great learning experiences with teachers since 2000

BRIDGING K-8 LITERACY WITH AMPLIFY'S CKLA AND ELA

Butler Area School District has adopted Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) for grades K-5 and Amplify ELA for grades 6-8 for the upcoming school year. These programs are built on a decade of rigorous research and the Science of Reading. CKLA combines a content-rich, cumulative knowledge sequence with explicit foundational-skills instruction. It earned the highest rating for reading programs based on national ESSA rankings.

Starting in kindergarten, CKLA builds phonological awareness and phonics systematically while immersing students in rich texts and daily structured writing. As students transition to grades 6-8, Amplify ELA picks up seamlessly. This curriculum maintains CKLA's high-quality texts and discussion-based analysis but scales up for age-appropriate complexity and critical thinking, helping students become confident readers and writers.

By integrating Amplify CKLA and ELA, we will ensure a smooth progression: students move from mastering phonics and building knowledge to analyzing sophisticated texts and crafting written arguments. The focus remains consistent—building vocabulary, background knowledge, comprehension strategies, and writing skills over time.

This unified K-8 program promises coherence, depth, and equity—giving every student the literacy foundation they need to succeed now and in the future.

NEW ELEMENTARY SPECIALS ROTATION SCHEDULE

Starting this school year, we are excited to launch a refreshed special area rotation for all elementary students. We are moving from five special area courses to four: Health and Physical Education, Music, Art, and our new Innovation Lab.

This new model provides more time in each area, giving students deeper, more engaging experiences. While we are streamlining the number of classes, we are expanding the impact. Each special area will now integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) concepts, helping students make connections across subjects and build skills they'll use for years to come.

In the Innovation Lab, students will explore hands-on learning through coding, design challenges, creative problem-solving, as well as learning how to use the library to meet their personal and educational goals. Music and Art will incorporate technology and engineering elements, while Health and Physical Education will include lessons on wellness science and goal setting.

Our goal is to create meaningful, modern learning experiences that support creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. By aligning all special area courses around STEAM themes, we're preparing students for a future where curiosity and innovation matter more than ever.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 In-Service Day	21 In-Service Day	22 In-Service Day	23
24	25 Prof. Dev./ ACT 80	26 1 First Day of School	27 2	28 3	29 4	30

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Vacation Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 1	9 2	10 3	11 4	12 1	13
14	15 2	16 3	17 4	18 1	19 2	20
21	22 3	23 4	24 1	25 2	26 3	27
28	29 4	30 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4

LEARNING PASSPORTS

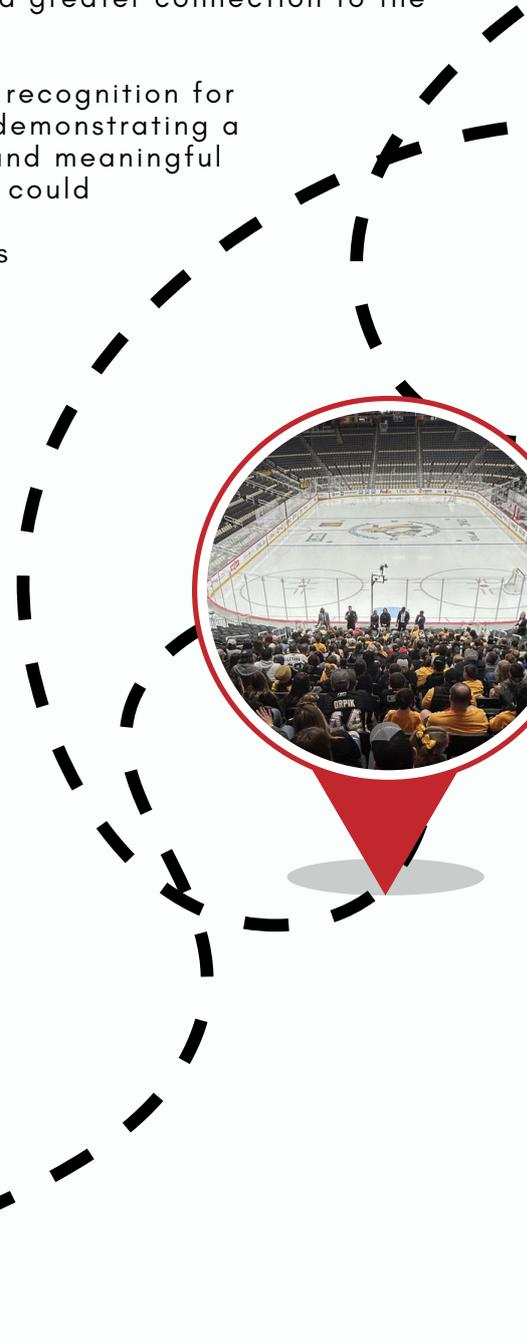
As part of our ongoing effort to connect learning with real-world experiences, Butler Area School District is launching the Butler Learning Passport—a new initiative for students in grades K-5 that encourages exploration beyond the classroom and into the community.

Each elementary student will receive a Learning Passport, which is a physical booklet where they can collect stamps for participating in approved learning experiences outside of school. These may include activities at museums, libraries, local businesses, historical sites, art studios, science centers, and community events.

The goal of the program is to help students see that learning happens everywhere—not just during the school day. By exploring opportunities throughout the Butler community, students will build curiosity, confidence, and a greater connection to the world around them.

Over time, students may receive recognition for completing their passports and demonstrating a commitment to learning in new and meaningful ways. As the program evolves, it could also connect to microcredentialed opportunities that allow students to earn credit for structured learning experiences.

The Butler Learning Passport supports our vision of helping every student become an active, engaged learner, both inside and outside the classroom. We are excited to see how our youngest learners grow as they explore all the learning opportunities our community has to offer.



COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Butler Area School District is excited to announce a major expansion of our College in High School (CHS) and dual enrollment program for the 2025-26 school year, made possible through continued partnerships with Butler County Community College (BC3), the University of Pittsburgh, La Roche University, and Carlow University. These opportunities allow qualified sophomores, juniors, and seniors to earn college credits while fulfilling high school graduation requirements—offering academic advancement, tuition savings, and meaningful preparation for post-secondary success.

Through CHS, students take rigorous, college-level courses taught by high school faculty or directly by college instructors. These courses not only help students explore potential career paths and develop essential skills like time management and academic independence, but also allow them to earn credits at a significantly reduced cost compared to traditional college tuition.

Historically, Butler Senior High School has offered five CHS courses taught by district faculty: College Writing, Research Writing, Technical Math I, Psychology, and Sociology. Additionally, the Early College Pioneer Program has provided seniors the opportunity to take classes on the BC3 campus. Typical course sequences have included College Writing, Speech, and College Study Skills in the fall, followed by Research Writing, Principles of Microeconomics, and Financial Literacy in the spring.

For the 2025-26 school year, Butler Area School District will add 24 new College in High School courses, dramatically expanding access to advanced coursework. These new courses span a wide range of subject areas, including business, computer science, media, government, mathematics, world languages, and the sciences. Students will have the opportunity to take courses such as Survey of Accounting, Theories of Leadership, and American Government; explore technology through Programming Fundamentals, College Programming, Java, and Productivity Applications; and engage creatively through Broadcasting, Film Analysis, and Songwriting. In mathematics, students will have access to College Algebra, Precalculus, and Statistics. World language offerings now include advanced French, German, and Spanish courses. In the sciences, students may pursue college credit in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, with both general and calculus-based options available. These new courses reflect our commitment to providing a broad, flexible, and forward-thinking academic experience.

Because many of these courses will include students who choose to earn college credit and others who do not, those enrolled in a CHS-eligible course will have until mid-October (tentatively October 17, 2025) to finalize their decision to participate for college credit. This structure ensures students have time to adjust their schedules and make informed choices.

We are proud to expand these meaningful opportunities for our students and grateful to our higher education partners for helping us make college-level coursework more accessible and affordable. For more information on CHS or dual enrollment opportunities, students and families are encouraged to contact their school counselor.

CHS COURSES

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP French Language & Culture
- AP German Language & Culture
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Spanish Language & Culture
- AP Statistics
- BC3 College Research
- BC3 College Writing
- BC3 Microeconomics
- BC3 Psychology
- BC3 Sociology
- BC3 Speech
- BC3 Technical Math
- BTTV
- College Programming & Computer Science
- Computer Applications II
- Computer-Aided Drafting
- Film Analysis and Filmmaking
- Hon U.S. Government
- Honors Accounting II
- Honors Algebra II
- Honors French 4
- Honors Precalculus
- Honors Spanish 4
- Honors Statistics
- Intermediate Java Programming
- Leadership IV
- Precalculus
- Song Writing





BUTLER STUDENTS BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH PURPOSE DRIVEN LEARNING

During the 2024-2025 school year, a pilot group of students from Butler Intermediate High School collaborated with peers from the Rankin Christian Center on a multi-month project designed to empower them through purpose-driven learning. The project enabled students to earn microcredentials and transcript credit while building meaningful relationships across different communities.

Using the design thinking process—Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test—students identified real-world needs, developed creative solutions, and refined their ideas before presenting their work. This experience not only helped students build critical skills but also fostered collaboration, empathy, and deeper community connection through an opportunity made possible thanks to generous support from the Benedum Foundation.

Based on the success of the pilot, the program will be expanded during the 2025-2026 school year to include a larger group of students.

BASD RECEIVES THIRD MOONSHOT GRANT TO EXPAND COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING GRANT

We are excited to announce that Butler Area School District has been awarded its third Moonshot Grant, supporting our next big leap: expanding learning beyond the walls of our schools and into the broader Butler community.

This grant supports our latest initiative: Transforming Community Spaces into Learning Opportunities. Through strong partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and creative professionals, we are creating new ways for students to explore real-world learning experiences right here in their own community.

Key components of this work include:

A Community Microcredentialing Hub where students can earn credentials in areas like digital literacy, creative arts, entrepreneurship, and STEM through hands-on workshops and activities with local partners. These microcredentials will be recognized by the district and can be included in students' academic records. (K-8)

A PopUp Media Lab that will bring modern technology and creative tools to students, offering experiences in digital storytelling, video production, podcasting, and graphic design. This mobile lab will help students share their stories and highlight community projects. This will be used in the community and at our elementary schools.

Interactive Art and STEM Installations that bring learning to public spaces—inviting students and community members alike to engage in science, technology, and the arts in creative and meaningful ways.

The Butler Learning Passport, a new initiative that encourages students and families to participate in learning activities across the community. From museums and libraries to business tours and special events, learners will collect stamps in their passports as a record of their engagement and exploration. (K-5)

This Moonshot grant will help us continue building a broader learning ecosystem, one that taps into the strengths of our entire community and shows students that meaningful learning happens everywhere.

We are grateful for the support of our many community partners and proud to continue leading the way in creating innovative, student-centered learning experiences across the Butler Area School District.



Funding for Moonshot grants is provided by Remake Learning.



STUDENT JOURNALISM SUMMIT

The Butler Eagle, in conjunction with BASD and the Grable Foundation, recently hosted the High School Journalism Summit at BC3.

This event brought students from local high schools together to explore the diverse and dynamic world of media. Participants engaged in hands-on workshops covering sports journalism, photojournalism, and broadcast journalism, gaining insight into storytelling across multiple platforms. Sessions on podcasting and engaging in press conferences taught students how to ask meaningful questions and deliver compelling narratives.

The summit emphasized the critical role of the editor and the art of interviewing, highlighting techniques to craft impactful stories. Students also learned conflict resolution strategies and experienced the challenges of covering a major event, preparing them for real-world journalism opportunities.

Journalists talk shop with high school students at summit hosted by Butler Eagle

Steve Ferris Eagle Staff Writer

© March 27, 2025 Last Updated: March 28, 2025 10:53 PM Local News



Tessa Reese looks at the special booklet about the Trump shooting during a discussion during a journalism summit where different students from around the county learned about professional local news reporting hosted at Butler County Community College March 27, 2025. Rob McGraw/Butler Eagle

BUTLER TWP – Students from three county high schools got a glimpse of how news is gathered and disseminated through media from different perspectives Thursday at the first ever "Student Journalism Summit" at Butler County Community College.

Photo Credit: Butler Eagle



PULLMAN PARK PARTNERSHIP

Butler Area School District Assumes Management of Pullman Park

Effective July 1, Butler Area School District officially assumed the management and daily operations of Michelle Krill Field at Historic Pullman Park. This new partnership with the City of Butler marks an exciting opportunity for our students and our community.

As part of the agreement, the City of Butler has committed \$400,000 to critical repairs and improvements, including field turf upgrades and other maintenance projects. These investments will help ensure the park remains a high-quality facility for years to come. Importantly, the park will be self-sustaining, as all operations will be supported through rental fees from outside organizations and events.

The benefits to our students are significant. Pullman Park will not only serve as the home field for our baseball team, but it will also be used as a learning lab across a variety of academic programs. Students in marketing, entrepreneurship, special education transition programs, and other courses will gain real-world experience through hands-on learning at the park.

This collaboration is a powerful example of how schools and municipalities can work together to expand opportunities while being fiscally responsible. By managing Pullman Park, we're creating new pathways for student learning, supporting community recreation, and maintaining an important historic landmark.



INTRODUCING THE STOPFINDER TRANSPORTATION APP

Stopfinder is the all-in-one parent app that allows our school district to share your student's transportation schedule, announcements, and more. Stopfinder works with our transportation software to provide you the most accurate schedule information.

Stopfinder is secure and only for registered users. Parents/guardians will receive login information prior to the beginning of this school year.





BROAD STREET *Elementary School*

At Broad Street Elementary, we are proud to be a community centered school where strong partnerships between families, staff, and the broader Butler community enhance learning for all. We believe that when schools and communities work together, students thrive—not just academically, but as future leaders and contributors to society. These collaborative efforts help shape our scholars into valuable assets of Butler County.

The image shows Principal Boyd alongside students Addy and Jameson holding a drone photo of Butler County—a symbol of our deep community connection and shared commitment to student success. At Broad Street, our school is more than a building—it's a reflection of the strong, supportive community we serve.



CENTER TOWNSHIP *Elementary School*

At Center Township Elementary, we focus on growing the whole child—supporting students as confident, creative, and caring individuals. We're proud to have earned Tier 1-3 recognition for our PBIS program, reflecting our strong commitment to a safe and welcoming environment.

Last year, students explored creative thinking through partnerships with local artists, TED-Talk style video projects, and performances. They also participated in leadership and wellness programs like SOAR Sidekicks and Girls on the Run.

By taking a neighborhood approach to learning and highlighting character traits like kindness and responsibility, we help every child feel like a valued part of our school family. We're excited for another joyful year of connection, creativity, and growth at Center Township!



CONNOQUENESSING

Elementary School

Connoquenessing Elementary School continues to foster curiosity and community through engaging outdoor and cross-grade learning experiences. Last year, students and families enjoyed our new pavilion and events like "Garden and Gather," where hands-on learning and relationship-building took center stage.

During OAC Day, our high school's Fisheries and Environmental Clubs mentored younger students, sharing their knowledge and passion for the environment. Additional visits from the Audubon Society, Penn State Ag Extension, and Master Gardeners brought real-world learning directly to our students.



EMILY BRITTAIN

Elementary School

Emily Brittain Elementary School is a Community Partnership and Demonstration School whose mission is to develop a network of community partners to assist families with meeting the needs of every child to ensure they become successful learners. Through our BOOST (Building On Our Strengths Together) initiative, we build strong relationships with community partners to support students both academically and emotionally.

These partnerships create opportunities for enriched learning, a nurturing school environment, and a culture of support where all students are empowered to succeed and grow as confident learners and caring citizens.



MCQUISTION *Elementary School*

McQuiston Elementary School is proud to offer a dynamic STEAM program that encourages students to explore science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math through hands-on learning. Students and families participate in events like our annual Science Fair and Remake Learning Night, celebrating innovation and curiosity.

Last year, students collaborated with peers in another district for a bridge-building challenge, and engaged in Pennsylvania's Agricultural Literacy Week. Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our Science Fair, STEAM-based recess options, and local business visits to continue inspiring future careers.



NORTHWEST *Elementary School*

Northwest Elementary School is entering its third year of focusing on the “Wonders of Work,” a program that helps students explore personal interests and career paths. Last year, each grade level participated in a spring career site visit, connecting classroom learning to real-world possibilities.

In 2025–2026, we plan to deepen this work with more guest speakers, expanded career exploration, and continued site visits—ensuring students build a strong understanding of potential pathways and the steps they can take to reach their goals.



SUMMIT *Elementary School*

Summit Elementary School continues to bring learning to life through agriculture-based experiences. Last year, students worked in our greenhouse, tended a new flower garden, and learned about sustainability through our added apiary and potato-growing areas.

We also installed a drip irrigation system, enhancing our agricultural curriculum with real-world, cross-disciplinary learning. These hands-on projects not only strengthen science knowledge, but also foster responsibility, teamwork, and environmental stewardship.

CENTER AVENUE

Community School

3B's AT CENTER AVENUE

Center Avenue's Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program, built on the core expectations of "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe" (the 3Bs), achieved a perfect fidelity score across all three tiers during an evaluation by Midwestern Unit IV educational consultants in spring 2025.

TRUANCY PREVENTION WITH JUSTICE WORKS YOUTH CARE

For the third consecutive school year, Center Avenue and Justice Works Youth Care are proudly teaming up to provide essential, proactive support for our high-risk students and their families. This partnership focuses on early outreach for secondary Center Avenue students, aiming to significantly improve attendance, grades, and behavioral success. Our joint efforts will deliver vital academic support, strong parent engagement, truancy elimination, intrapersonal skills development, and valuable job shadowing/employability training. Ultimately, this collaboration will empower Center Avenue students to achieve their short- and long-term goals in education, future employment, family life, and the application of new skills.

PRACTICAL FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND SKILL-BASED TREATMENT

Practical Functional Assessment (PFA) and Skill-Based Treatment (SBT) are a highly effective, compassionate, and evidence-based approach for addressing severe problem behaviors, particularly in individuals with developmental disabilities and autism. It prioritizes the safety, dignity, and autonomy of the individual. The PFA is the initial assessment phase designed to understand why a challenging behavior is occurring. It goes beyond simply identifying the behavior and seeks to uncover its function. SBT is an individualized treatment plan built upon the understanding gained from the assessment. The core of SBT is teaching new, more appropriate skills to replace the challenging behaviors, allowing the individual to meet their needs in a socially acceptable and effective way.

Katelyn Earl and Heather Roach will spearhead the implementation of PFA and SBT at Center Avenue Community School. They will provide training and leadership to a collaborative team, comprising school personnel and families, to ensure the effective application of these procedures. This initiative aims to foster a safer and more effective learning environment, mitigate severe challenging behaviors, and equip students with essential life skills to enhance their independence and overall success.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Center Avenue will host a Family Fun Night on Thursday, September 18, 2025 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. We can't wait to see all of our Center Avenue students and their families!

The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.

WHAT BEGAN in the fall of 1990 as a small group of concerned alumni interested in replacing the condemned bleachers at the Butler Senior High School stadium, in time became The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. The Scholastic Foundation is a non-profit, public supported organization administered by a volunteer Board of Directors whose mission is to support excellence in the Butler Area School District. Financial support is generated through grants, fundraisers, and contributions from businesses and individuals.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc., awarded \$36,000 in direct scholarships and facilitated \$91,483 in private scholarships to the Butler Class of 2025.

CREATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

In the last five years, The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. has awarded \$87,794 in Creative Teaching Grants. These grants support the innovative work of BASD faculty and have impacted more than 7,500 students over the past five years!

FINE ARTS & BEYOND (FAB) SHOWCASE

Each spring The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. hosts The Fine Arts & Beyond (FAB) Showcase. This community-wide event showcases the artistic work and musical talent of Butler Area School District students and professional community artists. Proceeds from FAB help The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. provide funding to a number of programs, including Creative Teaching Grants, Kids' Weekend Backpack Program, scholarships for graduating seniors with financial need and classroom technology.

KIDS' WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. and our school community have come together to help fight hunger by supplying weekend food for students in need. These students receive child-friendly snacks and easily prepared meals each week. Monetary and food donations are accepted to help support the program.

TUFF TORNADO RUN

Save the date for the Tuff Tornado Run on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10am-1pm at Alameda Park. This fun run with 22 obstacles is great for all ages. Register online at GoldenTornadoScholasticFoundation.org. Register by September 6 to receive a free t-shirt!

GoldenTornadoScholasticFoundation.org



Wishing everyone
a wonderful
school year!

