



FALL 2025

The ROAR Report

Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

From the Desk of Dr. Cassandra J. Johnson, Superintendent

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BEDFORD CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



@BEDFORDCSD



Dear Bedford City School District Stakeholders,

As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, I am excited to share our continued focus on student achievement, engagement, and readiness for future success. Our commitment to academic excellence and whole-child development remains at the heart of everything we do as we work toward the goals outlined in our district's strategic plan.

To support Goal 1, our instructional teams are implementing targeted strategies in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, especially at the elementary level. Using I-Ready and Ohio State Test (OST) data, we are identifying learning gaps, personalizing instruction, and tracking student growth. Early literacy continues to be a top priority, and investments in interventions, professional development, and curriculum alignment are already leading to promising progress.

Aligned to Goal 2, we are expanding Career-Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, giving students access to hands-on learning experiences, internships, and pathways that connect directly to careers. At the same time, we are focused on improving attendance and strengthening relationships through social-emotional learning, mentoring programs, and student engagement initiatives. These efforts are helping us create supportive school environments where students feel seen, safe, and motivated to succeed.

We remain deeply committed to addressing the needs of the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally—while equipping each student with the tools needed to pursue their long-term goals. Whether their journey leads to college, the workforce, military service, or a combination of these paths, we are preparing them for success beyond Bedford High School.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are building a strong foundation for lasting academic growth and lifelong success.

With gratitude,

Dr. Cassandra J. Johnson

Superintendent, Bedford City School District

Tad Ellsworth

Executive Director of Facilities Improvements

With the long stretch of mild weather we have enjoyed construction progress is slightly ahead of schedule at both the new Middle School and the new K2 Primary School. At the Middle School, you can see from Northfield Road that the walls of the gymnasium are nearly at full height.



Underground utilities and foundation walls are complete for the entire facility and we will begin pouring the slab on grade in the gymnasium in the next few weeks and we have every expectation to have that portion of the building roofed in before the winter weather starts.

At the K2 building, work on the underground stormwater detention system is complete, underground utilities are nearly complete, and foundation walls are nearly complete for the entire facility. Overall, the K2 building is about two weeks behind the Middle School, which is by design to maximize deployment efficiency for contractors who won bids on both projects. Both projects continue to be on schedule and on budget, and will open in time for the 2027-28 school year.

Design work for the new High School is getting more detailed as we leave the schematic design phase and embark on design development. Meetings with students and staff are happening weekly as our architects and engineers learn more about what is necessary for our new High School.

In a few weeks, work will begin on a temporary bus lane in front of the existing high school in anticipation of the start of construction after winter break. When students and staff return to school in January, they will occupy the central and southern portions of the high school so that the old board offices and the northern part of the high school can be demolished, which is necessary to make room for construction of the new high school. The new high school will open for the 2028-29 school year.

Tad Ellsworth
Executive Director of Facility Improvements & Special Projects

Taylor Friedrich

Treasurer/CFO

Members of the Bedford City School District. As we begin a new fiscal year, Bedford City Schools is proud to celebrate both the progress we've made and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



Together with our community, we remain committed to managing taxpayer dollars with responsibility and transparency while keeping our focus where it matters most—on student success.

One of the most visible and inspiring milestones is the progress on our building project. With walls now beginning to go up, we can all see our shared vision becoming reality. These new spaces will modernize our schools, enhance safety and efficiency, and provide students with the environments they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

This progress is possible because of the trust and support of the Bedford community, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Financially, our district continues to show improvement. Careful planning, diligent monitoring of expenses, and a focus on long-term stability have strengthened our position. But we also recognize that our work is not done. We must continue to adapt to changing economic conditions and funding challenges while staying disciplined and transparent in our financial stewardship. As we move forward, our goal remains clear: to balance fiscal responsibility with the investments that directly support student achievement. With your continued support, Bedford City Schools will keep building momentum—brick by brick, step by step—toward a future where every student has the tools and opportunities to succeed.

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 created our new goals for the year, while continuing with the identification and implementation of a new curriculum for the 2025-2026 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, the 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 Bedford City School District implemented a new curriculum for Science. The curriculum selected for grades K-8 was SAVVAS Experience Science. For grades 9-12, the selections were the following: SAVVAS Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Physical Science (Prentice Hall).
- Along with an Overall rating there are six Report Card Components (Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation, Early Literacy and College, Career, Workforce & Military Readiness) that buildings and districts are rated on by the State of Ohio. The district received a 3 overall rating, with a 4 Star rating on the Progress Report Card Component and 3 Star on the Gap Closing Report Card Component.
- Bedford High School received a 3.5 overall rating, 4 Star rating in the Progress Report Card Component, 5 Gap Closing Report Card Component, a 3 Star rating in the College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness Report Card Component and a 4 Star in the Graduation Report Card Component.
- Columbus received 4 Stars on the Progress Report Card Rating, with Carylwood, Excel and Heskett receiving 3 Stars.
- Carlwood, Central and Glendale received 4-Stars on the Gap Closing Report Card Component and Columbus and Heskett received 3 Stars
- Central Primary overall received a 3.5 Star Rating with Carylwood, Glendale and Heskett receiving 3 Stars.



Dr. Karl Schneider

Executive Director of
Operations

**Operations ROAR Report Fall 2025**

As we settle into the 2025–2026 school year, our Operations departments remain focused on supporting building-level efforts and refining systems that are clear, responsive, and sustainable.

The start of the year has already brought exciting transitions, steady progress, and shared efforts to create safe and supportive environments for students and staff.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our classified staff. Our bus drivers and bus aides are rolling despite staffing challenges and increased demands. Our mechanics continue to service the district's fleet with precision and care, including preparing our plow trucks for the upcoming winter season.

Meanwhile, our maintenance team and custodial teams are working diligently to maintain aging facilities as we plan for the district's future footprint.

Nutrition Services is undergoing a major transformation, with the administrative operations of the departments being led by AVI.

We are proud to continue our shared efforts with all of the OAPSE members of the Nutrition Services Department. While we're still in the early stages of the transition, we are looking forward to an increased number and quality of food choices and are grateful to the Nutrition Services team for their dedication and resilience during this transition.

Several key moves are on the horizon. While final dates are still being determined, students and staff will be transitioning out of the North House at the high school to accommodate abatement and demolition. Our IT, Registration, and SEL teams will relocate to the new Board office on Hemisphere Way, and EXCEL will also be moving. These transitions are being approached with compassion and care to ensure continuity and a positive experience for all involved.

Operations continues to prioritize supporting buildings through the creation and implementation of systems and processes that support our Mission. We have only thanked here a sampling of the staff groups that allow us to operate and create successful environments for students.

Quite simply, there are more groups and departments than we can list in this report, but please know we value the efforts of our staff and understand we simply cannot operate without them. Our classified staff is critical in achieving our mission. Thank you to everyone who makes this work possible.



Dr. JaTina Threat

Executive Director of Human Resources



Greetings from Human Resources!
Welcome back to a brand-new school year! Students and staff alike returned energized and ready to reach new heights.

Bedford City Schools kicked off the year with professional development designed to support the growth and success of every student.

Since April, Human Resources has been actively recruiting exceptional staff who share our commitment to “Inspiring Everyone, Everyday, To Achieve Excellence.” Our goal is to ensure the right staff are in the right positions to support our students’ academic success. We’ve also had the pleasure of celebrating and wishing well some incredible teachers who recently retired, and we thank them for their dedication and service.

As the new school year begins, Human Resources will continue to evaluate staffing needs, fill positions where necessary, support professional growth, and take time to recognize the dedication of our staff.

In addition to leading Human Resources, I oversee

- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Special Education, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Nursing Department.

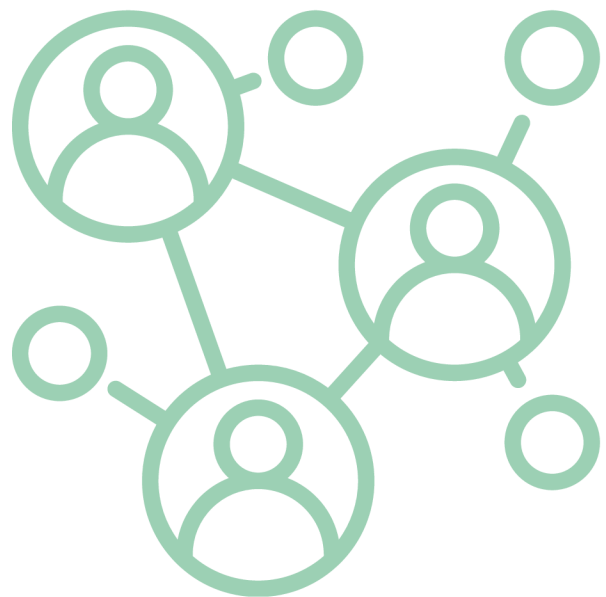
This year, we are excited to expand our CTE offerings with a Visual Communications pathway, a program requested by both students and staff. All 11th-grade students are participating in a CTE pathway this year, and middle school students are beginning to explore CTE through courses like Business and Family Consumer Science at Heskett Middle School.

Our goal is to continue providing engaging courses and pathways that spark student interest and prepare them for the future.

Our Nursing Department continues to provide essential care to students in our school clinics, ensuring their health and well-being so they can focus on learning. Meanwhile, our SEL department teaches students problem-solving, coping strategies, and social-emotional skills that support daily success.

The Special Education department ensures students receive services tailored to their needs in the least restrictive environment. Across the district, teachers will continue to access professional development opportunities designed to strengthen instructional skills and enhance student learning.

We look forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and collaboration. Here’s to inspiring excellence every day—for students and staff alike!



J.C. Commander

Athletics Director



Bedford High School Athletics is off to a fast and furious fall season with great performances from all programs including soccer, football, girls volleyball, and cross country. The soccer program led by head coach Nick Schaefer has shown that the loss of their outstanding senior class from 2025 has not left the cupboard bare by any means. Emma Davison '27 leads the team in saves with 38 on the season!

The football program led by new head coach, Desean Washington has experienced similar success this fall as they have mounted wins over both Brush and Padua (an overtime win) in back to back weeks. The play of Kent Staten '27 at quarterback, receiver and defensive back has provided for a lot of excitement on both sides of the ball for the Bearcats.

The Lady Bearcat volleyball program led by head coach, Sydney Adamson is putting the area on notice as they have stormed off to an 11-2 record this season (with both losses coming in five-set matches that could have easily gone either way). Jameera Hargrove '27 leads the team in total blocks with 11 while Maya Hodge '26 has served up a total of 16 aces this season. The ladies are currently riding a 9-game win streak!

The B.H.S. cross country team led by Coach Leah McKeen has delivered some outstanding performances this season in multiple races as Josiah Chapman '27 took 3rd place in the Pat Richie Invitational at Walsh High School, and he then followed that up with a 5th place performance at the Open Door Invitational held at Lorain County Community College. Ha'Shay Commons '26 has also been strong this season as he managed a 3rd place finish at the McDonough XC Invite at Cleveland Hts. High School. (It's definitely worth mentioning that these two young men were one of over 100 runners in each of these competitions.)

As always, please continue to follow our athletic department and programs via social media on Instagram: @bhsbearcats_athletics, X: @bhsbearcatsport, and our athletic website: <https://bhsathletics.org/>. #riseofthebearcats

Jumar Newell

Marketing & Communications



Hello, Bearcat Family! I'm excited to further introduce myself as Bedford City School District's new Marketing & Communications Specialist. It's an honor to join a district that believes in the power of partnership—families, staff, students, alumni, and our Board of Education—working together to inspire excellence. As a proud Bedford resident, this work is personal—I'm deeply invested in seeing our schools, students, and community thrive together.

In my first weeks, we launched "Welcome Back, Bearcats," a mini-series of cinematic video shorts spotlighting the uniqueness of each BCSD school and the academic programs that make our district special. The series earned high engagement across our social platforms and positive feedback from the community—thank you for watching, sharing, and cheering us on. If you missed it, you can catch every edition on our district social channels and YouTube. This is just the beginning.

My commitment is simple: tell the deserving stories of Bedford City School District—the daily wins in classrooms, the hard work behind the scenes, the traditions that bind us, and the opportunities that move our students forward. You'll see more consistent, clear updates; more video storytelling; and more ways to connect with the people and programs that make BCSD shine. I'm grateful to serve, and I can't wait to keep lifting up your stories.

Stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube—search Bedford City School District—and if you have a great story lead, send it our way. Go Bearcats!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Thu, Oct 16 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM
- Fri, Oct 24 – Football & Band Night, 6:00 PM
- Wed, Oct 29 – High School Trick-or-Treat, 5:00–7:00 PM
- Thu, Oct 30 – Trunk-or-Treat (Columbus), 12:20–2:20 PM
- Tue, Nov 4 – Election Day / Staff PD (No Students)
- Mon, Nov 10 – NHS Induction (High School), 1:00–2:30 PM
- Thu, Nov 13 – Students of Excellence Luncheon, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM
- Fri, Nov 14 – FAFSA Night (LRC), 5:30–7:30 PM
- Nov 26–28 – Thanksgiving Break



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