



BOBCAT BULLETIN



A newsletter for the residents of the Bowling Green City School District

FALL 2025

Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Ted Haselman, Superintendent

Dear Members of the Bowling Green City Schools Community,

The 2025-2026 school year is off to a fantastic start! Our classrooms are filled with energy, learning, and a renewed sense of purpose. From engaging academic programs to meaningful extracurricular activities, so many wonderful things are happening across the district. Our students, staff, and families have embraced the new year with enthusiasm, and it is truly inspiring to witness the positive momentum building each day.

We are proud to share the release of the Ohio State Report Card, which highlights Bowling Green City Schools' impressive progress and commitment to excellence. This year, our district once again earned a commendable 4.5 out of 5 stars in the overall rating—demonstrating our consistency and dedication for the second consecutive year. This recognition reflects the significant academic growth of our students and the high-quality education provided by our dedicated educators. For a deeper look into this achievement, I encourage you to read my Community Report Card Letter available on our district website.

The construction of the new Bowling Green High School is moving forward steadily and with great anticipation. We are thrilled to share that the geothermal wells—which will efficiently heat and cool the new building, saving an estimated \$500,000 annually in operational costs—have been completed. The detention pond is finished, and work is well underway on the underground infrastructure, including utilities and drainage systems. In a few short weeks, we will see the structure begin to rise from the ground. It's an exciting time as we watch this vision become a reality!

Our district continues to monitor our finances closely to ensure we remain fiscally sound and responsible stewards of our resources. I'm pleased to report that Bowling Green City Schools remains on solid financial ground, thanks to the ongoing support and trust of our community, a trust we do not take lightly. Your commitment enables us to make strategic decisions that benefit our students today and into the future.

Bowling Green City Schools is on a positive and continuous improvement trajectory, and we are more committed than ever to ensuring excellence in all we do. We are excited about the future and look forward to continuing to grow, achieve, and thrive together as a district and community. This Fall 2025 newsletter highlights the many successes within our district, and I hope you enjoy staying connected to all the great things happening.

I am honored to serve the students, families, community, and staff of Bowling Green City Schools. I promise that our District will work hard to improve each day to provide a high-quality education for our students, a financially sound organization for our stakeholders, and be a point of pride for the entire community.

Go Bobcats,

Dr. Ted Haselman, Superintendent



Celebrating Our Staff

WELCOME ABOARD: BGCS HOSTED NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

Bowling Green City Schools hosted its annual new teacher orientation to help incoming educators feel welcomed, prepared, and connected. They participated in professional development, took a bus tour of the district, toured our buildings, and learned about community resources. A luncheon with local leaders and a partner resource fair highlighted ways the community supports our educators.

The orientation concluded with principal-led meetings at each school, giving them time to settle in and prepare for the year ahead. We are excited to welcome these new team members and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students and community.



OCTOBER STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH: ROB KNELL, HEAD CUSTODIAN, KENWOOD ELEMENTARY

For nearly two decades, Rob Knell has been a steady, caring presence in Bowling Green City Schools. Since joining BGCS in 2006 as a custodian, Rob has worked hard to keep our schools safe, clean, and welcoming. As the head custodian at Kenwood Elementary, he credits the power of teamwork, especially with fellow custodian Jacob Ramirez and summer helper Jaden Quinlan, for making each day at Kenwood a success. A Navy veteran with a strong work ethic, Rob lives by the motto: "If you are going to do something, do it to the best of your ability."

Outside of work, Rob treasures time with his family. He and his wife, Cindi, have lived in Bowling Green since 1998, raising their children, Kirsten and Brandon. Married for 30 years, Rob is especially proud of his family—such as the unique moment when Cindi and Kirsten graduated together in the same BGSU ceremony. From cheering on Falcon football and hockey to celebrating milestones like the 2020 graduation parade or the excitement of opening the new Bowling Green Middle School, Rob has built countless memories here in BG. His dedication, positivity, and pride in his work make him an invaluable part of the BGCS team as he helps to create an environment where students and staff can learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for all that you do, Rob!

Rob is currently featured in the October issue of Bowling Green Living magazine! Each month, the publication spotlights a BGCS Staff Member of the Month, celebrating the people who make a difference in our schools.

SHINING BRIGHT: MRS. JOHNS NAMED 13ABC RISING STAR

Bowling Green Middle School eighth grade math teacher, Laura Johns, was recently recognized as a 13abc Rising Star! Mrs. Johns' passion for teaching shines through in the way she makes math engaging, meaningful, and fun for her students. Beyond the classroom, she dedicates her time to activities like Quiz Bowl and Builders Club, and she can often be found cheering on students at games, concerts, and community events. Her commitment shows that she cares not only about academic success, but also about her students as individuals. While her colleagues, students, and families already know what an outstanding educator she is, we're proud to see her recognized for the difference she makes every day.



DR. JOBETH GONZALEZ: HALL OF FAME HONOREE AND AUTHOR INSPIRING THEATRE EDUCATION

Dr. JoBeth Gonzalez, was recently inducted into the Educational Theatre Association's 2025 Hall of Fame during the Educator Appreciation Dinner at the Theatre Education Conference in Bloomington, IN. In addition, Dr. Gonzalez's third book, *How High School Theatre Fosters Spiritual Strength and Critical Consciousness*, was recently released with Routledge as part of their Advances in Theatre & Performance Studies Series. Dr. Gonzalez continues to make a profound impact on theatre education both locally and nationally!

High School Construction Update On Time & On Budget

If you've driven by the site lately, you've probably noticed the transformation underway. Representatives from our architectural firm, DLR Group and Emersion Design, shared updated images and presented the final building designs to the Board of Education. Active construction is progressing daily and the site is changing before our eyes! With the geothermal wells completed, the new parking lot opened in early October. We are pleased to report that the project remains on budget and on schedule, with completion expected in Fall 2027. CORE TEAM planning meetings will continue to ensure a smooth construction process.



Superintendent Coffee Chats



Meet with Superintendent Dr. Ted Haselman to ask questions and have open dialogue on topics relevant to Bowling Green City Schools.

- **November 20, 5-6 p.m.** at Grounds for Thought 174 S. Main St.
- **January 21, 9-10 a.m.** at Novel Blends, 116 S. Main St.
- **March 24, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** at Juniper, 145 S. Main St.
- **May 14, 8-9 a.m.** at Biggby Coffee, 215 E. Wooster St.

Bowling Green Student Highlights

PACE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY BOE FOR PERFORMANCE IN 2025 PERENNIAL MATH COMPETITION

Bowling Green City Schools is proud to recognize PACE students for their outstanding success in the 2025 Perennial Math Competition, an international contest that drew more than 2,400 students and 145 teams from around the world. BGCS teams continued the district's tradition of excellence, earning plaques, gold medals, and multiple perfect scores across all grade levels. The Rookie Team (grades 3-4) earned the top score internationally, while BGCS students also claimed half of all perfect scores worldwide at the Intermediate level (grades 5-6) and the only perfect scores at the Advanced level (grades 7-8). Students and their PACE teacher, Laura Weaver, were honored at the August Board of Education meeting for these achievements.



LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND CONSERVATION TAKE FLIGHT AT BGMS

BGMS Spanish students combined language, culture, science, and conservation in a hands-on project with their new teacher, Mrs. Clari Timmins. This fall, her classes raised six monarch caterpillars, learning the butterfly's life cycle in Spanish and its cultural significance in Mexico during Día de los Muertos. After lessons in the outdoor Lubrizol Learning Lab, students released the butterflies into the BGMS prairie—contributing to conservation while sending them on their 3,000-mile migration south.



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK



October 20-24 is National School Bus Safety Week, but our drivers promote safety year-round. They recently shared bus safety tips at the Wood County Safety Fair and held presentations for K-3 students at all elementary schools.

Four BGCS drivers — Liz Jones, Megan Charron, Janice Yowler, and Gordon Ricketts — represented the district at the Northwest Ohio Regional Bus Road-E-O, earning third place! The competition tests safety knowledge and driving skills, from

pick-up and drop-off to railroad crossings, precision turns, maneuverability, written exams, and vehicle inspections.

We also recognize Lucas Schang, district mechanic and State Bus Road-E-O Committee member, and Eric Willman, substitute driver and Ohio On-Bus Instructor, for helping organize the regional event.



Fifth graders explored, learned, and made memories at Michindoh Outdoor Education Camp with activities such as canoeing, archery, rock climbing, wildlife lessons, pioneer village visits, tie-dye, and more! Thank you to our staff, Officer Short, and our BGHS student volunteers who made camp such an amazing time for our fifth grade students!

Coach Hallock and his BGSU baseball players were special guests at the Conneaut Elementary Bobcat Pride breakfast in September.



Congratulations to the BGHS Girls Tennis team for winning the NLL Cardinal Division Championship for the third year in a row!



Crim Elementary students became wildlife detectives with Toledo Zoo's Project Prairie—solving an animal 'crime scene' mystery and exploring the prairie to track real signs of wildlife!



Bowling Green Student Highlights

BGCS STUDENTS SHINE IN THE ARTS

Bowling Green City Schools students excel in music, visual arts, and theatre. Several students earned spots in the 2026 OMEA All-State Ensembles, representing Ohio’s finest young musicians.

October has been filled with many choir, band, and orchestra concerts. In November, the NW Regional Orchestra concert will be held in the PAC on the 16th. The Madrigals will be performing at the tree lighting November 21 and the Bobcat Marching Band will perform in the Holiday Parade on November 22.

Our student artists from each building created murals on snowplow blades that were on display at the Black Swamp Arts Festival and our high school artists created Chalk Walk masterpieces, earning Best Interpretation and Best Composition awards. The Madrigals choir won first place at Beats on the Street. Many students also volunteered at the festival, leading hands-on art activities for the community. The Imaginarium K-12 Art Show opens December 19 in the Bowling Green Arts Council Art Space.

The cast, crew, and production team of the high school play, *Clue: High School Edition* are working hard to prepare for their upcoming performances, November 6-8 at 7 p.m. and November 9 at 2 p.m. in the PAC. You don’t want to miss it!

From stage to studio, BGCS students continue to inspire creativity and celebrate the arts!



Madrigals won first place in Beats on the Street.



Bowling Green Middle School student artists painted this colorful snow plow blade.

BGHS Art students competed in the Black Swamp Arts Festival Teen Art Chalk Walk competition



Best Interpretation - Bowling Green Team 5



Best Composition - Bowling Green Team 10

MANUFACTURING DAY

Manufacturing Day introduced BGMS and BGHS students to the world of modern manufacturing and allowed them to explore job opportunities available in our community that are in high demand! Students received a “passport” and went to each booth to ask questions and get information about the companies. Thank you to BG Economic Development for organizing the event and to Betco, Campbell’s, GKN Driveline, Lubrizol, Marathon Special Products, NuProduce, Principle Business Enterprises, Southeastern Container, Smart Solve, and TH Plastics for participating!



BGHS Alumni News

We’re building our alumni contact list to celebrate your stories and keep you informed about alumni news, class reunions, alumni games, and other events. Scan the QR code to take our short survey and make sure you don’t miss out!



Class of '70 reunion



Class of '80 reunion

1965 BOBCAT RUNNERS REUNITE TO CELEBRATE BGHS CROSS COUNTRY HISTORY



Mark Sheffer, Tom Calfin, and Mark Cheek — members of the 1965 Bobcat Cross Country team under Coach Warren Ott — made history by bringing home Bowling Green High School’s first-ever Cross Country trophy as runners-up in the OHSAA District Meet.

On September 30, the trio returned to Carter Park for the BGHS Cross Country meet, where coaches Pat and Lisa Carney presented them with the restored trophy. With BGHS shifting to a digital trophy case for some of our historic trophies, the original 1965 District runners-up trophy found its way back to those who earned it — a fitting tribute to the runners who helped build the foundation of BGHS Cross Country. It was a memorable moment for both the returning athletes and today’s Bobcat runners. In a gesture of generosity and school pride, the three alumni surprised the entire boys’ and girls’ teams with a gift of new BGHS Cross Country hats!



OCTOBER 2 WAS SCHOOL CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY:

We want to thank our custodians, maintenance, and grounds staff who keep our schools clean, safe, and running smoothly every single day. They maintain five educational and two support buildings totaling over 580,000 square feet and green space totaling 94 acres. Their hard work often happens behind the scenes, but it makes a world of difference for our students and staff!



A Message from the Finance Office

Matt A. Feasel, CFO and Treasurer

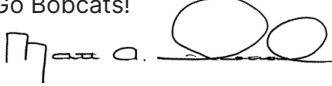
We are blessed with great schools with strong academic programs, outstanding fine and performing arts, strong athletic programs, and most of all, a community that values education. This district has faced a number of challenges throughout the years but has always worked together to achieve what is best for Bowling Green City Schools.

The members of this community should be extremely proud of the way that school district residents pulled together to support the additional three-quarter (.75%) percent income tax levy request in May. An effort of this type not only provides the financial resources necessary to provide quality instruction but also creates such a positive attitude throughout the community. With construction beginning on the new high school and all of the community events taking place, the atmosphere has been especially upbeat this fall as students and staff returned to the buildings.

The state legislature recently passed H.B. 96 or the state budget bill. Initial estimates indicate that Bowling Green City Schools will receive a slight increase of approximately \$418,000 in the current 2025-26 fiscal year and approximately \$180,000 in fiscal year 2026-27. With the state providing Bowling Green City Schools with 25% of our general fund operating revenue, this represents an increase of a little over one (1.07%) percent in the current fiscal year.

We are dedicated to delivering the highest-quality educational opportunities at the greatest value. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure the best outcomes for our students, staff, and community. It is an exciting time for Bowling Green City Schools.

Go Bobcats!



Matt A. Feasel, CFO/Treasurer



Board of Education



L to R: Mr. Ryan Myers, Mrs. Tracy Hovest, Mrs. Peggy Thompson, Dr. Howard "Ardy" Gonyer (Vice President), Mr. Norm Geer (President)

The Board of Education meets in regular sessions on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and in special sessions as needed. Meetings are typically held in the Performing Arts Center lobby at 540 West Poe Rd. Changes to dates, times and locations are posted on our website: www.bgcs.k12.oh.us.

BGCS Earns 4.5 Stars on 2024-25 Ohio School Report Card



The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) officially released the Ohio School Report Card from the 2024-25 school year and Bowling Green City Schools received an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars for the second consecutive year! The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce describes an overall 4.5-star rating as "exceeds state standards."

When reviewing the Overall Rating Points, the number that determines the star rating for a district, BGCS ranked in the top 15% of all Ohio school districts!

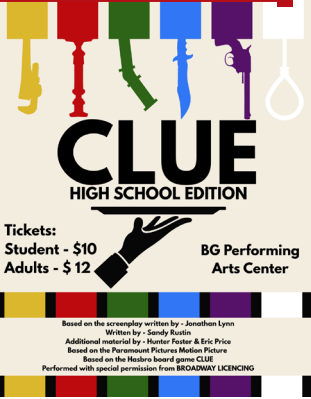
The district is very proud of our accomplishment and we hope you as a community member are as well. The ratings in our Ohio State Report Card are a result of everyone's hard work.

Please read the letter from Superintendent Dr. Haselman to the Bowling Green community about our district's report card by scanning the QR code:



BGHS Drama Club presents Clue: High School Edition

The cast, crew, and production team of the high school play are working hard to prepare for their upcoming performances in the Performing Arts Center.



November 6 at 7 p.m.

November 7 at 7 p.m.

November 8 at 7 p.m. (Understudy Show)

November 9 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults. You don't want to miss it! Get your tickets here:



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Parent-Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing families at Parent-Teacher Conferences! This is a valuable opportunity to connect with your child's teachers, discuss progress, and set goals for the year. Please see the schedule below for dates and times.

Conference Schedules

- **Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, & High School**
October 23: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
October 24: 8:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Preschool & Elementary**
October 30: 4 - 7:30 p.m.
October 31: 8:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(No classes for PK-5 students)

Sign up for the
Bi-Weekly
BGCS
E-Newsletter



BGCS Seeking Mentors for Elementary Students

Do you have 30 minutes to spare once-a-week to share breakfast or lunch with an elementary student to listen, encourage, and build connections? BGCS is seeking mentors for elementary students from November 2025-April 2026. All volunteers are background checked.

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor, email Danya Claes, Student Wellness Coordinator, at dclaes@bgcs.k12.oh.us for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KENWOOD SEPTEMBER BOBCAT PRIDE WINNERS!



Toledo Zoo Project Prairie Bioblitz

The Toledo Zoo Project Prairie Bioblitz was held September 22-October 10. Bioblitz is a citizen science initiative where students document the biodiversity of prairies installed on their school grounds using the iNaturalist app. The goal was to identify and count as many plants and animals as possible in the school prairie during the time frame. Ms. Egli's class jumped right in, documenting the amazing biodiversity of the Crim Elementary prairie!



Our vision is to provide excellent instruction and equitable opportunities for each student.