

Strengthening the Connection Between Our Schools and Community

Superintendent's Update

To the BBHCSD Community,

Thank you to our extended school family for the uplifting support and overall excitement that has accompanied the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Your efforts have helped to rigorously educate our students, boldly empower our staff members, and collaboratively engage the stakeholders throughout our campuses and towns in which we live, work, and raise our families. Working together, we're on a path of partnership that points us toward our vision to be the destination school community. As I begin my third year as Superintendent of the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools, I appreciate the heightened level of involvement our community demonstrates. This newsletter is a method by which we intend for all citizens to remain informed. Please enjoy reviewing.



*Superintendent
Jeffrey D. Harrison*

BBHCSD a 5-Star School District!



The BBHCSD recently earned the high achievement of 5 stars on the State Report Card, which was released throughout the state in late September. In each of the six measurable components, including Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation Rate, Early Literacy, and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness, our overall performance index greatly exceeds statewide standards and keeps the BBHCSD in a class of its own. Congratulations to the students for their performance and achievement, our devoted staff for demonstrating rigor in the classroom, and our families for continuing to elevate the importance of academics and your support with this accomplishment.

State of the Schools Key Communicators Meeting

Tuesday, October 28th

The BBHCSD will host its 2nd annual State of the Schools Key Communicators Meeting on Tuesday, October 28th at 7 p.m. in the High School cafeteria. Building on the success of last year's State of the Schools, this year's gathering will feature an update on district-level matters of importance, updates from each of the buildings, and share the progress as we enter year two of our strategic plan. The State of the Schools is the first Key Communicators meeting of the school year, with two more to follow, Wednesday, January 28th at BBHES and Wednesday, April 29th at BBHMS at 7 p.m. These gatherings also come in addition to the Coffee Talks taking place throughout the community, generally held on the Thursday after the regular board of education meeting each month. We thanks Panera Bread and the Coffee Club for their willingness to be gracious hosts.



Superintendent Harrison with students during the early part of the school year.

The Ledger and the Leader Podcasts Now Available!

Innovative methods of communications with relevant and updated content is a priority for the BBHCSD, and in order to stay on the cutting edge of engagement, the district has launched its Ledger and Leader podcast. Scan the nearby QR code to go directly to the webpage where these introductory podcasts are hosted. There, you will enjoy topics such as district finances, curriculum, and other updates in a lighthearted, positive session. We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!

GO BEES!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

Scan Here to Watch
Ledger and Leader Podcast



With Superintendent Jeff Harrison and Treasurer Craig Yaniglos

COFFEE HOUSE VISITS

ALL VISITS BEGIN AT 9 A.M. AND LAST UNTIL 10 A.M.

-  Thursday, October 16th @Panera Bread
-  Thursday, November 20th @Coffee Club
-  Thursday, December 11th @Panera

BBHCSD Recognizes National Merit Semi-Finalists

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools would like to formally congratulate the following individuals who were recently named 2026 National Merit Semi-Finalists: Haylie Martin, Nakshatra Mohan, Koen Sustersic, and Madelyn Manley. These individuals are among the most academically talented juniors in the entire nation, who have scored in the top 1% of all applicants, and are among the top 16,000 students who participate in the PSAT/NMSQT. Haylie, Nakshatra, Koen, and Madelyn can move onto the finalist round by submitting a detailed application, confirming their PSAT performance with SAT/ACT scores, receiving a high school recommendation, and providing an essay. Finalists are then considered for one of approximately 7,500 National Merit Scholarships awarded each year. Please join the district in commending Haylie Martin, Nakshatra Mohan, Koen Sustersic, and Madelyn Manley.



Congratulations to National Merit Scholars Koen Sustersic, Nakshatra Mohan, Haylie Martin, and Madelyn Manley.



Middle School STEM students constructing vehicles, using innovation, creativity, and logic for these exercises.

STEM Class Helps 7th Graders Build Real World Skills

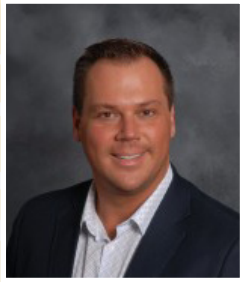
For seventh grade students in Mrs. Roderick's STEM class, learning comes through hands-on activities, collaboration, and thinking outside the box. Students recently worked with a partner to construct a VEX IQ Clawbot and applied their critical thinking skills to navigate unforeseen challenges along the way. While building their Clawbots, students brainstormed to improve on the overall design and build modifications, before using block programming to code their robots. The VEX robots have been used extensively and do not always operate as expected, providing students with a great opportunity to sharpen their problem-solving skills together. Demonstrating effective communication skills, creativity, grit, and determination, students managed each obstacle successfully and employed a variety of methods such as using a troubleshooting flow chart, consulting websites, or YouTube videos, and in some cases, contacting tech support. After successfully building and programming their Clawbots, the students were excited to employ their robotic creations in a fun and spirited competition! Congratulations to our 7th grade STEM class students for their perseverance and excellent work!

Our Amazing BBHES PSO Hosts Back to School Party

K-5 families in the BBHCSD enjoyed an amazing Back to School Party courtesy of the outstanding efforts of the BBHES PSO after school earlier this school year. The rear parking lot of the school featured a variety of fun activities including music provided by a DJ, an engaging animal presentation by Jungle Bob, raffle prizes, along with delicious food truck and dessert options. Overall, it was an unforgettable evening filled with smiles, laughter, and the opportunity for students and families to catch up and spend time together! Thank you to our dedicated BBHES PSO members and parent volunteers for their planning and commitment to providing a wonderful back-to-school celebration for our elementary families! Your help, support, and creativity tremendously help our staff but more importantly make our students' experience special and memorable. Thank you!



Thanks to our BBHES PSO for making back-to-school enjoyable for our students!



Craig G. Yaniglos,
Treasurer & C.F.O.

5-Star Success, 45th in Funding: Your Vote is the Bottom Line

I want to share a critical update on our school district's financial health, celebrate a major academic achievement, and draw your attention to issues at the state and national levels that directly impact our children's education.

Celebrating Excellence: A 5-Star Report Card

I am incredibly proud to be a part of our outstanding school district that has once again earned an overall 5-Star rating on the 2024-2025 Ohio Department of Education & Workforce School Report Card, making us one of the very few districts in the state to achieve the highest rating. This achievement is a direct reflection of the dedication of our staff, administrators, and students, and the strong, sustained support we receive from our community. Thank you for making academic excellence a shared priority.

PROPERTY TAX ALERT: State Policies Shift the Tax Burden to You

While we celebrate our success, we must address the severe financial pressures being placed on local school districts by state policy. A recent analysis by the Ohio Education Policy Institute (OEPI) highlights a local property tax crisis gripping the state. The full 15 page report can be found on BoardDocs from the September 2025 Board Meeting.

The OEPI report shows that state policy has effectively shifted the tax burden onto local homeowners and farmers and away from business taxpayers.

- **A Growing Local Burden:** The residential/agricultural share of school property taxes shifted from 46.1% in 1975 to a dramatic 67.5% in 2023.
- **Ohio's Rank:** Ohio now ranks with the **8th highest property tax rate in the nation**, while the state's share of K-12 revenue has fallen to **45th** nationally. This low state funding places more pressure on local property taxes to fill the gap.

Our Financial Health and Looming Challenges

Thanks to excellent planning and your local support, our district remains in a stable financial position. However, we are now on the down cycle of our typical levy cycle, meaning we are deficit spending for a second consecutive year, which reduces our cash balance and cash reserves.

Our financial outlook is further complicated by challenges at both the federal and state levels:

- **Federal Cuts:** The proposed FY26 federal budget is calling for the elimination of Title II, Title III, and Title IV funding, which is about **\$100,000 in funding** we rely on for essential programs and training.
- **State Underfunding:** The State of Ohio is funding public education at a historical low of approximately **37% this year**, and it's projected to drop further to **32% next year**.
- **The Voucher System:** State legislators continue to funnel over **\$1 billion of your public tax dollars** into the school voucher program.

These schools of choice operate with zero accountability: None of the tax money they receive is audited, they do not uphold the same standards, they choose their own curriculum, and they are not required to comply with public records requests among many other unfunded mandates that are required of all public educational institutions. **Our taxpayers should demand that our legislators immediately support legislation to level the playing field.**

Community Finance Committee Update

I'm pleased to announce that we received numerous applications for our **Community Finance Committee**. This diverse group will meet for the first time at the end of October 2025 to ensure our financial stewardship remains transparent.

Local Control and the Power of Your Vote

The education and services we provide are possible because you, the local voters, have approved the levies that provide the necessary funding. State legislation is trying to overstep this local control by mandating their own parameters or giving local control to other entities like County Budget Commissions.

As we approach the upcoming November election, please recognize that local and state elections matter for the sustained success and financial health of our district. **Please make a plan to vote!** Educate yourself on the candidates and issues, and cast your ballot. If you have a question regarding the district's finances, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email at yaniglosc@bbhcsd.org.

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



Superintendent of Schools

Jeffrey D. Harrison
harrisonj@bbhcsd.org

Treasurer

Craig G. Yaniglos
yaniglosc@bbhcsd.org

Board of Education

Mark Dosen, President
dosenm@bbhcsd.org

Ellen Kramer, Vice President
kramere@bbhcsd.org

Lisa Galek, Member
galekl@bbhcsd.org

Tish Kwiatkowski, Member
kwiatkowskit@bbhcsd.org

Eva O'Mara, Member
omarae@bbhcsd.org

District Spotlight: Start of the 2025-'26 School Year Begins with Outstanding Opportunities!



Congratulations to our Homecoming King and Queen 2025!



The annual Naturalization Ceremony at BBHHS recently welcomed 25 new U.S. Citizens.



Grammy Award Winner Carmel Dean visits BBHMS to show career pathways in the music industry.



Our very own BBHMS Volleyball Team Representing our District!



BBHES welcomed new students with special luncheons throughout September.



Elementary students visited by HS football, cheer, and marching band members!

