



Hurricane Highlights



Tradition. Pride. Excellence.

Fall 2025

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools



**Superintendent
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Students, Parents, Families and Staff,

I hope this message finds you enjoying a great start to the 2025–2026 school year. I’m excited to share some positive news about the academic progress of our district.

The **Ohio Department of Education** has released its annual **State Report Cards**, which provide our district and community with a clear picture of academic achievement and growth compared to the previous year. Schools and districts now receive star ratings in key areas rather than traditional letter grades. While these results offer only a “snapshot” of the progress and programming that occur throughout the year, we proudly celebrate our achievements and use the data to guide and strengthen student programming moving forward.

I am proud to announce that the Brooklyn City Schools have earned an **OVERALL DISTRICT RATING of 4 STARS for the third consecutive year** — exceeding state standards in academic achievement. This outstanding accomplishment reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our entire school community — from our incredible students and families to our talented educators and staff.

A **summary of our results is provided nearby and can also be viewed on the [Ohio Department of Education website](#).**



Brooklyn City Schools

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2024-2025 State Report Card

District Component Rating	Rating
Overall District Rating	★ Exceeds state standards
Achievement	★ Meets state standards
Progress	★ Exceeds state standards
Gap Closing	★ Meets state standards
Early Literacy	★ Needs support to meet state standards
Graduation Rate (4-year)	★ Exceeds state standards
Graduation (5-year)	★ Exceeds state standards
College, Career, Workforce & Military Readiness	★ Meets state standards
Brooklyn High School (Overall Rating)	★ Exceeds state standards
Brooklyn School (PK-7) (Overall Rating)	★ Meets state standards

Thank you to the Board of Education, faculty, classified staff, administrators, parents, families, and—most importantly—our students for your ongoing support in advancing student achievement and growth.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions.

With gratitude,

DR. CALERIS

Dr. Theodore Caleris
Superintendent, Brooklyn City Schools





Facility Renovations Launch Exciting New Chapter for Brooklyn City Schools

A new and exciting chapter for the Brooklyn City Schools has begun with the completion and ongoing progress of several major facility renovation projects across the district. The new Brooklyn Early Childhood Center and Family Resource Center, located at the former site of the Brooklyn Public Library, provides a dedicated space for educating the district's youngest students. Opened to students on September 29th and celebrated with a grand opening to the public on October 4th, the renovated facility includes expanded classrooms, a sensory room, an outdoor playground, and other educational amenities. The new district resource also holds a new conference room that hosts Board of Education meetings, and a Family Resource Center, which will serve the greater Brooklyn community through various programs and initiatives.



Preschool students, staff, and families celebrated the grand opening of the BECC on October 4th.



The renovated High School gym will include a new court, main entrance, and more!

Brooklyn's main gymnasium is currently undergoing a transformation, which will result in a new court, scoreboard, bleachers, basketball hoops, and main gym entrance. These upgrades will not only provide our students with an enhanced facility for competitions and classes but also an improved overall experience for families and visitors. Renovations at the main gymnasium will be completed in January 2026. The district looks forward to opening the updated facility to the public for the first time during the first home matchup of the season for the boys' and girls' basketball teams. More information will be shared in the future!

historical landmark in the history of rock and roll. Beginning in April 2026, this beloved facility will be receiving new seating, carpeting, and upgrades to the sound and lighting system, with renovations scheduled to be completed in December 2026. The Brooklyn City Schools look forward with excitement to these and other planned facility renovations and will keep the community updated on their progress.

The Brooklyn Auditorium is not only a cherished space for assemblies, performances, and other school activities, but a



Planned renovations of the Brooklyn Auditorium include new seating, lighting and sound systems, and stage.



Help Brooklyn City Schools Recognize Outstanding Alumni!

The Brooklyn City Schools want to celebrate our alumni! From starting a new job, earning a degree, completing an apprenticeship, or serving in the military, the district wants to recognize our graduates for their achievements. Brooklyn parents, families, and community members can submit a nomination by emailing askdrcalearis@bcshurricanes.org with the graduate's name, graduating year, description of their accomplishment, and current photo if available. The district looks forward to celebrating our alumni on the district's social media accounts during the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you for your support, and Go Hurricanes!



Brooklyn City Schools celebrated members of the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the Homecoming Football Game.



New Math Screening Tools to Help Elementary Teachers Provide Individualized Instruction

The introduction of two new math screening tools for K-3 students in the fall of 2025 will help provide teachers with valuable data to guide individual student instruction and meet their unique learning needs. The Global Strategy Stage (GloSS) Assessment is administered to each student individually and identifies what strategies students use to solve math problems, particularly addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The second screener, Individual Knowledge Assessment of Number (IKAN), is administered to the whole class and is used to assess the number facts and patterns each student understands. Both assessments will be administered three times during the school year.



Brooklyn teachers are using the new math assessments to guide instruction and support for each individual student.

When used together, these screening tools provide a comprehensive picture of a student’s mathematical understanding and will serve as a guide for additional instructional strategies and interventions, such as differentiating lessons and small group instruction. As a result, students will be able to receive instruction that is tailored to their individual level of understanding while more effectively monitoring their learning progress over time. The use of these new assessment tools is a prime example of concrete steps the district has taken to implement its Strategic Plan, which lists a goal to improve student academic achievement and growth over the next five years through the delivery of data-driven instruction.



District Partners with Brooklyn First Responders for Handle with Care Initiative



Through the Handle with Care protocol, district staff and Brooklyn safety forces will partner to provide resources to students navigating difficult circumstances.

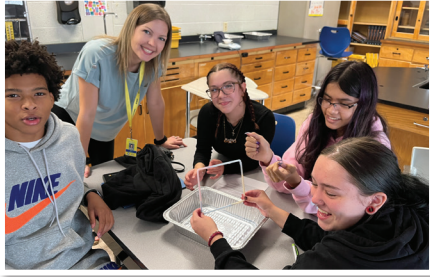
As part of an effort to enhance available supports for students, the BCSD will be partnering with Brooklyn first-responders to utilize the Handle With Care protocol. Through this new student support system, specific District staff will be notified through a confidential QR code if any Brooklyn student is exposed to a potentially traumatic event resulting in a First Responder incident. The district will then be prepared to provide necessary trauma-informed interventions including:

- Monitoring the student’s well-being and behavior
- Access to basic needs such as rest, food, water, and clean clothes
- Supportive check-ins
- Positive empowering interactions with adults
- Access to calming or stress reduction activities and materials
- Extra breaks or time/help with homework
- Postpone testing or re-testing
- Referral to school counselor or social worker as appropriate

Overall, this new district partnership with Brooklyn First Responders will ensure that all students have the necessary academic and social-emotional supports to help them successfully navigate difficult circumstances. Thank you to our Brooklyn First Responders for their partnership on this important student wellness initiative.



Expanded Instruction in Science and Math Delivers Positive Results at Brooklyn High School



The Biology Lab helps students delve deeper into the content and provide opportunities for enhanced lab activities.

Recent efforts by Brooklyn High School to provide enriched instructional opportunities that meet each student's unique learning needs have delivered positive results! At the start of the 2024-2025 school year, BHS established the Biology Lab with the intention of providing the science department with additional class time each week for further instruction. This additional period would allow students to delve deeper into the content and facilitate greater opportunities for lab activities, which are crucial to the science experience. During a recent lab activity under the guidance of teacher Katie Chrzan, students worked together to study how bubbles are similar to the membrane of a cell. The initial results and feedback received were overwhelmingly positive, and school administration applied the same opportunity for students enrolled in Algebra I.

The Algebra 1 lab is taught

by Kristen Field and provides opportunities for peer tutoring. This proactive approach has enabled Brooklyn teachers to revisit areas of need and help usher in the school's best Algebra I scores in the last five years! Coupled with an increase in Biology test results, these additional periods with focused interventions and instruction have shown their merit immediately and have become a part of the building's regular school schedule starting with the 2025-26 school year.



Peer tutoring is one method of instructional support students receive through the Algebra 1 Lab at Brooklyn High School.



Brooklyn School Providing Students Opportunities to Connect With and Support Peers



Through the Brooklyn School Buddies and Student Ambassadors programs, students demonstrate leadership, care, and help build a positive school environment.

The Brooklyn School Buddies and Student Ambassador Program is designed to ensure that every child feels welcomed, supported, and connected from the very start of their school journey. Beginning in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Brooklyn Buddies help younger students adjust by offering friendship, encouragement, and guidance in daily routines and play. As students grow, the Student Ambassador Program (grades 3-7) builds on these foundations by empowering older students to lead tours, serve as lunch and recess buddies, assist at orientations and events, and model positive CANES behavior. "We're glad to launch a tradition where each student's first step into Hurricane Nation is met with friendship and belonging," shared Brooklyn School Principal Dr. Janet Kubasak.

Research shows that when students are connected to caring peers, they report stronger feelings of belonging, increased motivation, and a positive school experience. This program fosters connection by creating a culture of kindness, leadership, and inclusion across all grade levels.



New Program Helping Brooklyn High School Students Prepare for Future Careers After Graduation

A new program at Brooklyn High School is providing students with the skills and experiences necessary to make a successful transition to the workforce after graduation. Launched at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, the Community-Based Intervention (CBI) program is currently open to Brooklyn seniors and integrates academic support, career exploration, workplace readiness, and independent living skills within a structured classroom environment. Mr. Jeff Jones provides instruction, guidance, and encouragement for students as they forge their individual post-graduation paths.



The Community Based Intervention program is designed to meet students where they are, blending academic, career, financial, and life skills into one experience.

Each week follows a familiar rhythm of learning and inquiry, beginning with weekly goal setting, grade checks, and academic supports on Mondays, followed by activities which promote independent living and personal responsibility on Tuesdays. Mid-week activities feature a focus on communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, such as case studies involving common workplace scenarios students might encounter in a real job setting. Additional mid-week activities involve career exploration, hand tool training, and simulated experiences, which include virtual reality devices that immerse students in an interactive environment for a variety of career fields such as aviation maintenance, automotive, manufacturing and construction, and health sciences. Students then end the week with a focus on personal finances, budgeting, and money management skills. To apply their classroom learning and practice their employability skills, students are expected to maintain a job or engage in volunteer work while taking the class.

The launch of the CBI program involved the planning and collaboration of Mr. Jones, Principal Matthew Larson, Supriya Culliton, Director of Innovation and Career Development, and BHS Counselors Chris Ross and Annie Bir, with the goal of developing a program that targets student employability and independent success after graduation. While currently open to 12th-grade students only, the CBI program could be expanded to additional grade levels in the future. Funding for the program was provided through an Ohio Career Technical Education Equipment Grant, which covered the cost of related academic training for Mr. Jones through the University of Toledo and the purchase of Transfr VR career exploration headsets and software. Student responses to the new class have been positive and is a reflection of the dedication and care of Brooklyn teachers and staff, along with efforts by the district to provide practical, diverse, and innovative approaches to learning.



Brooklyn My Guy Walk Celebrates Father Figures and Literacy



BCSD fathers and father figures walked to school and enjoyed refreshments with students during the My Guy Walk.

Brooklyn School students were joined by fathers and father-figures for the annual Brooklyn My Guy Walk on Thursday, October 9, 2025. During the event, fathers and father-figures walked with their students to the school building, where they enjoyed an assortment of snacks and refreshments at the Gold and Blue Lots, with the opportunity for a picture together. Books celebrating the positive impact of fathers and father-figures, including *The Father's Walk* and *All in a Dad's Day*, were made available for students to read at home with their family. Altogether, the event was a wonderful celebration of adult mentors actively engaged with students. A special thank-you to the Brooklyn School PTA for providing snacks and refreshments! On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, thank you to all fathers and father-figures for their support and care on behalf of our students!



Upcoming District Events

- Learn & Play at BECC (Open to PreK and Kindergarten Students) - Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 - 10:00 am
- Thanksgiving Break (No School) - Wednesday, November 26th - Friday, November 28th
- Teacher Records Day/Inservice (No School) - Monday, December 22nd
- Winter Break (No School) - Monday, December 22nd - Friday, January 2nd
- First Home Game in New Gym (Varsity Basketball Doubleheader) - Saturday, January 3rd beginning at 4:30 pm



Brooklyn City Schools Finance Report

Proactive Efforts Secure New Funding for School Safety

The Brooklyn City Schools Treasurer's Office has successfully secured **\$58,435 in new funding** through two separate grants from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). This is not taxpayer money; it's state-level funding that the district actively pursued and won. The BWC awards these grants to help organizations create safer environments for their employees. By obtaining these funds—one for \$35,279 and another for \$23,156—the district can purchase new, modern cleaning equipment without impacting our local budget. This investment directly benefits our students and staff by promoting a healthier and safer learning environment throughout our school buildings.

Responsible Stewardship Ensures Long-Term Financial Stability

Through careful budgeting and responsible spending, the district has once again achieved a **positive Five-Year Forecast**. Think of the Five-Year Forecast as the district's financial roadmap, which is required by the state of Ohio. A "positive" forecast means that based on current information, our revenues are projected to cover our expenses for the next five years. This is a key indicator of financial health and stability. It demonstrates that the district is living within its means and making sound financial decisions that protect taxpayer dollars and ensure we can continue to fund essential educational programs for our students well into the future.

Strategic Investments Grow District Reserves

The district's reserve balance—continues to grow thanks to positive returns on our investments. The district manages a portfolio of safe, state-approved investments, and the interest earned from them provides an additional source of revenue. This smart financial management allows our money to work for us, generating funds that can be used for future needs or unexpected costs. By growing our reserves through investment returns, we will strengthen the district's overall financial position and reduce the future burden on local taxpayers.

District Earns State's Highest Award for Financial Excellence

For the **third consecutive year**, the Brooklyn City Schools Treasurer's Office has been honored with the prestigious **Four-Star "Auditor of State Award with Distinction."** This is the highest possible rating awarded by the Ohio Auditor of State, who serves as the top financial watchdog for public offices in Ohio. This award is a testament to the district's commitment to financial transparency and accuracy. It means that our annual financial audit was clean, our records were accurate, and our financial information is accessible and easy for the public to understand. Achieving this top honor for three straight years—following two years at the Three-Star level—highlights a sustained pattern of excellence and a deep commitment to responsible governance. It should give our community great confidence in how the district manages its finances.

