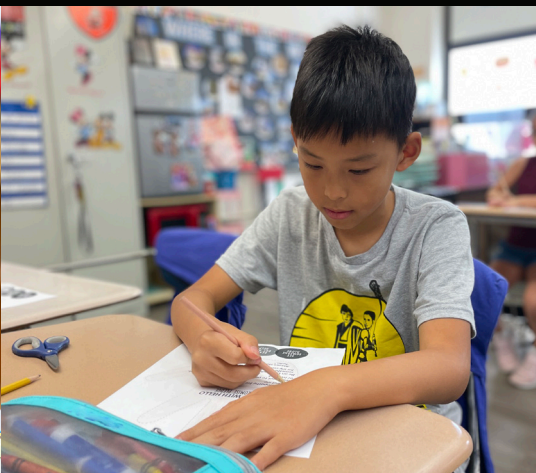




YOU AND YOUR SCHOOLS

2025

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
Beachwood, Ohio



BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS DIRECTORY



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BRYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
25501 Bryden Road
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and

**FAIRMOUNT EARLY
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INSIDE

MESSAGE FROM BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR REVIEW

Dear Beachwood Community,

As the 2025-2026 school year opens, we are pleased to share with you a comprehensive review of the remarkable achievements and significant progress made across our district during the past school year as well as peek ahead at what is to come. This past school year has been a testament to the talent and dedication of our students and staff, as well as the unwavering support of our community.

Academic Excellence and Student Success

We are incredibly proud to report another year of strong academic performance including earning an **overall Five-Star rating on the State of Ohio School Report Card**, the highest rating possible. This success is a direct reflection of the priority our families place on their children's education, the hard work and commitment of our students, and the innovative and effective teaching methods employed by our talented educators. We are proud to send off the Beachwood High School Class of 2025 as they take their next steps to prestigious universities across the country, begin careers, or pursue their passions in trade programs. Whatever path our graduates choose, we know they will make their alma mater proud. This past year and in the year to come, our school system introduced and will introduce **new educational offerings in early literacy, mathematics, history, social studies and computer science**. These new courses and programs add to an already wide breadth of curricular offerings that are designed to provide our students with diverse learning opportunities and prepare them for an ever-evolving world.

Progress on Elementary Construction Projects

Significant strides have been made on our elementary school construction projects, which are set to transform the Fairmount, Bryden and Hilltop learning environments. We are thrilled to confirm that the **new facilities are progressing on time and on budget**, with Bryden slated to open in December 2025 and Hilltop in April 2026. These state-of-the-art buildings will provide modern, flexible spaces conducive to 21st-century learning, benefiting generations of Beachwood students to come.

Prudent Financial Stewardship

The district remains in a strong and stable financial position, a direct result of our commitment to conservative fiscal practices. This prudent management ensures that we can continue to provide high-quality education while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. We are particularly pleased to announce that the recent **Chagrin Highlands legal settlement significantly bolstered our financial outlook**. Beachwood's Board of Education has determined that these funds will be strategically utilized to:

- **Maintain low taxes** for Beachwood residents and businesses by decreasing the taxes collected to pay for our elementary construction project. By extending upon the three-year tax "relief" the City of Beachwood provided taxpayers for this same purpose, the *district will be able to build the new Bryden and Hilltop Schools without an increase in the effective tax rate for Beachwood taxpayers!*
- **Fund ongoing future capital projects**, ensuring our facilities remain top-tier, updated, and able meet the evolving needs of our community.
- **Manage the rising costs of healthcare** by protecting the district's operating funds against increased exposure to these expenditures.
- **Extend the 2018 operating levy further** than originally anticipated. The 2018 operating levy was projected to last four to five years, which has been surpassed. The settlement proceeds will allow the district to extend the need for a new operating levy even further.

Engaging Our Community for the Future

The Board of Education has embarked on a crucial process to revise its goals for the district and is actively engaging all our stakeholders, gathering their invaluable input toward shaping the future direction of Beachwood City Schools. The board has reviewed extensive survey responses and now encourages community members to participate in upcoming town halls.

On behalf of Beachwood City Schools, we extend our gratitude for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a momentous and successful year ahead.

Sincerely,



Megan Walsh,
President
Beachwood
Board of Education



Dr. Robert P. Hardis,
Superintendent
Beachwood
City Schools



Matt Brown,
Treasurer/CFO
Beachwood
City Schools

DISTRICT UPDATE

Trauma-Informed Approaches

As we wrap up the 2024-2025 school year, Beachwood City Schools is proud of our work to support the whole child. This year, all staff were trained in Trauma-Informed Practices, which help us better understand and respond to the effects of stress and trauma on students' learning and well-being. Trauma can stem from many sources—loss, family struggles, illness, bullying, anxiety, or other challenges. Our goal is to create safe, caring environments where all students feel understood and supported. Key strategies include:

- Building trusting relationships
- Responding to behavior with empathy and understanding
- Teaching social and emotional skills
- Maintaining predictable routines for security

These practices benefit every child by fostering a positive, respectful school climate where students can thrive. One highlight this year was Start With Hello Week in September, when students across all grades took part in activities to promote kindness, connection, and inclusion. From acts of kindness at the elementary level to high school pledges to reach out to others, our students showed the power of small actions in creating a welcoming community.

We thank our families and community for partnering with us in this important work. Together, we're making Beachwood schools a place where every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.

United Against Hate Program

Beachwood City Schools hosted a United Against Hate Program in partnership with the U.S. Attorneys' Office, bringing together community members to explore how to identify, report, and prevent acts of hate through interactive discussions and real-life scenarios. The event featured national and local partners, including the FBI and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, and reflected student-driven efforts to promote civil discourse and resolve conflict. The program was introduced in response to student requests for practical strategies to engage in civil discourse and resolve conflicts in today's increasingly polarized climate.



District Communication Standards

Beachwood Schools developed our district Communication Standards over several months with input from school staff and parents, and implemented them during the 2024-2025 school year. The standards foster a culture of mutual respect among all members of our school community by outlining expectations for respectful interactions and providing staff, students, and families with a clear process for addressing situations when these standards are not met. We embrace our responsibility to create a school culture that encourages and expects civil discourse among our students and are proud to serve a community that also embraces these values.

The foundation of the Communications Standards are the following actions:

- Listen actively to understand
- Question kindly
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses
- Speak from experience
- Respect everyone
- Look forward
- No demeaning, threatening, harassing, abusive, prejudicial/biased, hateful, profane, and defamatory comments or statements

Updating District Goals

The Beachwood Board of Education is engaging all our school district stakeholders in its effort to revise our district's goals. The board has reviewed extensive survey responses and now encourages community members to participate in upcoming town halls. Your perspectives and ideas are essential as we work together to define our priorities and ensure our schools continue to meet the needs and aspirations of every student.

Public town halls are scheduled for:

October 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Beachwood High School Community Room

November 6, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Beachwood High School Community Room



AWARD-WINNING DISTRICT

- ★ **Rated Five Stars** on 2024 Ohio School Report Card
- ★ **Step Up to Quality Gold-Rated** program for Fairmount Early Childhood Center
- ★ **Best Community for Music Education** award winner for 20 consecutive years
- ★ **BHS senior Chengyu Li selected** as U.S. Presidential Scholar semifinalist
- ★ **Local, state, and national award-winning** extracurriculars and athletics programs

Magic School AI Launched in Beachwood Schools

To help prepare students for a future where Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills are an integral part of daily life, Beachwood City Schools has launched MagicSchool, a generative AI platform tailored specifically for education. Staff have been trained to use the platform's wide range of tools to create engaging learning experiences to help meet student needs. MagicSchool also provides a host of innovative features for students, including building their own chatbots, creating skits, engaging in discussions with authors and historical figures, and receiving personalized tutoring.



Parent Affinity Groups

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, Beachwood's Parent Affinity Groups continued to make a strong impact by advancing intercultural awareness across the district. These groups provide meaningful opportunities for families and the community to engage with one another. Below is a summary of last year's events, along with a preview of upcoming programs for 2025-2026.

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the **African American Affinity Group** hosted a Bags of Kindness donation drive. Beachwood staff and community members came together on January 19 and assembled 500 care bags for The City Mission of Cleveland. Each bag included essential items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wipes, lip balm, pocket tissues, hats, socks, gloves, and pads.

The **Chinese Family Affinity Group** hosted the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival. A cherished occasion for family reunions and joyful gatherings, families and friends gathered to enjoy cultural performances, a mooncake tasting station, and a tea bar. Guests took part in hands-on activities, including Chinese calligraphy, face painting, and paper cutting. The event showcased the warmth and beauty of Chinese culture under the glow of the autumn moon.

The **Hispanic and Latino Affinity Group** hosted a celebration of Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month where attendees explored Latin American history and geography through an exciting trivia game, sampled traditional foods, and took part in salsa and merengue dance lessons. The event highlighted the culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities throughout the country in science, politics, arts, education, sports, and more.

The **Indian American Family Affinity Group** hosted a vibrant Holi celebration. Known as the Festival of Colors, Holi marks the arrival of spring and symbolizes the victory of good over evil. Attendees enjoyed traditional Indian foods, played with colorful powders (gulal) as a gesture of goodwill and friendship, and danced to upbeat Indian music. Student volunteers also engaged children in creative Holi activities.



Affinity Group Events Calendar 2025-2026

- Oct. 4, 2025** Chinese Affinity Group Mid-Autumn Festival
- Oct. 12, 2025** Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month Celebration
- Nov. 2, 2025** Diwali Celebration
- Jan. 19, 2026** MLK Day of Service
- Feb. 15, 2026** Lunar New Year Celebration
- March 20, 2026** Eid al-Fitr Celebration
- April 12, 2026** Neurodiversity Celebration

START OR JOIN an affinity group ▶



The **Muslim Affinity Group** hosted an Eid al-Fitr celebration, which marks the end of Ramadan and is also known as the Festival of Breaking Fast. The event featured a variety of activities, food, a henna artist, and face painting for children. The Muslim Affinity Group continues to grow and is excited to host this celebration again next school year.

The **Neurodiversity Family Network** hosted an open skate event at Gilmour Academy Ice Arena in March, where families had the opportunity to learn about Gliding Stars of Northeast Ohio's adaptive skating program. The event welcomed more than 110 attendees of all abilities for an evening of skating, dinner, and laughs. The group also hosts monthly peer-led support groups to connect caregivers or neurodivergent students and organizes educational workshops featuring guest speakers.

FINANCIALS

Chagrin Highlands Settlement

The Beachwood City School District and Warrensville Heights City School District reached a settlement regarding the Chagrin Highlands development project. The issue dates back to 1997 when an agreement was approved by the two districts regarding tax revenue sharing from the portion of the Chagrin Highlands located within the city of Beachwood.

The settlement provides closure to a lengthy dispute and avoids the uncertainty and expense of further legal proceedings. Under terms of the settlement, Beachwood City Schools received \$12 million in the short-term, followed by three annual payments of \$5 million scheduled for June 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Beachwood and Warrensville also agreed to share certain professional development programs with each other beginning in September of 2025 and continuing each year through the 2027-2028 school year. These experiences will be meaningful learning opportunities for staff in both districts.

Key Uses of Settlement Funds:

Maintain Low Taxes and Ensure Future Financial Stability

A portion of the settlement will be used to ease the tax burden on Beachwood residents and businesses by reducing future bond millage increases. In addition, the district will try to use these funds to extend its operating levy cycle even longer than originally planned.

Ongoing Capital Improvements

A portion of the funds will be allocated to the district's Capital Improvement Fund, which will allow the district to proceed with projects that maintain and enhance the quality of district facilities and infrastructure.

Managing Health Care Costs

The district will use a portion of the settlement to manage rising health care costs, as well as to support the district's future operating budgets.

FINANCIAL AWARDS



Auditor of State Award

Beachwood City Schools once again received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from Auditor of State Keith Faber's office. The prestigious award places the district among the top 4% of 6,000 public schools and government entities recognized for a clean audit in fiscal year 2024.



Moody's Credit Rating

Beachwood City Schools has a long-standing Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service, which is the highest rating possible. Moody's assigns this rating based on the district's strong financial position, including strong financial reserves, highly regarded academics and stable enrollment, and consistent community support for operating levies and bond referendums.



Government Finance Officers Association Award

Beachwood City Schools has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.



Star Rating System - Monitoring Transparency in Government

Beachwood City Schools received a four-star rating on the State of Ohio Auditor's Star Rating System. This is the highest designation for the award. StaRS is a rating system used by the Auditor of State's office to rate how well school districts follow Sunshine Law requirements related to public records.

Comparative Analysis: Receipts & Disbursements

The Financial Activity Statement below is shown on a cash basis for the District's General Fund. This type of schedule provides a summary of the receipts received by the District compared to the disbursements paid by the District. Four years of financial activity is provided so that you can see the changes over time in the District's receipts and disbursements.

Receipts	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
Property Taxes	\$34,270,342	\$31,470,811	\$31,827,167	\$30,918,715
State Aid - Unrestricted Foundation	2,134,030	1,470,317	999,037	1,035,803
State Aid - Restricted Foundation	932,221	745,910	826,008	870,264
State Aid - Homestead & Rollback Reimb.	1,815,149	1,767,918	1,762,037	1,752,152
Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	285,722	1,073,342	1,934,284	469,039
Interest Income	1,702,182	1,316,035	824,947	226,156
Other Receipts	12,227,890*	333,001	500,268	94,818
Advances & Transfers	0	100,000	0	36,647
Total Receipts	\$53,367,536	\$38,277,334	\$38,673,748	\$35,403,594
Disbursements	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
Salaries & Wages	\$24,578,356	\$23,958,871	\$22,298,374	\$21,141,002
Fringe Benefits	8,167,368	7,811,561	7,212,117	6,770,328
Purchased Services	5,430,521	5,903,446	5,168,971	4,335,183
Supplies & Materials	1,496,116	1,196,006	1,183,984	1,032,364
Capital Outlay	379,476	644,610	929,428	309,391
Other Disbursements	898,611	888,682	834,863	867,953
Advances & Transfers	12,876,764*	762,127	718,378	420,536
Total Disbursements	\$53,827,212	\$41,165,303	\$38,346,115	\$34,876,657
Receipts Over (Or Under) Disbursements	-\$459,676	-\$2,887,969	\$327,633	\$526,937

* The increase in receipts and advances/transfers for FY 2024-25 was due to the Chagrin Highlands settlement with Warrensville Heights (see page 8).

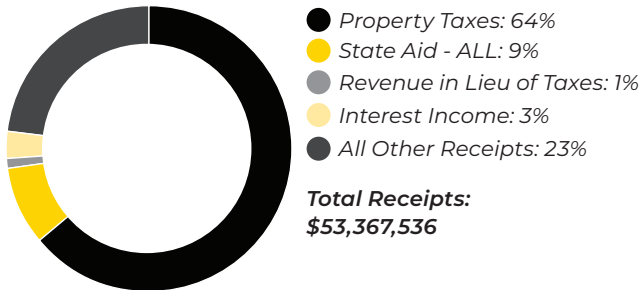
Comparative Analysis: Outstanding Debt at Year End - All Funds

The chart below captures all of the District's long-term debt obligations and reflects the final pay-off dates. The chart is broken down between Bonded Debt and All Other Debt. Bonded Debt is paid for from dedicated tax levies that have been approved by the voters in prior years. All other debt is paid for by other resources of the District's General Fund or Permanent Improvement Fund.

Outstanding Debt	Maturity Date	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
Bonded Debt					
2010 - Qualified School Construction Bonds	December 1, 2026	\$2,480,000	\$3,720,000	\$4,960,000	\$6,200,000
2014 - Refunding Bonds	December 1, 2022	0	0	0	89,966
2021 - Refunding	December 1, 2034	6,270,000	7,205,000	8,115,000	8,620,000
2023 - School Improvements Bonds	December 1, 2060	64,995,000	65,000,000	0	0
Total Bonded Debt Outstanding		\$73,745,000	\$75,925,000	\$13,075,000	\$14,909,966
All Other Debt					
2016 - Certificates of Participation (COPs)	December 1, 2027	\$1,385,000	\$1,820,000	\$2,240,000	\$2,650,000
2020 - Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs)	December 1, 2029	2,884,000	3,441,000	3,991,000	4,535,000
Lease - Copiers & Mailing Machine	2026	51,415	77,575	26,171	46,047
Total All Other Debt Outstanding		\$4,320,415	\$5,338,575	\$6,257,171	\$7,231,047
Total All Debt Outstanding		\$78,065,415	\$81,263,575	\$19,332,171	\$22,141,013

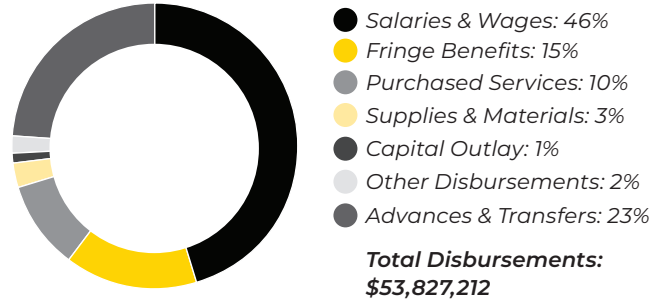
General Fund Receipts

The graph below displays the General Fund's cash basis receipts for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Our receipts are cash received from various sources.



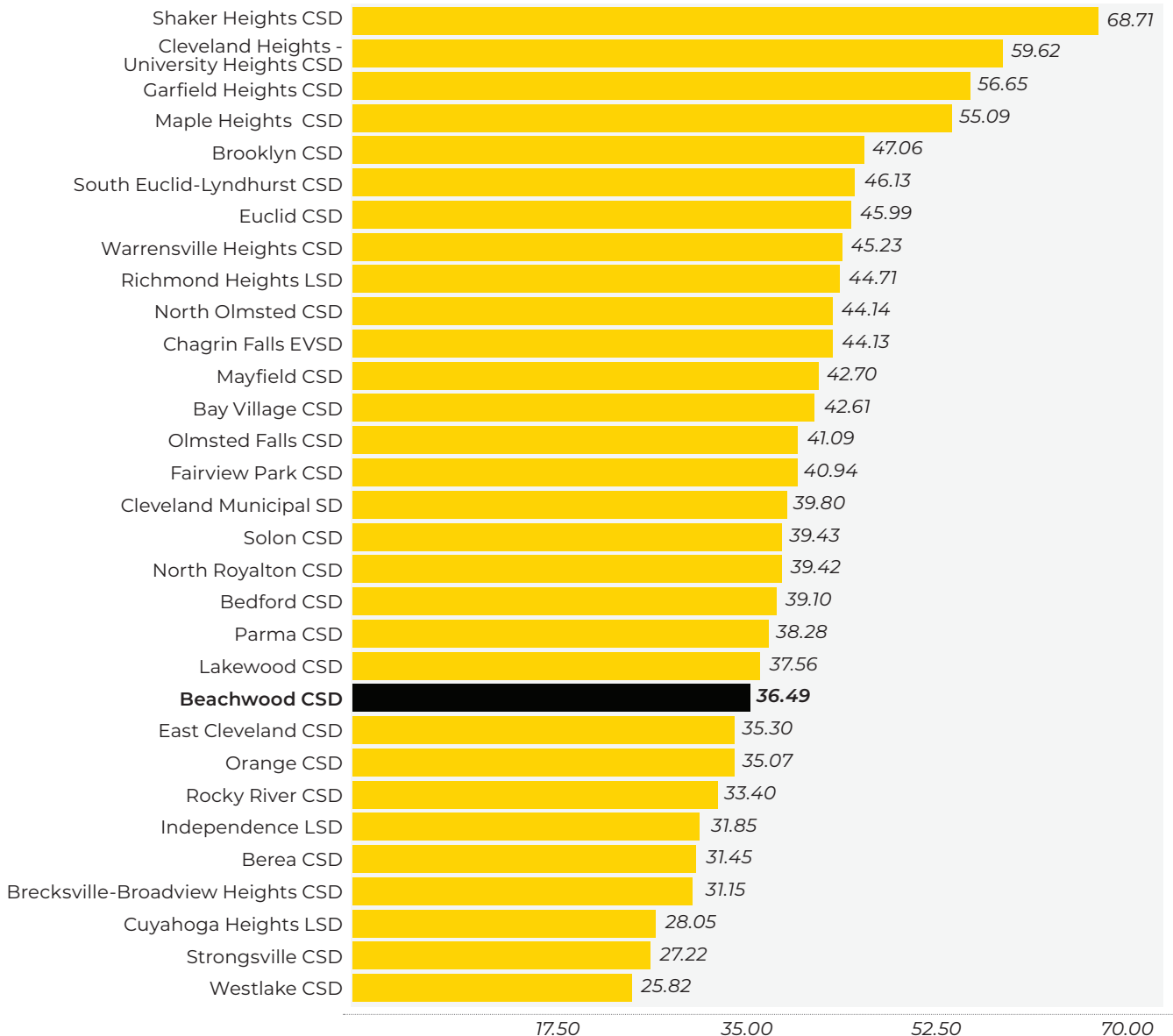
General Fund Disbursements

The graph below displays the General Fund's cash basis disbursements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Our disbursements are paid out to different persons, businesses, and other government entities.



Value for the Local Taxpayer: Low Effective Tax Rate & High Student Achievement

Despite funding challenges, including continued limitations on state funding levels, Beachwood City School District's tax rate remains among the lowest in Cuyahoga County. The chart below reflects all the school districts in Cuyahoga County ranked by their effective tax rate for Tax Year 2024 (highest to lowest).



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS UPDATE



Implementation of *INTO* Math

The first year of implementing *INTO* Math for students in grades K-5 has been a transformative experience focused on establishing a robust foundation in mathematics. Teachers engaged in comprehensive training sessions held in August, November, and January, which equipped them with the necessary skills to effectively deliver the curriculum. Throughout the school year, virtual coaching sessions provided ongoing support, fostering a collaborative environment for educators. *INTO* Math is highly rated by EdReports for its focus and coherence, rigor and mathematical practices, and instructional supports and usability.

The program emphasizes a student-centered approach, prioritizing collaborative learning and differentiation to meet diverse student needs. Central to its methodology is the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (CPA) learning cycle, which aids in developing students' conceptual understanding and problem-solving abilities. This holistic approach aims to enhance students' mathematical skills and confidence, setting them up for future success in their academic journeys.

Parent Advisory Collaboration Teams

P.A.C.T.'s were an invaluable partner in supporting both Bryden and Fairmount throughout the year. Working together, our P.A.C.T. teams provided input and guidance on key topics, including offering important feedback to strengthen PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) initiatives in both buildings. Parents' thoughtful ideas also helped us improve communication with families and ensure that important information was always accessible and clear. Additionally, they provided helpful feedback to the Board on its survey to inform future goals and identify meaningful ways to gather input from community members, staff, and students. We are deeply appreciative of the time, commitment, and constant support of our Bryden/Fairmount P.A.C.T. team, whose work has made a significant positive impact on our schools.

Parents serve a one-year term on the team. Principals will begin assembling the 2025-2026 PACT team in the fall.

If you're interested in serving on a PACT, please snap the QR code to complete the PACT interest form.





Outward Boundless: Exploring the Outdoors

As part of our commitment to hands-on learning and fostering a connection with the natural world, students explore the beautiful grounds of Hilltop and Bryden while learning about the environment around them. Through guided outdoor activities, they observe seasonal changes, study local plant and animal life, and engage in meaningful discussions about the importance of caring for nature. By immersing themselves in nature regardless of the conditions, students build resilience, curiosity, and a deeper appreciation for the world just outside their classroom door.

Beachwood Schools Adopts New PreK-5 Literacy Curriculum

Beachwood Schools has adopted Ready to Advance and Benchmark Advance for preschool to align with Ohio's science of reading standards. The new curriculum is designed to help all students build strong reading and writing skills through systemic, research-based instruction. The selection process for Benchmark Advance involved a collaborative and thorough approach to ensure the best literacy program for Pre-K through grade 5 students. A literacy team, composed of educators, was formed to guide the process. The team developed a detailed review rubric to evaluate four different literacy series. After careful analysis and discussion, the team reached a 100% consensus to adopt Benchmark Advance (K-5) and Ready to Advance (Pre-K). Benchmark was chosen for its alignment with state standards and Science of Reading research, as well as its cohesive structure for developing literacy skills and content knowledge. The program is designed to empower students by building skills across grades, expanding both general and academic vocabulary, and fostering reading, writing, and constructive conversation. Additionally, its culturally responsive content and inclusive resources ensure that the needs of all learners are met, making it a comprehensive and effective choice for literacy instruction.

Feature Fridays at Bryden and Fairmount

Feature Fridays has been a very special opportunity at Bryden and Fairmount that brings our families and communities into the school in meaningful ways. At both buildings, families volunteer to share important aspects of their culture, traditions, and backgrounds with their child's classroom. The pride and joy that families bring to these presentations is inspiring, and the experience creates rich opportunities for students to learn more about one another, fostering appreciation, respect, and curiosity about the many unique and wonderful aspects of each other's lives. We are deeply appreciative and honored for the time our families have spent at our schools to share these special moments with our students and staff.

EXPLORE EXTRACURRICULARS

Bryden



Hilltop



Hilltop and Bryden offer an array of extracurricular activities for students to discover new interests, hone their talents, and build lasting friendships.

Hilltop Love Dance

Hilltop’s annual Love Dance, hosted by the Student Council, is a joyful celebration of family, friendship, and fun. This special event brings our school community together for an evening of dancing, delicious food, and plenty of laughter. This year’s highlights included a 360-degree photo booth, an incredible DJ, and a human-sized snow globe where students posed for pictures and created lasting memories. With the help of the Art Club, the Student Council transformed the gym into a stunning winter wonderland, complete with handmade decorations that added a magical touch to the night.



Thank you, Ms. DeGeorge!

We thank Arianna DeGeorge for her leadership and dedication as principal of Bryden Elementary and Fairmount Early Childhood Center over the past three years. During her time with Beachwood Schools, DeGeorge fostered a culture of collaboration and academic growth that left a lasting impression on students, staff, and families. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her new role as Director of Innovation and Learning in Perry Local Schools.

Welcome, Ms. Nizen!

Beachwood City Schools is pleased to welcome Michelle Nizen as the next principal of Bryden Elementary and Fairmount Early Childhood Center. Nizen joins Beachwood from Aurora City Schools where she served as principal of Leighton Elementary School since 2020. Prior to her time in Aurora, Nizen was principal at Jordak Elementary in the Cardinal School District and an assistant principal at McKinley Elementary in the Fairport Harbor School District. She spent the first 13 years of her career in education as a kindergarten and first grade teacher in Fairport Harbor.



Construction Timeline Update

Significant progress continues to be made on the construction of the new Bryden and Hilltop Elementary Schools. We are grateful for the continued support of our community as these exciting projects move forward and we get closer to welcoming students and staff into these new buildings.

- **January 2026**
Students move into Bryden Elementary School.
- **April 2026**
Students move into Hilltop Elementary School.
- **January 2026 - June 2026**
Demolition and removal of original buildings. Construction of permanent drives, parking lots, blacktops, playgrounds, and fields (require two growing seasons - open Spring 2027).
- **December 2026**
Completion of Hilltop permanent drives, parking lots, blacktops, and playgrounds.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS UPDATE



AAPI Student Group Leads Meaningful Events

Throughout the school year, the Beachwood High School Asian American and Pacific Islanders student group hosted several events to celebrate their culture and promote cultural awareness. In January, the students hosted an event titled **“Exploring Cultural Diffusion: Understanding Indian Diaspora, Philosophy, and Culture in Mainstream America.”** This program highlighted the accomplishments and contribution of Indian Americans in the United States and featured student presentations and a gallery display of infographics highlighting art, history, culture, science, and architecture. In the spring, the group followed up with InnovAsians, an event to celebrate making a difference in Northeast Ohio. AAPI students secured an excellent group of panelists who shared insight into how they were able to achieve success despite facing obstacles and challenges along their journey. Guests also enjoyed music and dance performances along with delicious Asian cuisine. As a part of both events, student participants, both Asian and non-Asian students, wore vibrant Asian traditional garments to provide an authentic visual appeal to the events.



Hope Heroes Program Sets Record

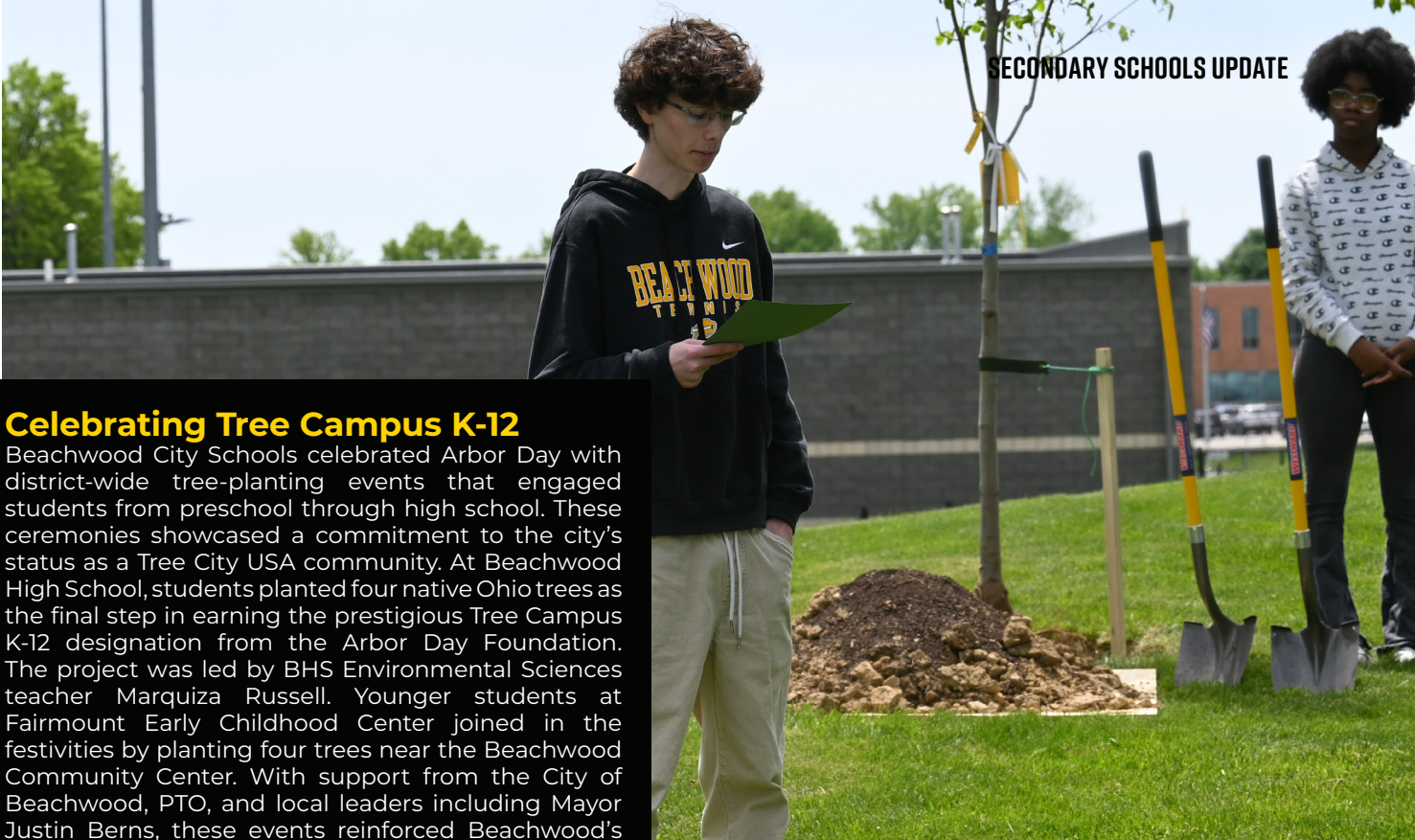
Students from 10 local high schools participating in the Excel TECC Marketing/Junior Achievement program at Beachwood High School raised \$228,000 to support critically ill children through the power of facility and service dogs. This marks the largest total raised by a group in the 19-year history of the Junior Achievement Program. At the grand finale event, the group announced that funds were presented to the following:

- \$50,000 to University Hospitals in support of a Facility Dog for Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital.
- \$50,000 to Akron Children’s Hospital in support of the K9 Facility Dog Program.
- \$50,000 to Wags 4 Kids in support of two Service Dogs.
- \$15,000 to Metro Health in support of the Loving Paws Therapy Dog Program.



Cell Phones Policy in Action: A Look Back at the First Year

To enhance student focus and engagement, Beachwood High School implemented a new cell phone policy for the 2024–2025 school year. This initiative aimed to foster a better learning environment by restricting cell phone and smartwatch use during instructional periods. Students had access to their devices between classes and during lunchtime. This policy aligns with House Bill 250, which mandates public schools to limit student cell phone use during the school day to enhance classroom focus and minimize distractions. Unlike some neighboring districts that completely banned cell phones or required the use of Yondr Pouches, Beachwood aimed to responsibly balance cell phone use and protect classroom instruction with this policy, allowing students a chance to take responsibility for their cell phone use. The vast majority of students followed the policy during the year, with only a small number of confiscations and just three repeat infractions.



Celebrating Tree Campus K-12

Beachwood City Schools celebrated Arbor Day with district-wide tree-planting events that engaged students from preschool through high school. These ceremonies showcased a commitment to the city's status as a Tree City USA community. At Beachwood High School, students planted four native Ohio trees as the final step in earning the prestigious Tree Campus K-12 designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. The project was led by BHS Environmental Sciences teacher Marquiza Russell. Younger students at Fairmount Early Childhood Center joined in the festivities by planting four trees near the Beachwood Community Center. With support from the City of Beachwood, PTO, and local leaders including Mayor Justin Berns, these events reinforced Beachwood's commitment to environmental education and its proud designation as a Tree City USA community.

New Courses

Beachwood High School and Beachwood Middle School continue to introduce new course offerings that reflect the district's commitment to academic excellence. At the high school level, students now have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement African American Studies, Advanced Placement Art History, and Art Appreciation. These new classes provide students with a chance to engage in content that fosters a better understanding of the world around them.

The middle school is excited to introduce a new Computer Science course to the Unified Arts rotation. Students will explore foundational coding concepts, problem-solving skills, and real-world applications of technology in a hands-on, engaging environment. This additional course reflects our commitment to preparing students for a digitally connected future.



U.S. Presidential Scholar

Beachwood High School senior Chengyu Li was named one of 621 semifinalists in the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program — and one of just 20 students selected from Ohio. A nomination to this program is among the highest honors a graduating high school senior can receive. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in school and community activities. Li is attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in urban science and planning with minors in computer science and comparative media studies.



CLASS OF 2025

Class size: 103

Graduation rate: 100%

Pursuing post-secondary education: 93%

Enrolling in four-year college: 88%

National Merit Semifinalists: 3

National Merit Commended Scholars: 6

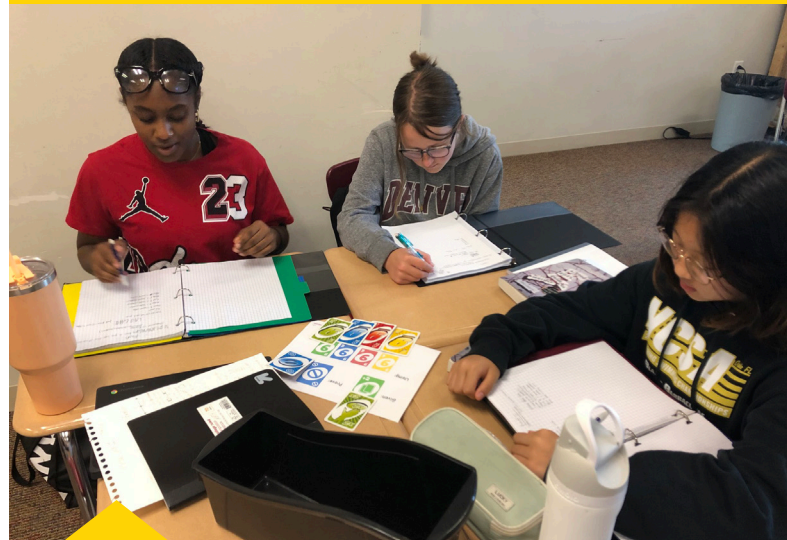
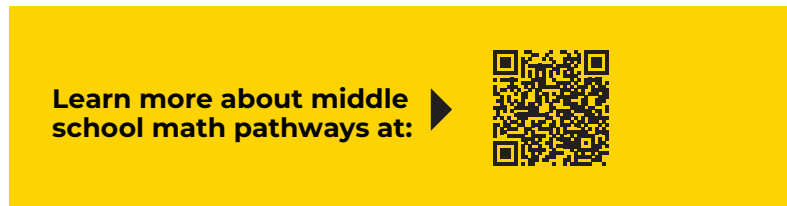
National Merit Recognition Program: 3

Parent Advisory Collaboration Teams

The High School P.A.C.T. consisted of eight parents and met monthly on Wednesdays to discuss various topics. This year, the group focused on creating a Community-Based Networking platform aimed at providing students in grades 8-12 with opportunities for professional growth and exposure to local professionals across various fields, including academia, law, finance, first responders, healthcare, communication, technology, and the arts. As part of this initiative, the team created a LinkedIn space where students were able to connect with businesses for internships, senior projects, and other career-related opportunities. The Middle School P.A.C.T. hosted a series of meetings throughout the year on topics suggested by families, including school safety, social media, and home-school communication. Members also played a key role in developing this year's Board of Education Survey, which served as an important tool for gathering community input to help guide the future direction of our schools.

Parents serve a one-year term on the team, beginning in January. Principals will begin assembling the 2025-2026 PACT team in the fall.

If you're interested in serving on a PACT, please snap the QR code to complete the PACT interest form.



Math Acceleration @ BMS

Nearly a third of Beachwood Middle School students are enrolled in accelerated math courses, placing them on a path to earn up to three years of high school math credit - including Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2 - by the end of 8th grade. Teachers work closely with students, families, and school counselors throughout middle school to ensure each learner is appropriately challenged and supported.

Stop the Hate Finalists

Beachwood Middle School students Farai Chiunda and Abby Gourley were named finalists in the 2025 Stop the Hate Contest. The Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate contest encourages personal storytelling to build empathy and understanding in students in grades 6-12. Through this program, students explore issues of discrimination, bullying, and hate while learning how to create positive change in their communities.



Fall Season

The fall sports teams set new records and achieved impressive results. The boys soccer team captured its fourth straight Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC) Metro Division title and advanced to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) state semifinals, a first for any sport at Beachwood. The team, which went 19-2-2, set a record for most goals in a season with 105. Grant Keilin was named the Division IV Player of the Year and an All-American, while head coach Brian Greene was named CVC Coach of the Year and Greater Cleveland Coach of the Year.

The boys and girls cross country teams both finished fourth in the CVC as Sasha Kheyfets advanced to the OHSAA state championships and finished 51st overall. The girls soccer team went 11-5-1 and had six players earn all-district honors, while the girls tennis team posted a 15-7 record and finished third in the CVC.

The volleyball team won 10 matches as Gianna Preston earned second team All-CVC honors, while the boys golf team finished third at the CVC Metro Division postseason tournament. Senior Jonathon Owens led a youthful Bison football squad and signed to continue his career at Capital University.



★ *All-American* ★

FALL INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Golf

First Team All-CVC
Lucius Venditti

Cross Country

OHSAA Championships
Sasha Kheyfets, 51st Place

First Team All-CVC

Sasha Kheyfets, Junbo Wang

Volleyball

Second Team All-District Honors
Gianna Preston

Third Team All-District Honors

Casie Baker

Honorable Mention

All-District Honors
Miriam Aschkenasy,
Sadie Barnholtz, Ela Sasmaz

Football

All-District Honors
Johnathon Owens

Tennis - Girls

CVC Honors
Charlotte Doughty, Amy Zhou

Soccer - Girls

First Team All-District Honors
Lilah Droe, Marley Readance,
Londyn Travis

Honorable Mention

All-District Honors
Julia Bravo, Lexi Jaffe,
Jocelyn Owens

First Team All-CVC

Lilah Droe, Londyn Travis

Soccer - Boys

Scholar All-American
Grant Keilin

All-American Honors

Grant Keilin (Fall All-American
by United Soccer Coaches)

All-Ohio Honors

Grant Keilin (First Team and
Division IV Player of the Year)

First Team All-District Honors

Grant Keilin (First Team and
Player of the Year), Kyle Bennett

Honorable Mention

All-District Honors
Jose Agudelo, Asher Gearity,
Dan Park, Leo Wang, Jaycob Zabell

First Team All-CVC

Grant Keilin (Player of the Year),
Kyle Bennett, Asher Gearity,
Daniel Park, Leo Wang



Winter Season

The winter sports programs put together many memorable performances on the biggest stage. Junior Caleb Greenwood made history at the OHSAA State Wrestling Championship by capturing the state title in the Division III 150 pound bracket. He became the first wrestling state champ at Beachwood since 2014 and the 19th in program history.

In the pool, the Bison finished as the most successful team in program history, placing in seven events at the state meet and finishing in fourth place overall. The 200-medley relay team of Colin Elwell, Derek Fan, Kevin Zhang, and Ben Keyerleber recorded a state runner-up finish and helped the team break nine school records. Head coach Brad Burget was named the CVC Coach of the Year. The girls basketball team went 13-10, marking its best finish since 2014-15. Senior Goldi Aschkenasy was a first team all-district selection after leading the state in blocked shots across all divisions with 4.2 per game.

The boys and girls indoor track and field teams delivered standout performances at the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coach Indoor State Championships with eight podium finishes. The girls 4x200 relay team of K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Marley Readance, Meena Abdul-Basser, and Kyrsten Ginn claimed the state title, while Abdul-Basser finished as the runner-up in the 400-meter dash. On the boys side, Luke Warner placed second in the long jump.

Head coach Pete Priola completed his first season leading the boys basketball team, while the middle school seventh grade boys basketball team won the CVC Championship, marking the first middle school conference title since 2019.

WINTER INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Basketball - Boys

First Team All-CVC
Jayden Koonce

Swimming & Diving

OHSAA All-Ohio - Top 16 at
OHSAA State Championships
Colin Elwell, Derek Fan, Ben Keyerleber,
Sam Park, Kevin Zhang

All-District

Colin Elwell, Derek Fan, Ben Keyerleber,
Kevin Zhang

First Team All-CVC

Scarlett Adler, Ethan Dong, Colin Elwell,
Derek Fan, Kendall Finley, Ben Keyerleber,
Karina Krishnan, Sam Kuenzler,
Johnathon Owens, Sam Park,
Alma Saltzman, Maria Zarjetskiy,
Kevin Zhang

Basketball - Girls

First Team All-District
Goldi Aschkenasy

Second Team All-District
Zoe Walters

Honorable Mention All-District

Marley Readance

Wrestling

State Champion OHSAA State
Championships (150 pounds) - All-Ohio
Caleb Greenwood

OHSAA District Champion

Caleb Greenwood

OHSAA District Qualifiers

Mikael Edwards, Caleb Greenwood,
Ben Linick

First Team All-CVC

Caleb Greenwood, Solomon Miklowski

Indoor Track

OATCCC State Indoor
Track & Field Place Winners

2nd place, long jump: Luke Warner

1st place, 4x200 relay: K'Dyn Harris-Tate,
Marley Readance, Meena Abdul-Basser,
Kyrsten Ginn

2nd place, 400-meter dash:
Meena Abdul-Basser

4th place, 200-meter dash: Levi Turell

5th place, 200-meter dash:
Meena Abdul-Basser

5th place, 4x800 relay: Henrik Burda,
Junbo Wang, Dirck Van Tassel,
Peter Adobamen

8th place, 4x400 relay: Levi Turell,
Braylon Moultrie, Henrik Burda,
Peter Adobamen

8th place, 800-meter run:
Peter Adobamen

Spring Season

The Bison track and field team made their mark on the state stage with historic performances. Headlining the season was the girls 4x200-meter relay team of K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Marley Readance, Meena Abdul-Basser and Kyrsten Ginn who sprinted to a Division II State Championship. The same quartet - with support from alternate Ambyr Paul - finished as the state runner-up in the 4x100-meter relay. Individually, Abdul-Basser earned a third place finish in the 400-meter run and finished 11th in the 200-meter dash, while Ginn placed eighth in the state in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. On the boys side, Levi Turell concluded his career with a 12th place finish in the 400-meter run. Both the boys and girls teams captured Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC) titles, marking the fifth straight conference title for the boys and third straight for the girls.

Senior Josh Rosenblitt concluded his career as one of the most accomplished baseball players in program history. He set the BHS career records for wins (20), strikeouts (343), ERA (1.08), innings pitched (201), was a three-time first team all-conference selection, and concluded his career with a spot on the Honorable Mention All-Ohio team.

The boys tennis doubles team of Joseph Mo and Ari Synenberg led the Bison this spring with a fourth place finish at sectionals, qualifying the duo for the district tournament. As a team, the Bison placed fourth at the Chagrin Valley Conference tournament.

The softball team finished fourth in the Chagrin Division as Lily Grover earned first team all-conference honors.



SPRING INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Softball

First Team All-CVC
Lily Grover

Baseball

First Team All-CVC
Josh Rosenblitt

Tennis - Boys

District Qualifiers
Joseph Mo, Ari Synenberg

Track & Field

OHSAA State Qualifiers
Meena Abdul-Basser, Kyrsten Ginn, Ambyr Paul, Marley Readance, K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Levi Turell

OHSAA State Place Winners

1st place, 4x200-meter relay:
K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Marley Readance, Meena Abdul-Basser, Kyrsten Ginn

2nd place, 4x100-meter relay:
K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Marley Readance, Meena Abdul-Basser, Kyrsten Ginn, Ambyr Paul

3rd place, 400-meter dash: Meena Abdul-Basser

8th place, 100-meter dash: Kyrsten Ginn

8th place, 200-meter dash: Kyrsten Ginn

Regional Qualifiers

Meena Abdul-Basser, Peter Adobamen, Henrik Burda, Kyrsten Ginn, Morgan Jackson, Siena James, Ambyr Paul, Marley Readance, K'Dyn Harris-Tate, Levi Turell, Dirck Van Tassel, Junbo Wang

First Team All-CVC

Sydney Anderson, Meena Abdul-Basser, Kyrsten Ginn, Siena James, Ambyr Paul, Marley Readance, K'Dyn Harris-Tate

Drama Club Stages Two Productions

The Bison Drama Club had a standout year, staging major musical productions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in the fall and *Shrek The Musical* in the spring. Each show featured impressive performances from a cast and crew of more than 30 students from the high school and middle school who took on roles ranging from lead characters to stage crew and lighting.



The Beachcomber

Beachwood High School's award-winning newspaper *The Beachcomber* was once again honored for its outstanding achievements at the Ohio Scholastic Media Association conference. The newspaper earned a First Class rating and the *bcomber.org* website was selected as All-Ohio. The talented team also brought home 31 individual awards, including 13 Superior ratings and 14 Excellents. In addition, rising senior Lyndia Zheng, who will serve as Editor-in-Chief this year, was selected to attend the Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference in Washington, D.C., in late June. The five-day summer program brings together one high school junior from each state for a skill-building, network-growing, life-changing experience that gives students a head start on their futures. She is the first BHS student to ever be selected for this program.



From Nashville to Spain - High School Musicians Shine

Beachwood students showcased their musical talents around the world with two performance tours this year. Members of the high school orchestra traveled to Spain, where they performed three concerts and explored the rich musical and cultural heritage of Toledo, Granada, Ronda, Seville, Cordoba, and Madrid. A highlight of the trip was a workshop with violinist Maureen Choi. Band members took a spring break trip to Nashville, which included performances at the National Museum of African American Music and Dollywood, a clinic at Tennessee State University, and attending a "Soul of Motown" show at the Grand Majestic Theater. The band students enjoyed recording sessions at the Historic RCA Studio B and composed their own song alongside Meghan Linsey (winner of NBC's *The Voice*, 2015) through the Inside Tracks program at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.



Mathletes Rank Among Nation's Best

Students in Beachwood's Mathcounts Club had an outstanding year, earning top honors in multiple prestigious math competitions. Under the guidance of advisor Amy Hazelton, students placed among the best in Ohio and the nation in MathLeague, Mathcounts, AMC 8, and Mathcon. Highlights included a first-place state finish for the seventh grade MathLeague team, top 1% national scores on the AMC 8, and multiple medals at Mathcon Nationals in Chicago. Sixth grader Kaiyi Gao earned a Gold Medal, and eighth grader Priyasha Ghosal won first place in the Mathcon Game of 24.

Robotics Has Strong Showing at Nationals

Beachwood High School's Robotics Team 695 capped off an exceptional 2024-2025 season by competing at the World Championships in Houston, Texas, after qualifying through a regional win in Cleveland. Beachwood finished 16th in its division and advanced to the elimination rounds, finishing in eighth place. The team's final season ranking was 103rd out of 3,690 teams worldwide and they returned home from nationals ready to build on their success next season. The team also earned the Innovation in Control Award during a regional competition in Rochester.

High School Science Olympiad Team Places Fourth in State

The Beachwood High School Science Olympiad team delivered strong performances throughout the school year, culminating with an impressive fourth place finish at the state tournament that was contested at The Ohio State University. Among their highlights was a first-place finish in the newly introduced Material Science event, which the team tackled through extensive research and dedication. Overall, the team earned top-five finishes in six events, reflecting months of teamwork and preparation.



Superior Ratings and Top Awards for Middle School Musicians

The Beachwood Middle School seventh and eighth grade Band and Orchestra showcased their musical talents at the Cedar Point Music in the Parks by earning top honors for their performances. Each ensemble performed three pieces of music for a panel of two expert adjudicators who judged the ensembles based on tone, intonation, rhythm, and technique. The seventh and eighth grade Orchestra received a Superior Rating, first place overall, and the title of Best Overall in string orchestras. The seventh and eighth grade Band earned an Excellent Rating and fourth place in concert bands.



BHS Computer Science Club Wins Hyland Hackathon

Five Beachwood High School Computer Science Club students took first place at the Hyland Hackathon, a coding competition that brought together students on 20 teams from across Northeast Ohio. Juniors Tony Zheng, Leo Wang, Dotan Dana, Shamith Murthy and Alex Rabochii won the competition with their app, Medley, an AI-powered prescription tracker designed to help users manage their medications. The app allows users to upload prescriptions by taking a photo, which is processed using OpenAI. Users can then review the information and integrate it with Google Calendar for medication reminders.

Destination Imagination at Globals

Four Beachwood Destination Imagination teams had the opportunity to compete at the Global Finals in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 22-25. The young innovators competed with more than 600 other teams from around the world, culminating a year of creative challenges in science, technology, engineering, arts, and community service. Led by advisors Tara Warner and Shelly Lewis, Beachwood sent two middle school and two Hilltop teams to Globals this year. O.A.T.S., a seventh grade team, earned an exceptional sixth place finish out of 43 teams in Improvisational. DI3, a sixth grade team came in 20th place out of 43 teams in Improvisational. Living Dangerous, a fifth grade team, came in 17th place out of 33 teams in Engineering, while a fourth grade team, Hagejochair, placed 24th in Engineering.

EXPLORE
EXTRACURRICULARS

Beachwood High School



Beachwood Middle School



OUR DEDICATED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND ALUMNI MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS EVERY DAY AND REMAIN THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Beachwood Athletic Boosters

The Beachwood Athletic Boosters promotes the growth and success of all student-athlete participants in middle school and high school programs, as well as the school-based youth sports teams. The Boosters encourages community spirit and aids in the support of special projects for athletic teams and facilities. The organization generously assists with funding team trips, clinics, and camps. The Boosters also sponsors spirit T-shirts for new kindergarten students, spiritwear and giveaways, championship team gear, and senior scholarships.

Band and Drill Team Boosters and Friends of the Beachwood Orchestra

Our nationally recognized music program would not be what it is without the support of the Beachwood Band and Drill Team Boosters and Friends of the Beachwood Orchestra. The Beachwood Band and Drill Team Boosters assists and supports the activities of the band program in grades three through 12. Working closely with the program's directors, the organization provides volunteer assistance for band events and funding for scholarships, awards, and other items and services that benefit students participating in band. Friends of the Beachwood Orchestra (FOBO) collaborates with the Beachwood School District orchestra staff to help support orchestra members in grades three through 12. FOBO raises funds through annual memberships and fundraisers to purchase concert and event necessities, sponsor orchestra trips, bring in guest clinicians, and award a yearly senior scholarship.

Beachwood Schools PTO

The Beachwood Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) connects families to our schools and recognizes the incredible work of our staff to educate and inspire students on a daily basis. With events as varied as the PTO Read-a-Thon, the October Trunk-or-Treat event, class parties and field days to career days and After-Prom coordination for older students, there are plenty of opportunities for families to volunteer. These events foster a sense of community in our schools and support scholarships, educational materials, and staff appreciation initiatives. During the 2024-2025 school year, the PTO awarded five scholarships to deserving members of the Class of 2025.



Mia Kovalsky



Robert Ristau

Hometown Heroes

In May, two members of our school community were honored as Hometown Heroes by the City of Beachwood and the Beachwood Historical Society:

- Mia Kovalsky, Special Education Assistant
- Robert Ristau, Sixth Grade Science Teacher

Beachwood Schools congratulates these inspiring individuals on their well-deserved recognition!

ALUMNI

Beachwood Schools Foundation

The Beachwood Schools Foundation has been instrumental in fostering educational excellence through a variety of impactful projects this past school year.

- Continued to fill the Bison Book Machine at Bryden to continue inspiring a life-long love of reading.
- Hosted the first-ever Community Book Club, reading *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and gathered for a dialogue led by students.
- Sponsored the Beachwood High School AAPI Club for InnovAsians, a night celebrating Asian Americans shaping Northeast Ohio's creative scene.
- Hosted the Second Annual Tailgate & FUNdraiser, which empowers the Foundation to invest in teachers, students and innovative projects at Beachwood Schools.

Beyond enhancing educational programs across the District, the Foundation's core mission is to secure funds from individuals, families, and corporations to provide annual scholarships and manage more than two dozen funds. This year alone, the Foundation awarded nearly \$40,000 to graduating seniors. The Beachwood Schools Foundation is a 501(c)3 philanthropic organization administered by a volunteer board of directors from the Beachwood community. Interested in creating a scholarship for a loved one or favorite faculty member? Contact beachwoodschooldfoundation@gmail.com.



Marc Joseph Memorial Bench

Family and friends of Marc Joseph, who tragically passed away from cancer as a Beachwood Middle School student in 1985, gathered in May to rededicate his memorial in front of the Beachwood High School athletic complex entrance. During the rededication, Beachwood Director of Athletics Ryan Peters spoke about his childhood friendship with Marc. Many thanks to Marc's parents - Paul and Cookie - and the entire Joseph family for the beautiful new memorial benches for the entire community to enjoy.

Domenick Iammarino Wrestling Room

In September, Beachwood Schools proudly dedicated its newly renovated wrestling room in honor of legendary coach Domenick Iammarino. The celebration included a brunch with remarks from alumni, former state champions, placewinners, and city leaders, followed by a tour of the updated space, which includes a historical timeline, commemorative mural, and alumni board. Coach Iammarino was recognized for his 60 years of service during which he helped produce 13 state champions and mentored generations of student-athletes. In addition to his coaching legacy, Coach Iammarino dedicated 56 years as a Beachwood high school educator, teaching business, typing, driver's education, and serving as a special education assistant.



GET INVOLVED

Beachwood
Athletic
Boosters



Beachwood
Band and Drill
Team Boosters



Beachwood PTO



Beachwood
Schools
Foundation



Friends of the
Beachwood
Orchestra





**DEVELOPING INTELLECTUAL ENTREPRENEURS
WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE**

