

Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community Newsletter

Spring
2026



Strengthening the Connection Between Our Schools and Community

Superintendent's Update



**Superintendent
Jeffrey D. Harrison**

Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,

The signs of springtime and warming temperatures are upon the community and all of Northeast Ohio. The community needs only to look to the former Hilton Elementary School site to see renewed signs of progress and activity that often accompanies the break in the weather. Phase II of the Campus Master Plan is already unfolding, with groundbreaking

on the new drive that will connect Mill Road to the heart of the High School and Middle School campus areas. Features of the new thoroughfare will include a paved roadway where the current drive is located on Mill Road, continue up the hill behind the Board of Education office to a roundabout, and connect to the existing roadway near the baseball and softball fields. The intended purpose of this Phase II drive of the campus master plan is to improve the safety of student pedestrians, decrease traffic congestion on Mill Road during before and after school times, and to enhance the overall aesthetics and connectivity of the campus. Please look for more updates in the near future, and continued enhancements of the campus!

Strategic Plan-Inspired Outreach and Citizen Participation

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools prioritized its mission to rigorously educate, boldly empower, and collaboratively engage our stakeholders throughout the community. The purpose of these many methods of communicating is to keep our citizens informed, to create avenues for regular feedback from those we serve, and to ultimately improve the overall student and staff experience here. You can see nearby the upcoming coffee talk and key communicator dates. Parents recently participated in a culture and climate survey, asking respondents to contemplate the overall environment of the BBHCSD, and nearly 500 families participated. This, in addition to the *Ledger and Leader* podcasts, Treasurer Yaniglos' Taxpayer Tuesday social media postings, and more, all result from the district's dedication to our current strategic plan.

Team Horizon Raises More than \$125,000 for Blood Cancer United

Please join the BBHCSD in commending the special efforts of Juniors Madison Lupica, Billy Henning, and Alexa Zetts who raised more than \$125,000 for an important cause: Blood Cancer United's campaign to fight this disease. Leading Team Horizon, these three motivated Bees spearheaded the effort to seek donations through their team's fundraising



BBHHS Juniors Alexa Zetts, Billy Henning, and Madison Lupica led Team Horizon, our district's effort to raise money to fight blood cancer for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

page and made a commitment to positively impacting others' lives. Their ultimate goal was to provide anyone walking this journey with a little hope on their horizon. While their campaign has ended, you can watch the leadership, maturity, and compassion of these students on the *Ledger and Leader*.

More invigorating stories of student accomplishment, achievement, and success are included inside. Thank you for your continued support.

GO BEES!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

Scan Here to Watch
Ledger and Leader Podcast



BEE ENGAGED

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, April 23rd @ Panera in Brecksville



Thursday, May 21st @ Panera in Brecksville

KEY COMMUNICATORS SESSIONS



Wednesday, April 29th at 7 p.m. at BBHMS

Bee Your Best. Bee the Future. Bee One Community.

News from Around the Buildings

These are just a few examples of the types of stories you can read at full length online at www.bbhcscd.org.



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.

MS STEM Classes Build Skills Through Robot Activities

Students in the STEM classes at BBHMS have been busy building a variety of real-world skills through project-based learning activities using VEX clawbots. Working in groups, students began by identifying and understanding the function of the key components of the clawbot, including motors, cables, brain, and controller. Students applied their problem solving and collaborative skills to analyze the behavior of the clawbot to determine the root cause of issues, considering both hardware and software components, while demonstrating persistence in troubleshooting complex issues and working on solutions until they obtain a successful resolution. Once the students developed sufficient knowledge and skills, they began a double elimination bracket class tournament. During the competition, students completed simple challenges such as controlling their team's robot to pick up a small block and place it on top of another bot or pick up a ball and place it inside of a cube. Once the tournament was completed, students then applied the engineering design process with their partner to design, build, and test modifications to their robot. Great job students in preparing for the real world with these practical skills.



BBHMS students applying real world skills during STEM classroom activities and assignments.



Stepping Stone students are learning valuable lessons during the simple activity of play.

Students Learn Through Play at Stepping Stone Preschool

Preschoolers in the classes of Mrs. Kilcher and Ms. Woods have been engaging in various dramatic play stations throughout the school year. The themed explorations have included a kitchen, apple orchard, potion lab, thanksgiving meal prep, Santa's workshop, ice skating rink and during the month of February, a pet clinic! With these hands-on learning activities, the students have found many ways to engage with one another and grow in their language skills and play skills with their classmates. The BBHCSD has learned through its recent survey that the community values real life skill development. These activities demonstrate the district's dedication to doing so at a young age. Stay tuned for more highlights of student learning at Stepping Stone Preschool.

A Magical Trip to the Theater!

Our 3rd graders recently traded their desks for the bright lights of Playhouse Square in Downtown Cleveland! The trip offered a front-row seat to a production of the classic tale, *Wind in the Willows*. Watching the story unfold on stage helped the children see the world through the eyes of the characters, teaching them about different perspectives. By stepping into the theater, students saw how creativity can turn a simple stage into a world of adventure. After the show, the magic continued with a special Q&A session. Our 3rd graders met the actors, asked questions and learned exactly what it takes to bring a story to life. The 3rd grade teachers are so proud of our students for their great questions and their enthusiasm for literature and the performing arts!



Elementary students dressed up and looking sharp for their visit to Playhouse Square's "Wind in the Willows."



Financial Update from Craig G. Yaniglos, Treasurer & C.F.O.

Continued Commitment to Fiscal Strength and Transparency



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.



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

Maximizing Taxpayer Value

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District (BBHCSD) consistently demonstrates that top-tier academic performance does not have to come with the highest price tag. According to recent Cuyahoga County data, BBHCSD ranks 4th in the county with a Performance Index score of 106.8, achieved while maintaining a Residential Effective Millage rate of just 31.17 mills. When compared to peer districts with similar academic performance—such as Solon (39.44 mills) and Chagrin Falls (43.44 mills)—it is clear that BBHCSD provides an incredible value to our taxpayers.

Sound Financial Management

Our district proactively manages finances and maximizes efficiencies. The last time BBHCSD voters approved a levy for new operating money was in 2017. Since then, costs have exponentially increased, yet we continue to stretch every dollar. This stewardship extends to managing our debt; the 2018 bond issue (2.2 mills) will be further reduced from 2.1 to 1.7 mills in the first half of 2027 (**a savings of .4 mills to our taxpayers**). However, due to the mechanisms of HB920 reduction factors, our operating levies do not generate additional revenue as property valuations increase. This often leads to taxpayer frustration, as an overall tax increase (frequently driven by other taxing entities) is mistakenly attributed to the school district.

While we aggressively create efficiencies, the reality of public school funding makes the need for new funds inevitable, as state legislative policies over the past 30 years have created an unsustainable financial model. Currently, the state is funding public education at the lowest levels in history, straining local taxpayers to make up the difference, while the state simultaneously passes down mandates like the Science of Reading, new cybersecurity requirements, and data privacy compliance that require significant resources with little to no state support. Many times, the state offers one-time, limited funds, but then no additional funds to sustain the mandate. This is exactly what has happened with the Science of Reading required implementation.

Property Tax Reform

Local property taxes are the primary funding mechanism not only for public schools but also for our cities, townships, and other local government services. Currently, an initiative by the group Citizens for Property Tax Reform is gathering signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2026 ballot that would abolish all real property taxes in Ohio.

Here in our community, roughly 52% to 53% of your local residential property tax supports BBHCSD, with the remaining 47% to 48% funding Cuyahoga County, your city's municipal operations, first responders, the local library, and the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. According to the state Office of Budget and Management, replacing this local revenue statewide to sustain these community-wide services could require significant alterations to state sales and income tax structures. We will continue to evaluate the potential financial models and keep the community informed.

A New Tax Credit Opportunity: Our SGO

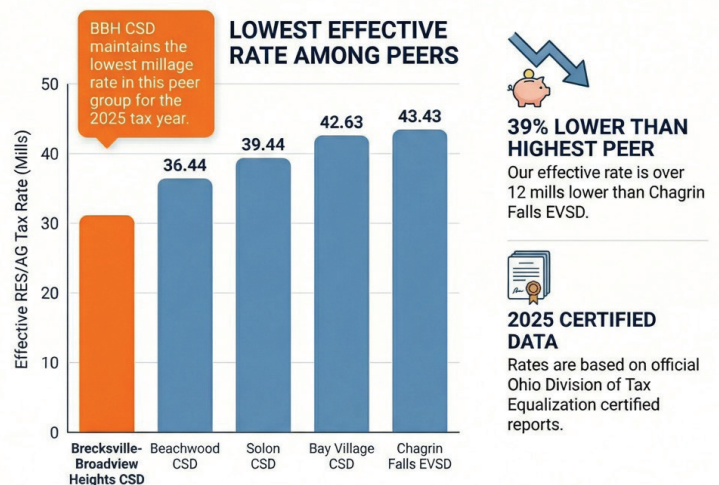
You may have seen the recent buzz in the news about Ohio public schools utilizing a tax credit program originally designed for private schools. We are excited to announce that, through our Community Finance Alliance, BBHCSD is in the final steps of launching our own Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Our community strongly supports this initiative because it is a true win-win: it will help many students and families right here in our district while providing donors with an amazing, dollar-for-dollar tax credit opportunity on their state income taxes. Keep an eye out for more details on how you can participate soon.

BBHCSD remains committed to transparency, excellence, and exceptional financial management. If you have any questions about our district's finances, effective millage rates, or how state policies impact your local tax bill, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at yaniglosc@bbhcsd.org.

Competitive Tax Rates: How We Compare to Peer Districts

Lowest Effective RES/AG Tax Rate Among Peer Districts for the 2025 Tax Year

Based on Ohio Division of Tax Equalization's 2025 Certified Report for Cuyahoga County, representing the Residential/Agricultural/ "effective" tax rates after state-mandated reduction factors are applied.



#NotebookLM

www.bbhcsd.org

Connect with us!



@bbhcsd



@bbhschools

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

Tish Kwiatkowski, Vice President
kwiatkowski@bbhcsd.org

Brad Chase, Member
chaseb@bbhcsd.org

Lisa Galek, Member
galekl@bbhcsd.org

Eva O'Mara, Member
omarae@bbhcsd.org

District Spotlight: BBHHS and BBHMS Unified Sports Athletes

Unified Sports Team Hosts and Participates in Exciting Winter Activities

A busy winter took place for those high school and middle school students participating in Unified Sports. The Hive was buzzing with excitement in January, as BBHHS hosted a Unified Sports basketball tournament on campus with teams from Strongsville, Berea-Midpark, Highland, and Cuyahoga Falls. This highly anticipated annual event provided students with special needs and their student partners to interact, collaborate, and form friendships through a team sport setting. The Bees had a strong 3-1 tournament record, advancing to the championship game, where they lost a close and competitive matchup. Thanks to Ms. Uber, Mr. Sidaway, Ms. Scothon, Mr. DiFrancesco, Mr. Holbinko, and Mr. Backo for their coordination and support, and to Master Pizza and Gioninos for donating lunch to our student athletes and volunteers. The athletic talents and special skills of the BBHMS Unified Sports team were on full display recently at Westlake HS in February, as our very own Bees took the basketball court against the hosting Demons. The team dribbled skillfully, shot the ball accurately, and passed with precision to demonstrate their competitiveness. The BBHCSDD Unified teams at both the High School and Middle School pairs students with special needs along with their peers and athletes from other schools to promote inclusion, teamwork, and friendship. Great job to the BBHMS Unified team participants and coaches. Thank you for your continued support and Go Bees!



www.bbhcsd.org

Connect with us!



@bbhcsd



@bbhschools