



BBCHS
Year in Review

815.937.3707 | www.bbchs.org



2025-26 Year in Review

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School





Principal Letter

At Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our families, community members, Board of Education, and staff who continue to make BBCHS a place of opportunity, excellence, and pride. This past year was filled with remarkable accomplishments across academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership, and service. Our students earned recognition on state and national levels, our extracurricular programs continued to thrive, and BBCHS was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the #1 high school in Kankakee County. These accomplishments reflect the hard work, dedication, and commitment shown every day by our students and staff, along with the strong partnership we share with our community.

We are especially proud of the continued academic growth taking place at BBCHS. This year, we celebrated 52 Illinois State Scholars, the highest total we have had in the last three years, while also earning recognition as a Silver AP Honor Roll school through the College Board. Over the past five years, participation in Advanced Placement courses and exams has grown significantly, creating more opportunities for students to challenge themselves and earn college credit while still in high school. In addition, more students than ever are taking part in dual credit, honors, and career pathway opportunities that are helping prepare them for success beyond graduation.

Beyond the achievements and recognitions, what makes BBCHS truly special is the people who make up our school community. Our teachers, support staff, coaches, sponsors, and administrators continue to build meaningful relationships with students while creating an environment where students feel supported, connected, and encouraged to grow. We are also fortunate to have families and community members who consistently support our students and school programs. Together, we continue to build momentum and expand opportunities for all students, and I am excited about the future of Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and belief in our students and staff. It was a great year to be a Boilermaker!

Dr. Evan Tingley

District Snapshot



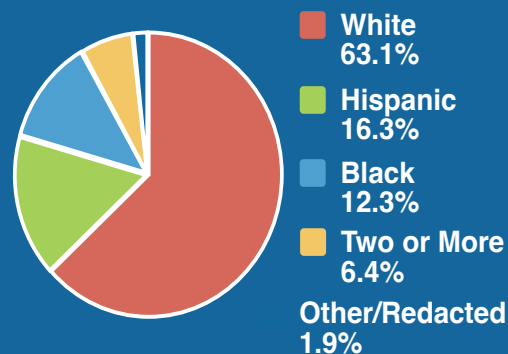
95 %
GRADUATION
RATE

Summative Designation:
COMMENDABLE
SCHOOL

A school that has no underperforming student groups and a graduation rate greater than 67%.

1,817
students

878 students taking enriched or honors classes



218
students taking dual-enrollment



56.3%
of our teachers hold masters degrees or higher



596
Students in AP Classes



STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO
19:1





BBCHS Year in Review

Highlights For The 2025-2026 School Year!

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School celebrated an exceptional year filled with accomplishments across all areas of our school. This year alone, 14 groups and individuals advanced to state-level competitions, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students.

Our Girls Swim team qualified for State and set multiple records, while Kyler Savini represented our Cross Country team at the State meet at Detweiler Park. Eli Swafford qualified for Swim State in the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke, and Elijah Shold advanced to Dive State! Several teams also delivered outstanding performances at State, including Chess, Cheer (2nd place), Dance (12th place), and Unified Red Basketball (2nd place).

In the arts, 10 BBCHS musicians were selected as All-State performers and competed at the ILMEA Conference. On the mats, Kayden Roach qualified for the Wrestling State Finals, joined by Sophia Domont, who made history as the first female athlete from BBCHS to compete at State in Girls Wrestling.

Our Speech team also qualified for State, with Beatrice White placing 16th and the duo of Anna Sikma and Macey Smith earning 18th place. The Boiler Brigade eSports team captured the IHSEA State Championship title, and our Scholastic Bowl team finished in the top 6 at the State Finals and qualified for the Pace National Scholastic Championship!

LyZale Edmon was also recognized at the State level by being named a 6A All-State Football player and by earning 3 medals at the Track & Field State Finals! His teammates contributed to two of these medals in the 4x100 meter and 4x200 meter races, where they broke school records and placed 7th and 8th. The 4x100 meter relay team included Seth Teague, Kyren Edmon, and Brandon Sumrall. In the 4x200 meter relay, the team included Jamir Burt, Brandon Sumrall, and Kyron Birk. Mary Claire Dwyer auditioned against several musicians in Illinois to sing the National Anthem at the IHSA Girls Basketball State Tournament and was chosen! She did an amazing job representing BBCHS on a state-wide scale.

The Ironclad Robotics team competed in the Country Bluff Regional in Winona, Minnesota and was crowned Champions! This victory qualified them to compete in the World Championships in Houston, Texas to compete with teams from all over the world!



U.S. News and World Report

U.S. News & World Report named Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School one of the best high schools nationally! BBCHS is currently ranked 1st in Kankakee County and 160th in Illinois. There are 715 high schools in Illinois and over 24,000 nationally.

Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college. This recognition and improvements are a reflection of the daily dedication of our entire school community. In just three years (2022-23 to 2024-25), our school has made tremendous strides:

County Ranking: #3 -> #1
State Ranking: #231 -> #160
National Ranking #7,489 -> #4,355

Fun Student Experiences!

✓ Cheerleader Competed in Rome

The BBCHS Cheerleading team performed at the Ultimate Xperience Cheer camp hosted by Carl Sandburg High School over the summer. Madison Sinclair was given the opportunity to head to Rome from her performance from this exact camp!

The chance to join Spirit of America cheer team is not available to all of the camp participants, but those who impressed over the four-day camp were selected for a skills showcase on the final day. The judges nominated Madison as a top 10 jumper and tumbler and was also a top 10 overall camp athlete, competing against roughly 400 people.

Sinclair traveled out of the country for the first time to perform in Rome for the New Year's Parade and had a great experience!

✓ Explore.Act.Tell. Program

Our student members of our Bettering Boilers program made 4 submissions to the Explore.Act.Tell. program. This program engages students in grades 6-12 in project-based learning focused on addressing hunger and food insecurity in their communities. Three out of the four groups won, and they received a total of \$3000 in grant money! This money will continue to help them run their food pantry and make it accessible for our students and their families who need it.



We Need YOUR Input!

Let us know your satisfaction with our school with this survey! Use the QR code or follow: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvc2fIRF-Bm3aHtHRJYb503NiT6lgrpw83WEAE47UnsNCmyg/viewform?usp=publish-editor>



2025-26 BBCHS Illinois State Scholars

BBCHS Academic Achievements



Emily Lyle

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Commended Student

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation names selected seniors as Commended Students each year. Commended Students are recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

One of our students, Emily Lyle, was named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist! This is a very prestigious U.S. academic competition for high school students. The National Merit Scholarship Program determined which of the 16,000 Semifinalists met all of the requirements to advance to Finalist standing in this competition, and Emily is one of them!

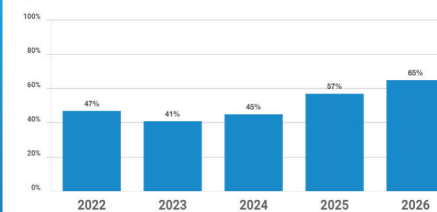
Emily is 1 of 15,000 Finalists across the United States who competed to be a Merit Scholarship winner!



AP Excellence at BBCHS



% OF TOTAL AP STUDENTS WITH SCORES 3+



SCHOOL SUMMARY

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total AP Students	354	523	531	626	592
Number of Exams	573	865	821	1,016	944
AP Students with Scores 3+	168	217	240	357	383
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	47.46	41.49	45.20	57.03	64.70

BBCHS had many academic accomplishments this year including a Silver AP Honor Roll designation and Access Award from College Board, 52 Illinois State Scholars - the most in the last three years, and 123 AP Scholars.

Over the past five years, BBCHS has demonstrated significant and sustained growth in Advanced Placement participation and success. Total AP student enrollment was nearly doubled, increasing from 354 students in 2022 to 592 students in 2025, while the number of AP exams taken has risen from 573 to 944 during the same period. Just as importantly, student achievement has improved alongside access, with 65% of AP students earning scores of 3 or higher in 2026 - the highest level in the 5-year span. This growth reflects strengthened college-going culture, expanded opportunities for students to earn college credit, and intentional academic support. BBCHS remains committed to expanding access to AP coursework for historically underrepresented students by removing barriers, encouraging diverse enrollment, and ensuring that all students are supported to succeed in rigorous academic pathways.

BBCHS has continuously worked to increase AP access among historically underrepresented student populations, including first-generation college-bound students, students receiving free and reduced lunch, and students of color. This focus has yielded a more diverse AP cohort and rising performance across all groups.

In a tradition that reflects community pride in these scores, teachers personally deliver celebratory AP yard signs to students' homes, recognizing their AP accomplishments. These signs not only honor individual effort, but also allow families and neighbors to join in celebrating academic success. It is a joyful moment of recognition that connects achievement with community pride.

These achievements would not be possible without the dedication of BBCHS's AP teaching staff, who blend content mastery with skill development and test readiness. From analytical writing to data interpretation, students are trained in college-level skills that extend beyond test day. Teachers provide targeted preparation while nurturing curiosity, confidence, and resilience in each learner.



Class of 2026



INCubator



Jostin Ramirez 2026 Graduate
Jostin gives his commencement speech at the Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026.



Latiesha Mason and buddy pair Sarah Bouferrache
The buddies excitedly enter the red carpet of Best Buddies Prom ready for a fun night with friends!

The Class of 2026 has made a lasting impact on BBCHS forever. We celebrated their commencement on May 21st on the football field under the lights. Our band played loud, people shared laughs, and our graduates walked the stage to receive their diplomas. Mary Claire Dwyer began the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. We heard from three different senior student speakers, Jostin Ramirez, Derek Otero, and Calvin Kohl, who reminisced about their time as Boilermakers. We also heard a great speech from our very own Principal, Dr. Evan Tingley, as he talked about the pride and tradition of our school. Before the graduates were able to receive their diplomas, our Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Vosberg certified our graduates. As the graduates walked the stage, they received their diplomas from our School Board President, Mr. Jim Patterson and our Vice President, Mrs. Ann Brezinski. It was a great night to celebrate the many accomplishments of the Class of 2026!

Top Schools that seniors are attending:

- KCC - 85
- ONU - 32
- Illinois State University - 15
- University of Illinois - 13
- University of Illinois Chicago - 7

Our INCubator class, taught by Mrs. Heather Johnson, provides collaborative coursework where students learn more about authentic entrepreneurship. These students gain entrepreneurial experience as they build a business throughout the course. They ideate, develop, and iterate their product or service startup to gain investment funds in a final pitch event. Students are guided and mentored by real entrepreneurs and business experts throughout the process. There are cycles of experimentation with developing hypotheses, adapting, learning, and growing combined with foundational business content such as marketing and finance. Students leave this class with a completed Business Model Canvas, competitive analysis, financial model, minimum viable product, pitch deck, future communications plan, and future funding plan.

One of our students this year was lucky enough to present at the Createur Conference and Pitch Competition at Olivet Nazarene University. Elias Vasilakis pitched his business idea alongside 21 other high school contestants from across the region. After presenting his idea and answering questions from four judges, he was selected as one of only four high school students awarded a \$1,000 prize to further develop his business concept!



Elias Vasilakis
Elias and his Drip Stopper idea was an award-winner at the ONU Createur Conference spring 2026.



Student Collaboration
Students enrolled in the INCubator class collaborate with their community mentor, Ty Lewis, on their business idea.



Capitol Hill Day



Two of our BBCHS students, Calvin Kohl and Derek Otero Rivera, were invited to travel to Washington D.C. to learn more and advocate for the Special Olympics. Mrs. Amanda Walker also guided them through this trip and helped spark great conversation among them and members of Congress.

Their goal for this trip was to continue spreading the word about the importance of the Special Olympics and its positive impact on many people's lives, which Calvin and Derek have experienced firsthand by participating in the Special Olympics through BBCHS.

The government currently funds close to \$60 million for the Special Olympics, and our students wanted to encourage the continued generosity of this funding. Thank you, to Calvin, Derek, and Mrs. Amanda Walker for being powerful voices for the Special Olympics, which directly and positively impacts the lives of our students each and every day.

Bears Changemaker Scholarship

Lilly Argyelan was the proud recipient of the Chicago Bears Girls Flag Football Changemaker Scholarship, which was presented to her at Halas Hall for their award dinner! This scholarship was for \$5000 and granted to a senior young lady who plans on playing flag football in college, has at least a 2.75 GPA, has played a minimum of two years in high school, and is involved in community service.

Lilly was a wide receiver and defensive back for our flag football team at BBCHS. She led our team to a fourth-place finish at the 2024 IHSA State playoffs in their inaugural season! She served as both a starting defender and

our team's primary kicker and finished her senior season with 77 tackles, the second-highest total on our team.

She has also earned recognition as an AP Scholar and as a member of the High Honor Roll, National Honors Society, and National Spanish Honors Society. Lilly has also been actively involved in community service through organizations such as the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival Committee, Leo's Club, Youth Council, and Spanish Honors Society, where she has supported outreach efforts and served as a peer advocate and mentor.



American Heart Association

Alexis McCullough, a senior at BBCHS, hosted a Boiler Block for our students and staff. During the session, Alexis shared her personal journey and highlighted her accomplishments as an Eagle Scout and her experiences competing in Miss America-sponsored competitions. Most recently, she was crowned Miss Chicago Teen!

Through the Miss America program, Alexis has the opportunity to advocate for a cause that is meaningful to her. She has chosen to focus on heart health, sharing the importance of taking care of yourself—especially your

heart. This cause is deeply personal, as Alexis lost her father unexpectedly to a heart attack. As a Gold Star daughter, she is passionate about raising awareness and helping others learn how to prevent heart attacks in the future.

Alexis has also been selected as a Teen of Impact for the American Heart Association, making her one of just 10 young people chosen across the state of Illinois. Through this role, her goal is to raise as much awareness and support as possible for heart health.



Ruby Bridges Scholarship

In 1960, Ruby Bridges and five other little girls led the way as they became the first African American students to attend the segregated public schools of New Orleans. Enduring qualification testing and protests, these young champions of racial equity integrated previously all-white elementary schools in isolation for two years as white parents withdrew all their students and school officials covertly continued segregation in defiance of federal court requirements under Brown v. Board of Education to end separate and inherently unequal educational opportunities. The Ruby Bridges Student Leadership and Courage Award is established in recognition of the leadership and courage demonstrated by six-year-old Ruby in the face of adversity and blazing the trail for the millions of African American and students of color who would follow in the on-going effort to ensure equitable educational opportunities in the public education systems of the United States for all of our children.

Two of our BBCHS graduates from the Class of 2025 had the honor of receiving the Ruby Bridges Student Leadership and Courage Award, Myah Crawford and Gavin Kohl! This award is presented to students who demonstrate the power of courage and leadership required to successfully navigate community and school culture and climate to achieve at the

highest levels as an expression of their passion, practice, and persistence. The Ruby Bridges Student Leadership and Courage Award recipient is distinguished in the following ways: demonstrates academic, social, and extracurricular excellence and leadership, and exemplifies racial and cultural consciousness in their school and community racial equity leadership pursuits. Myah and Gavin were both a part of SOAR (Students Organized Against Racism) at BBCHS and partnered with Courageous Conversations to become more educated and have more open conversations about race in our lives today. Gavin explained, "they helped us have those in-depth conversations about race and those difficult conversations between multiple groups of people, and it didn't matter what race or where we came from."

After being a part of this program, Myah reflected on the positive impact that it had on her. "This program didn't just empower me to become a more proactive advocate for social justice, but it really gave me hope - it gave me hope that people from different perspectives and different backgrounds could truly come together and enact change when we are united in one purpose." Now, Myah sees even more of a positive impact as this award will also be helping with the funds for her and Gavin's college education.



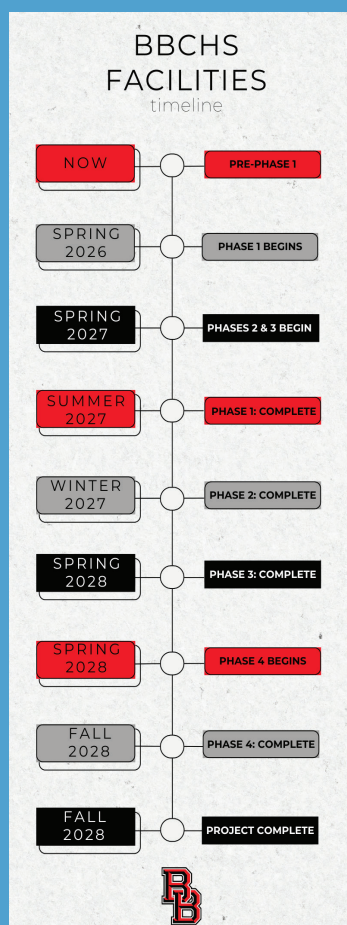
Facilities

Over the past year, the District has made progress advancing the high school facility project designed to better serve students while improving instructional spaces. The project includes approximately 120,000 square feet of new construction and 90,000 square feet of renovations, all focused on bringing students under one roof, modernizing learning environments, expanding access to science laboratories, and creating a redesigned cafeteria and lunch service area that improves both capacity and the overall student experience.

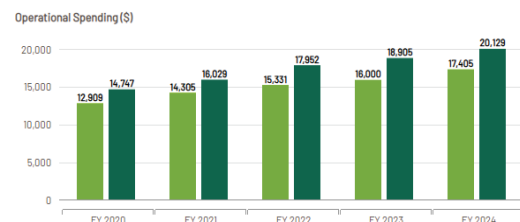
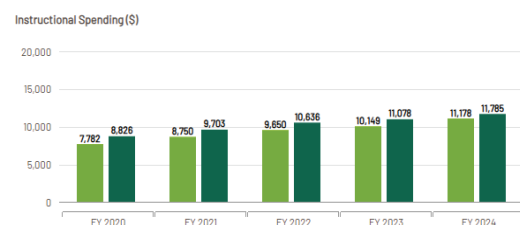
Working in close collaboration with our architect BLDD and construction manager PSI, the District has completed construction documents and successfully advanced through Bid Release #2. These milestones represent a transition from design into execution and reflect a coordinated effort to maintain quality, control scope, and ensure transparency throughout the process. From a financing perspective, the District has sold two of the three planned bonds at a premium, maximizing project funding while remaining consistent with the property tax impact commitments established during the November 2024 referendum. This approach reflects a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and long-term stewardship of taxpayer resources while delivering on the promises made to the community.

The bidding process has also resulted in strong participation from local contractors, with multiple bid packages awarded to the lowest responsible bidders within the region. This outcome supports local employment, keeps construction dollars within the community, and strengthens the regional economy while advancing critical school infrastructure improvements.

Early work has already begun, including the relocation of utility lines in Spring 2026, with major construction activities scheduled to begin this summer. As the project moves into active construction, the District remains focused on its core responsibilities: delivering facilities that best support student learning, honoring its obligation to the community, and maintaining disciplined fiscal management. Ultimately, this project reflects a broader belief that strong schools are foundational to strong communities. Investing in modern, efficient, and student-centered facilities is not only about meeting current educational needs, but also about supporting long-term economic development and community vitality. It is what our students deserve, and what our community has responsibly worked to achieve.



District Finances



Financial Profile: Recognition

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) evaluates school districts each year using various financial indicators, such as fund balances and the expenditures-to-revenue ratio. Districts scoring between 3.54 and 4.00 on the Financial Profile are placed in the highest category of financial strength - Financial Recognition. These districts typically require minimal to no oversight from ISBE. BBCHS earned a score of 4.00, placing it firmly within this top tier of financial stability.

Our district takes pride in its strong history of long-term financial stability. BBCHS is committed to transparency by making all required financial documents publicly available, including the Annual Budget, Annual Financial Report (AFR), and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which offers a detailed look at the District's financial health along with an independent auditor's opinion. We consistently operate below the state average in both instructional and operational spending per student. For 14 consecutive years, BBCHS has earned recognition status, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and careful stewardship of resources.

District Finances

Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School has a long-standing commitment to responsible financial management and transparency. The District publicly shares all major financial documents, including the Annual Budget, Annual Financial Report (AFR), and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). These reports provide the community with a clear understanding of the District's financial health and include an independent auditor's review.

For 14 consecutive years, BBCHS has earned Financial Recognition status from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), demonstrating the District's continued commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Each year, the Illinois State Board of Education evaluates school districts using several financial indicators, including fund balances, revenue trends, expenditure levels, and long-term financial stability. Districts earning a score between 3.54 and 4.00 receive the highest designation possible: Financial Recognition. This year, BBCHS earned a perfect Financial Profile score of 4.0, placing the District firmly within the highest category of financial strength and stability. Districts in this category typically require little to no financial oversight from ISBE. This achievement reflects careful financial planning, balanced budgeting, and responsible management of community resources.

BBCHS continues to operate below the Illinois state average in both operational and instructional spending per student while maintaining strong academic programs and student services.

The District's strong financial position provides important benefits for students, families, staff, and taxpayers. BBCHS maintains balanced budgets and healthy financial reserves while continuing to invest in educational programs and student services. Independent audits continue to confirm sound financial practices, and the District remains committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of community resources.



The BBCHS Board of Education



Superintendent Letter

The 2025–2026 School Year at BBCHS: A Banner Year

The 2025–2026 school year was marked by major accomplishments at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. Among the many highlights, this year was our recognition on the College Board's AP School Honor Roll Silver status and recognition by U.S. News & World Report as one of America's Best High Schools. The AP School Honor distinction is based on the percentage of students earning college credit through Advanced Placement exams. Fewer than 15% of schools statewide earned this honor, most of which are private or selective enrollment institutions. BBCHS continues to be the only school in Kankakee County to receive this recognition.

The "America's Best High Schools" recognition by U.S. News & World Report is based on AP test scores, graduation rate, and ACT scores. Both of these recognitions are the result of hardworking, dedicated teachers and staff members, community support, and great students. This spring, we began our \$75 million dollar facility improvement project. This transformational project will bring all students under one roof and allow for a comprehensive redesign of the building to enhance learning environments. Currently, the academic, fine arts, and physical education areas are spread throughout the campus in a way that is noisy, inconvenient, and inadequate for a school serving nearly 1,900 students. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2028.

BBCHS has a long history of community support and success. The facility improvement project will provide our students with an outstanding learning environment. We will continue to be a school that can meet the needs of any student. With 22 AP classes, over 30 clubs and activities, and 28 IHSA sports offerings, there is something for everyone at BBCHS.

Dr. Matt Vosberg

The District 307 Board of Education is composed of seven residents who serve four-year terms. Within the Board of Education, there are three elected positions: president, vice president, and secretary. Board members also serve on various committees. These committee meetings are held on various dates prior to the monthly board meeting. The Board of Education generally meets on the second Monday of each month at the District 307 Board Room, located in the Administrative Office at BBCHS.

The seven members of the District 307 Board of Education are elected at large in public elections for four-year terms. Board members serve on a volunteer basis, without pay, and do not maintain offices in District buildings.

The Board of Education is responsible for hiring the Superintendent, authorizing the appointment of all other staff members, authorizing curriculum development, levying tax monies and budgeting for both educational programs and operating expenses, and setting District policy. The Board delegates the execution of District policies to the District's administration.

A new member was elected this school year, Mrs. Samantha Czako. She began her first term as a Board of Education member and has been a positive addition for BBCHS.



Jim Patterson
Board President
Third Term



Ann Brezinski
Board Vice President
Fifth Term



Dr. Lubow Lewicky
Board Secretary
First Term



Jennifer Edmonds
Second Term



Sally Martell
Second Term



Gretchen DeMarah Pammer
First Term



Samantha Czako
First Term

We Need YOUR Input!

Let us know your satisfaction
with our school with this
survey! Use the QR code





BBCHS
Year in Review

Local
Postal Customer

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kankakee, IL
Permit No. 135

ECRWSS