



BOBCAT BULLETIN



A newsletter for the residents of the Bowling Green City School District

FALL 2026

Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Ted Haselman,
Superintendent

Dear Members of the Bowling Green City Schools Community,

The 2026–2027 school year is off to an outstanding start, and I could not be more encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm throughout Bowling Green City Schools. Our classrooms are filled with students who are engaged in learning, our staff members are focused on providing meaningful opportunities for growth, and our families continue to be important partners in the education of our students. There is a strong sense of purpose across our district, and it is exciting to see the momentum that has been established as we begin this new year together.

One of the most encouraging indicators of our continued progress is the release of the Ohio State Report Card. Bowling Green City Schools once again earned an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars, marking the third consecutive year our district has achieved this commendable rating. Four of the district's five school buildings improved their overall rating and the fifth school remained a 5-star, the highest rating possible. While a report card is only one measure of the work taking place in our schools, this recognition is an important reflection of the dedication of our students and staff and the commitment we share to providing an exceptional educational experience.

Most importantly, these results demonstrate meaningful academic growth for our students. That growth is the result of the hard work of our teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and families. I am incredibly proud of the work taking place throughout our district. For those interested in learning more about our results and what they mean for Bowling Green City Schools, I encourage you to read my Community Report Card Letter available on our district website.

We are also witnessing tremendous progress on another important priority for our district—the construction of the new Bowling Green High School. Since breaking ground in May 2025, the project has continued to move forward at an impressive pace. The majority of the exterior is now complete, and each day the interior takes another step toward becoming the finished learning environment we have envisioned for our students and community.

It is remarkable to think that in approximately 10 short months, this project will be complete and our students will begin using this extraordinary facility as their daily learning environment. This has been a significant undertaking for our district, and I am grateful to everyone who has played a role in bringing this vision to life. As we watch the building take shape, we are reminded that this project is ultimately about much more than a new building—it is about creating an outstanding environment in which our students can learn, grow, and prepare for their futures.

At the same time, we recognize that the future of Bowling Green City Schools extends well beyond the high school project. The Board of Education has begun important work to evaluate the needs of our elementary facilities and develop a thoughtful, long-term plan for the future.

This process began in January, when the Board committed to doing the comprehensive work necessary to carefully assess our current needs, evaluate potential building configurations, consider possible locations, and determine what will best serve our elementary students and the community for years to come.

In February, the Board issued Requests for Qualifications to identify experienced architectural firms capable of guiding us through a comprehensive master planning process. In March, the district entered into an agreement with DLR Group, the same architectural firm that has been working with us on the new high school, to provide professional design and master planning services for our elementary facilities.

Since that time, this work has been intentional and extensive. DLR Group has toured our existing

elementary buildings to gain a deeper understanding of how our facilities currently support our educational programming and to explore the possibilities for how our learning environments could better support students in the future.

We have also made it a priority to seek input from the people who know our schools best. Focus group sessions have been held with elementary staff members, followed by a broader focus group that included staff and numerous community stakeholders. We are now continuing these conversations through meetings with grade-level and department focus groups at our elementary buildings.

This is important work, and we are committed to doing it the right way. We will take the time necessary to gather information, listen to multiple perspectives, evaluate the options, and carefully consider what is in the best long-term interest of our students and community. Once this work is complete, multiple options will be analyzed and reviewed by district administration and the Board of Education as we determine the best path forward for our elementary facilities.

Our ultimate goal is to develop a comprehensive plan that can be shared with the community and provide our stakeholders with a clear understanding of the district's direction. We will continue to communicate openly and provide updates as this important master planning process moves forward.

Along with our academic and facility priorities, we remain firmly committed to responsible financial stewardship. Our district continues to monitor its finances closely to ensure that Bowling Green City Schools remains fiscally sound and that our resources are used strategically and responsibly.

I am pleased to report that our district remains on solid financial ground. This is something we do not take for granted. The continued support and trust of our community provide us with the ability to make thoughtful decisions that serve our students today while positioning Bowling Green City Schools for long-term success. We recognize the responsibility that comes with that trust, and we will continue to approach every financial decision with care, transparency, and a focus on our students.

As I reflect on where we are today, I am proud of the trajectory of Bowling Green City Schools. We are a district committed to continuous improvement, and we will never be satisfied with simply maintaining the status quo. We will continue to ask ourselves how we can do better, how we can provide greater opportunities for our students, and how we can ensure that every student is prepared to achieve their goals.

There is tremendous excitement surrounding the future of Bowling Green City Schools. We have much to celebrate, but we also have important work ahead of us. I am confident that, by working together, we will continue to build on our successes and address the challenges and opportunities before us.

This Fall 2026 newsletter highlights many of the accomplishments, initiatives, and successes taking place throughout our district. I hope it provides you with a glimpse into the outstanding work happening every day in our schools and reinforces the many reasons we have to be proud of Bowling Green City Schools.

I am honored to serve the students, families, community, and staff of Bowling Green City Schools. I promise that our District will work hard to improve each day to provide a high-quality education for our students, a financially sound organization for our stakeholders, and be a point of pride for the entire community.

I am excited about what lies ahead and look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Go Bobcats!

Dr. Ted Haselman, Superintendent



Superintendent Coffee Chats



Meet with Superintendent Dr. Ted Haselman to ask questions and have open dialogue on topics relevant to Bowling Green City Schools.

- **November 19, 5-6 p.m.** at Grounds for Thought
174 S. Main St.
- **January 20, 9-10 a.m.** at Novel Blends,
116 S. Main St.
- **March 16, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** at Juniper,
145 S. Main St.
- **May 14, 8-9 a.m.** at Biggby Coffee,
215 E. Wooster St.

Introducing the New Inclusive Playground



Crim Elementary School celebrated the addition of new inclusive playground equipment during a community event on July 29. The new equipment expands opportunities for students of all abilities to play, connect, and participate together, reflecting Bowling Green City School District's commitment to creating welcoming and accessible learning environments for every student.

Rachel Shell, a Learning Center teacher at Crim Elementary, was instrumental in raising awareness about the need for inclusive playground equipment and leading the initial fundraising efforts for the project. Her advocacy helped bring attention to the importance of providing students with diverse abilities meaningful opportunities to engage in play alongside their peers.

Inclusive playground equipment is designed to support participation by students with a wide range of physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental abilities. Features such as accessible pathways, supportive seating, and adaptive play elements help remove barriers and allow more students to enjoy recess and outdoor activities. The new equipment creates opportunities for students to build friendships, practice cooperation, and develop a stronger sense of belonging.

Thank you to the individuals, families, businesses, and community partners whose support made this project possible.

Board of Education



L to R: Mr. Ryan Myers, Mrs. Tracy Hovest (Vice-President), Mrs. Peggy Thompson, Dr. Howard "Ardy" Gonyer (President), Mr. Norm Geer

Bowling Green Student Highlights

FIFTH GRADERS ATTEND CAMP MICHINDOH

In September, our fifth graders had the opportunity to attend Camp Michindoh for a five-day outdoor education experience. This adventure is a part of the fifth-grade science curriculum. Students participated in hands-on activities such as canoeing, archery, rock climbing, campfire and shelter building, orienteering, fishing, and tie-dying. They learned about reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and more. They also visited a pioneer village and performed group skits. Students returned with new knowledge, stronger friendships, and lasting memories of learning beyond the classroom.



BGCS STUDENTS EARN PERFECT SCORES ON STATE TESTS

Twenty-three BGCS students earned a perfect score on one or more of their Ohio State Tests and were recognized at the August Board of Education meeting: Gavin Green, Gabriel Lust, Ruby Mierzejewski, Natalie Niekamp, Rano Rakhimova, Bohan Xu, Nathan Keller, Bella Cervantes, Iroha Tashiro, Joseph Budke, Tristan Collier, Liam Duncan, Declan Koontz, Molly Tyson, Jameson Wolfinger, Iris Kieffer-Airhart, Zander Roberts, Oliver Schetter, Olive Donhauser, Hanna Jang, Anna Julien, Chyla Lawrence, and Emmett Hanna.

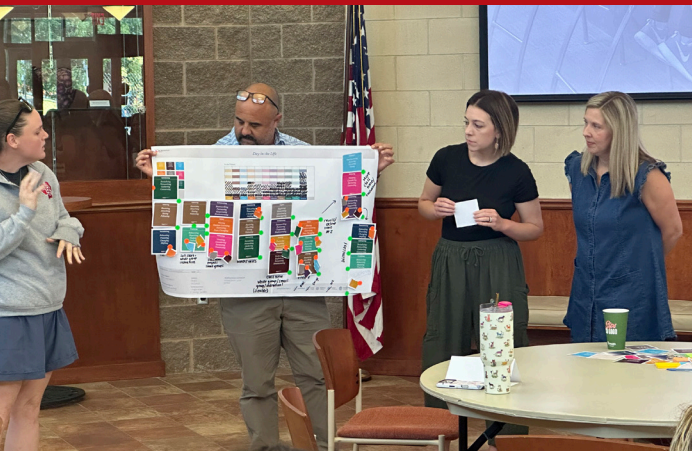


PACE STUDENTS WIN GOLD!

PACE mathletes excelled in Perennial Math's national competition and were recognized at the September Board of Education meeting. Congratulations to our gold medalists: Jamie Wolfinger, Oliver Schetter, Rano Rakhimova, Joey Budke, Declan Koontz, Nathan LaWarre, Oliver Schetter, and their teacher, Mrs. Weaver!

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE ON THE BUS

October 19-23 was National School Bus Safety Week, but our bus drivers promote bus safety year-round. In September, BGCS bus drivers visited our K-3 students at each elementary school to teach them how to stay safe on and around the school bus. Kindergarten students concluded the lesson with a bus ride to practice their new skills and participated in an emergency evacuation drill.



DLR Group led elementary school focus group discussions over the summer and department focus groups in October.



BGHS Boys Golf finished 4th in the NLL Tournament. Patrick Cavanagh led the way with 76 and 1st Team All NLL Honors. London Bernath and Maddox Barnhisel earned 2nd Team All NLL. The team finished 6th in the Sectional tournament. Sophomore Maddox Barnhisel qualified for the District tournament.



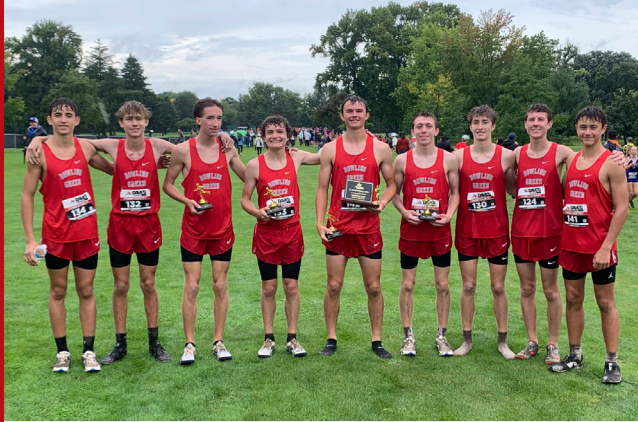
PACE students recently visited BGSU's communications building, where they recorded podcasts, visited a recording studio, and learned about television and radio production.



Our FFA students recently participated in their Ag and Urban Soil Judging competition, where they determined slope, texture, structure, etc. Best management practices were awarded.



Grant Gillispie, Jake Hunter, Jordan Cowan, Lily Wagner, and Maddison Carney attended the NLL Sportsmanship Conference.



The BGHS Boys Cross Country team was the team champion at the Dave's Cross Country Invitational.



The BGHS girls tennis team won their fourth consecutive NLL Cardinal Division Championship.

Bowling Green Student Highlights

CRIM COMMUNITY GARDEN

Students dug into hands-on learning about where their food comes from, thanks to partnerships with BGSU and the Wood County Health Department. In the spring, BGSU students from Dr. Stanley's class worked side-by-side with our young gardeners to plant a variety of vegetables. The learning continued over the summer, when STARS program participants cultivated their own salsa garden—complete with tomatoes, peppers, onions, and cilantro ready to harvest and enjoy!

BGMS TAKES LEARNING OUTDOORS

Our 7th grade science classes and BGMS Spanish classes recently took learning outdoors to the outdoor learning lab and school prairie.



STUDENT TALENT AT THE BLACK SWAMP ARTS FESTIVAL

At the Black Swamp Arts Festival, the Madrigals opened by performing the national anthem on 9/11 and then earned first place in Beats on the Street competition. The BGHS Jazz Ensemble and Big Band also performed at the festival. BGHS student artists won four categories in the Chalk Walk competition, collaborating on designs inspired by the “Blended Two” theme, which combined two artists or art styles from history. Student artists from each of our schools painted snow plow blades that were on display at BSAF.



Agging Career Development Events. Members evaluated soil pits for agment practices were also recommended based on evaluation results.



Senior DECA students toured Communicia and learned about careers in marketing, public relations, and communications.



BGCS is thankful for the support of our community! Recently, the Exchange Club of Bowling Green donated school supplies, hygiene items, and food for the Bobcat Basics Pantry.



BGHS senior Tess Challu was recently recognized as a 13abc Rising Star for her achievements in academics, athletics, music, and extracurricular activities, along with her leadership and commitment to service.

BGHS Alumni News

We're building our alumni contact list to celebrate your stories and keep you informed about alumni news, class reunions, alumni games, and other events. Scan the QR code to take our short survey and make sure you don't miss out!



Class of '76 reunion



Class of '96 reunion



Class of '06 reunion

Construction Updates

Construction continues to move forward on Bowling Green's new high school! The building is substantially enclosed and connected to permanent power, classroom partition walls are complete, and kitchen equipment installation has begun. These milestones mark continued progress toward welcoming students in August 2027.

Building photos from September 2026



A Message from the Finance Office

Matt A. Feasel, CFO and Treasurer



A Strong Start, with Important Challenges Ahead

Welcome to another school year! As we begin 2026–27, the Bowling Green City Schools Treasurer’s Office wants to provide our staff, families, and community with a clear picture of where we stand financially and what we are watching closely.

We recently reviewed the five-year forecast with the Board of Education at the August 2026 board of education meeting. The forecast currently projects a positive operating result in FY2027, followed by modest surpluses in FY2028 and FY2029. One of the biggest financial issues facing Bowling Green City Schools is the recent series of changes to Ohio property tax law, particularly House Bill 186. Our August forecast estimates that HB 186’s inflation-cap provisions could reduce district revenues by approximately \$1.54 million cumulatively through FY2031. H.B. 186 introduces new limits and adjustments to how property tax revenues are calculated and collected with the intent of moderating revenue growth associated with rising property values. Given the number of uncertainties with the recent legislation affecting property taxes, we’ve displayed an extremely conservative approach when looking at the district’s revenue sources through the entire five-year plan. As additional information becomes available, we will constantly update our projections accordingly. We remain committed to protecting the financial resources

that this community has entrusted in us.

A five-year forecast is more than a spreadsheet. We utilize it as a planning tool that we monitor consistently. It allows us to make any adjustments in our financial planning on a monthly basis and to look beyond the current school year and ask:

- Can we sustain the programs and services our students need?
- Are revenues keeping pace with expenses?
- What happens when costs for salaries, benefits, transportation and services increase?
- How will changes in state funding and property taxes affect us?
- When do we need to make decisions rather than react to problems?

As we move through this school year, the Board and Administration will remain focused on four priorities:

- **Protecting the classroom:**
Direct as many resources as possible toward teaching and learning.
- **Planning for the long term:**
Make decisions based on what is sustainable, not simply what we can afford today.
- **Be good stewards:**
Look continuously for efficiencies, savings,

- grants, and responsible purchasing opportunities.
- **Communicate openly:**
School finance can be complicated. We will continue working to make the numbers understandable and accessible to our community.

Our financial position is stable today, but the road ahead requires careful planning. We have a responsibility to today’s students and staff — and to the Bobcats who will walk through our doors five, ten and twenty years from now. Every dollar matters. Every decision matters.

Our goal is simple: **protect the financial resources necessary to provide an excellent education for every Bobcat while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.**

For more information, visit the BGCS Treasurer’s Office webpage for the current Five-Year Forecast, financial reports, and other resources.




Matt A. Feasel, CFO/Treasurer

Building Connections to Future Careers



Bowling Green High School’s English 12 Jobs class is exploring career possibilities with help from the professionals building the new high school. After touring the construction project with Eric Slink, Rudolph Libbe Group Project Manager, students heard from trade foremen throughout September and early October and learned about careers in masonry, glass installation, roofing, drywall and carpentry, plumbing and pipefitting, electrical work, sheet metal, painting, and fire sprinkler installation.

Their teachers, Mrs. Erika Slough and Ms. Jamie Donaldson, surveyed the class about the careers they wanted to learn about and used their responses to tailor the guest speaker lineup to reflect the students’ interests, which also includes representatives from the fire and police departments. These conversations give students opportunities to ask questions, learn about different career paths, and connect their interests with possibilities after graduation.

BGCS Earns 4.5 Stars on 2025-26 School Report Card



The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) officially released the Ohio School Report Card for the 2025-26 school year and Bowling Green City Schools received an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars for the third consecutive year! The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce describes an overall 4.5-star rating as “exceeds state standards.”

BGCS ranked in the top 4% of Ohio school districts for its Student Growth Index, which measures students’ year-to-year academic growth. The district ranked in the top 12% statewide based on the overall points used to determine star ratings.

The district is very proud of our accomplishment and we hope you as a community member are as well. The ratings in our Ohio State Report Card are a result of everyone’s hard work.

Please read the letter from Superintendent Dr. Haselman to the Bowling Green community about our district’s report card by scanning the QR code:



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BGHS Students Excel on AP Exams

AP courses are college-level classes offered in high school that challenge students with rigorous coursework and provide the opportunity to earn college credit by achieving qualifying scores on the AP exams. Last spring, our students completed 264 Advanced Placement (AP) exams across 11 different subject areas. The results were released in the summer and 77% earned a score of 3, 4, or 5—scores recognized by many colleges and universities for college credit or advanced placement. Thirty-six exams earned a 5, the highest possible score, reflecting mastery of college-level content.



Join Our Team

Bowling Green City Schools is looking for great people to join our team. Current openings are posted online and may change as positions are filled and new opportunities become available.

Community members are encouraged to share BGCS career opportunities with friends, family, neighbors, and professional contacts who may be a good fit for our schools.

Interested candidates can learn more and apply online at bgcs.schoolspring.com.

Students Give Back to the Community

Conneaut Elementary was recently presented with a “Heart of Gold” recognition banner by the American Heart Association for raising \$12,333 for the American Heart Association last school year. Conneaut ranked 21st among approximately 800 participating schools nationwide.

During the **Pass It On Challenge**, our students, staff, and community donated 8,300 pounds of items and resulted in BGHS winning a \$500 scholarship for a Class of 2027 senior.

The annual **FFA Tailgate** brought students, families, and community members together for food, games, and activities and raised \$977.02 for Nationwide Children’s Hospital-Toledo.



Our vision is to provide excellent instruction and equitable opportunities for each student.