

The RoarReport



Your Quarterly Guide for Bearcat News and Updates

Fall 2026



RECENT NEWS: A New Era Begins for Bedford High School

On August 22, 2026, Bedford City School District celebrated a historic milestone with the official groundbreaking of the new Bedford High School, scheduled to open in Fall 2028. Board of Education members, municipal leaders, district staff, project partners, and community members gathered to commemorate the occasion. The ceremony reflected the collective commitment and community support that made this transformative investment possible. As the centerpiece of BCSD's ongoing facilities improvements, the new high school represents a bold step forward in educational opportunity, innovation, and the future of Bearcat Nation.

Scan To Watch (BCSD TV):



Elementary Transition Plan: Community Voices, Future Planning



BCSD has released its Elementary Transition Plan information, highlighting the work of the Elementary Transition Committee and the valuable input of diverse community stakeholders. The dedicated website provides insight into the committee's discussions, recommendations, and planning for the district's evolving school facilities. Explore the details at www.bcsd-elementary.org.

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Office



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From the Desk of
Tom Evans
Interim Superintendent



Dear Bedford City School District Families
Scholars, Staff, and Community Partners,

The 2026-2027 School year is off to a great start. By now you should have had a chance to conference with your students' teachers. Please help us, help your students by making them aware that you are following their school work and communicating with their teachers.

- Progress is being made on the construction of the new buildings in the district. The Middle School and K-2 building are well on their way to completion and opening for the 2027 school year. You can see the progress being made on the new High School as well which is scheduled to open in 2028. As a district, we are planning our transition to the new buildings for a smooth start to next school year.
- We appreciate your cooperation with the pick-up and drop off of students, and all buildings appear to have systems in place to ensure a safe, quick pick-up/drop off of students. Just a reminder, we do not allow unscheduled visitors in our buildings during the day. If you need to make an appointment to see an administrator, counselor or teacher. Please call ahead to have that scheduled. Generally speaking our teachers do not have time during their day to meet unless something has been pre-arranged.
- Thank you to the Bedford Police Department for the addition of our new School Resource Officer at the High School, we are continually looking to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff.

Go Bearcats!!!!!!

Tom Evans
Interim Superintendent
Bedford City Schools





Treasurer's Office

Taylor Friedrich
Treasurer/CFO



Community Financial Update: Navigating Challenges While Building a Stronger Financial Future

As we continue through the 2026–2027 school year, I want to take this opportunity to provide our community with an update on the financial position of Bedford City School District. While we have made meaningful progress in addressing our financial challenges, we continue to face significant obstacles that require careful planning, difficult decisions, and a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Across Ohio, public school districts are experiencing increasing financial pressures as state funding struggles to keep pace with the rising costs of providing a quality education. Bedford City School District is no exception. Despite these challenges, our administration and Board of Education remain committed to making responsible financial decisions that protect the long-term stability of our district while maintaining the educational opportunities our students deserve.

The Growing Challenge of State Funding

One of the most significant challenges facing our district continues to be the lack of adequate state funding for public education. Ohio's school funding system has placed increasing financial pressure on local communities, particularly as inflation, employee costs, transportation expenses, utilities, and other operational needs continue to rise.

For Bedford City School District, state funding has not kept pace with the actual cost of operating our schools. This growing gap between available revenue and necessary expenditures makes it increasingly difficult to maintain existing programs and services without making adjustments elsewhere in our budget.

While state funding remains a critical component of our financial resources, the continued uncertainty surrounding Ohio's school funding system makes long-term financial planning particularly challenging. School districts are expected to meet increasing educational demands and regulatory requirements, often without receiving additional resources to support those responsibilities.

Unfortunately, these challenges are not unique to Bedford. Districts throughout Ohio are being forced to evaluate staffing, programs, operations, and expenditures as they work to balance educational priorities with financial realities.

Continuing Our Commitment to Reducing Expenses

Recognizing these challenges, Bedford City School District continues to take a proactive approach to managing expenditures and identifying opportunities for savings.

Our administrative team regularly reviews district operations, staffing levels, departmental budgets, contracts, and purchasing practices to identify areas where expenses can be reduced without unnecessarily impacting classroom instruction.

We understand that every dollar spent represents an investment made by our taxpayers, and we take that responsibility seriously. Our goal is not simply to reduce expenditures in the short term, but to create sustainable financial practices that will benefit the district for years to come.

This process requires difficult conversations and thoughtful decisions. Reducing expenditures while maintaining high-quality educational opportunities is never easy, particularly when many of our costs are tied to essential services and contractual obligations.

Nevertheless, we remain committed to evaluating every opportunity to operate more efficiently, maximize existing resources, and ensure that our financial decisions align with the district's educational mission.



An Important Financial Accomplishment

One of the most encouraging developments this school year is that Bedford City School District was able to avoid being placed in fiscal caution by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

This is an important accomplishment and reflects the work that has gone into improving our financial outlook, reviewing expenditures, and making responsible budgetary decisions.

Avoiding fiscal caution represents meaningful progress toward greater financial stability. It also demonstrates that the district is taking its financial challenges seriously and working to address them before additional state oversight becomes necessary.

However, it is equally important to recognize that avoiding fiscal caution does not mean our financial challenges have been resolved.

Although our financial position has improved, Bedford City School District continues to operate with expenditures exceeding annual revenues, commonly referred to as deficit spending.

This means that we continue to rely on existing cash reserves to support a portion of our annual operating expenses. While these reserves provide an important financial cushion, they are not an unlimited resource and cannot serve as a permanent solution.

Our focus must remain on reducing this structural imbalance and moving toward a financial position where recurring revenues are sufficient to support recurring expenditures.

Looking Ahead: Progress With More Work to Do

As we look toward the future, our financial priorities remain clear: control spending, preserve financial stability, protect essential educational services, and continue advocating for fair and adequate state funding.

We recognize that our community expects the district to be a responsible steward of public funds. That expectation guides the decisions we make every day.

We also understand that financial improvement does not happen overnight. It requires consistent oversight, collaboration among district leadership and the Board of Education, and a willingness to make difficult decisions when necessary.

Although we have made progress, we cannot become complacent. The continued presence of deficit spending reinforces the importance of remaining disciplined in our financial planning and realistic about the challenges ahead.

Our students deserve a strong educational experience, our employees deserve a stable working environment, and our taxpayers deserve confidence that their resources are being managed responsibly.

I remain optimistic about the direction of Bedford City School District. We have demonstrated that progress is possible, even during difficult financial times. However, our work is far from finished.

Thank you to our Board of Education, administration, staff, families, and community members for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these financial challenges together.

Our commitment remains the same: making financially responsible decisions today that help ensure a stronger, more sustainable Bedford City School District tomorrow.



Office of Academic Achievement

Dr. Kenya Harrington
Executive Director of Academic Achievement



As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, the Office of Academic Achievement remains focused on strengthening instruction, supporting our educators, and creating meaningful opportunities for student success. Through continued collaboration with our schools and staff, we are building on areas of progress while identifying opportunities for growth and improvement across the district.

- The Office of Academic Achievement continues supporting our schools with their goal setting for the 2026-2027 school year. Reviewing the 2026 state report card, areas of strength were identified for the component areas of Progress (4), Gap Closing (3), and College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness (3). Additionally, Bedford High School received a 5 Star rating for the Graduation component, which is based on the previous school year's graduating cohort (2025). The district's overall rating was 3 stars.
- The Office of Academic Achievement has continued updating curriculum. The focus for the upcoming year will be Social Studies. Efforts to identify an appropriate adoption will be collaborative with the curriculum adoption team and teachers. Before the start of the school year, materials were identified for Government & Politics, AP United States History, AP Psychology, Sociology, and specific grade bands.
- Bedford City School District's professional development this year will focus on content, data analysis (e.g., i-Ready, mClass DIBELS, mClass Mathematics, MAP, OST), instructional planning and delivery, vertical alignment, professional learning communities, writing strategies (e.g., Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain, and Summarize (RACES) and The Writing Revolution). Professional development will be meaningful and relevant for our PK-12 teachers and staff. The goal is to provide professional development that improves student outcomes while ensuring teachers are exposed to current and new strategies & techniques. Additionally, our efforts are focused on addressing learning gaps, providing students with opportunities, and supporting our teachers.

We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and achievement. By remaining focused on quality instruction, thoughtful planning, and continuous improvement, we are committed to ensuring every student has the support and opportunities needed to succeed. Thank you to our dedicated educators and staff for the important work they do each day to move our district forward.



Office of Human Resources

Michael May
Interim Executive Director of Human Resources



Welcoming Our New Teammates

The 2026–27 school year began with an opportunity to welcome the newest members of the Bedford City School District team. On August 18 and 19, Mr. Paul Worsencroft welcomed 18 new certified staff members during New Teacher Orientation.

The two-day orientation provided our newest educators with an introduction to the district and an opportunity to prepare for a successful start to the school year. We are pleased to welcome these professionals to Bedford City Schools and look forward to the contributions they will make to our students, schools, and community.



Celebrating Career-Technical Education

Last spring, students, educators, community leaders, and business partners gathered at Cuyahoga Community College's Eastern Campus for the 2025–26 Career-Technical Education Banquet, sponsored by the Bedford Rotary.

Human Resources Administrative Assistant Patricia Phillips professionally coordinated and prepared the event, helping create a memorable morning dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of Bedford's career-technical education students.

The event brought together an impressive group of community leaders and supporters. In attendance were Bedford Mayor Stanley Koci; Bedford Heights Mayor Phillip Stevens, Jr.;

Oakwood Village Mayor Erica Nikolic; Bedford City School District Board of Education member Eva Boyington, Bedford Rotary President Dell Judd, who helped serve as master of ceremonies.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of 14 outstanding students who received scholarships sponsored by local businesses and Rotarians. Each scholarship recipient represented one of Bedford's 14 Career-Technical Education programs:

- **Audio/Visual Production**
- **Automotive Technology**
- **Biomedical/Project Lead The Way**
- **Business Management**
- **Clinical Health**
- **Cosmetology**
- **Criminal Justice**
- **Culinary Arts**
- **Cyber Security Technology**
- **Engineering & Robotics**
- **Job Training**
- **Marketing**
- **Sports Medicine & Exercise**
- **Teacher Academy**

The banquet demonstrated the strong partnership among Bedford City Schools, the Bedford Rotary, local businesses, civic leaders, and the broader community. Their continued investment in career-technical education provides students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, technical skills, and professional experiences needed for success beyond high school.

Special Recognition: Ernest F. Petrilli Scholarship Award

The district is also proud to recognize Krisa Patel of the Clinical Health program as the 2026 recipient of the Ernest F. Petrilli Scholarship Award.



Facility Improvements

Tad Ellsworth
Executive Director of Operations & Facilities



The construction of our new schools continues to be on time and on budget.

Bedford Middle School and Perkins Primary School will open in less than a year, and the new Bedford High School will open in Fall 2028. I am so thankful to our community for supporting the project, to GPD Group (architect/engineer) and to Panzica Construction (Construction Manager at Risk).

Over the course of this school year, we will be planning for opening the new schools, planning modest improvements to Heskett and Carylwood for Summer 2027 as they will transition to our Intermediate and Preschool buildings, respectively.

There is a lot of work to be done over the course of the next 11 months, including putting together all new bus routes to accommodate the new district structure. Speaking of buses, we were very fortunate to purchase a brand new school bus this year, the first new bus in several years. It goes into service immediately and replaces one of our oldest buses. Northeast Ohio winters are very tough on school buses and they each need to be replaced every twelve years or so to keep our students safe on the road.

Finally, I wanted to express my gratitude to the Bearcat support staff who worked so hard over the summer to get our schools and buses ready for the new school year. It was a great start and I am so thrilled to see our students again. Go Bearcats!



The New Bedford High School (Coming in 2028)



Perkins Primary (Coming in 2027)



Bedford Middle School (Coming in 2027)



Office of Athletics

James Crawford
Athletics Director



BCSD Communications



Jumar Newell
Communications Supervisor

Bedford High School Athletics – Fall 2026

Bedford High School Athletics is off to an exciting start this fall, with strong performances across soccer, football, girls volleyball, and cross country!

The soccer program, led by Head Coach Nick Schaefer, continues to build on its tradition of success. Football Head Coach Desean Washington, has also made an impressive start, earning exciting victories against Twinsburg High School and John F. Kennedy High School.

The Lady Bearcat volleyball team, led by Head Coach Sydney Adamson, is having an outstanding season and continues to make its mark in the area with strong teamwork and competitive play. The cross country team, led by Coach Eugene Sanders and Timmia Crayton, has delivered impressive performances at multiple invitational meets, showcasing the dedication and hard work of our student-athletes. We are proud of all our athletes and coaches for their commitment, sportsmanship, and Bearcat pride. Best of luck to all our programs as the fall season continues!



Follow Bedford High School Athletics for updates and highlights our athletic website: <https://bhsathletics.org/>. #RiseOfTheBearcats

A new school year brings new opportunities, fresh beginnings, and plenty of reasons to celebrate what makes Bedford City School District special! As we welcome the 2026–2027 school year, we're embracing a theme that speaks to the heart of our community: 1 Team. 1 District. 1 Bearcat Nation.

More than just a slogan, it's a reminder that whether you're a student, educator, parent, alumnus, or community supporter, you are part of something bigger. Every achievement, tradition, and shared experience contributes to the pride we carry as Bearcats.

We kicked off the year by adding a few new chapters to our "Welcome Back, Bearcats" video series, capturing the excitement, energy, and familiar faces that make our schools so special. We invite you to explore these stories and more across our growing digital platforms, including district social media, school websites, and BCSDTV on YouTube.

This year, we're also united by goals that matter to every Bearcat family: helping students graduate on time, preparing them for college or careers, strengthening reading achievement, and ensuring our educators have the support they need to help students succeed.

As your district Communications team, we're excited to continue sharing the stories behind these goals, celebrating our students and staff, and finding more ways to bring our schools and community together.

1 Team.
District.
1 Bearcat Nation. 

Upcoming Dates To Remember:

- October 28 – BHS Marching Band End-of-Season Concert
- October 29- Trick or Treat Street @ BHS
- October 30 – Halloween Festivities (Select Schools)
- November 3 – Records Day (No School for Students)
- November 23–27 – Thanksgiving Break (No School for Students & Staff)
- November 25 – Conference Comp. Day (No School for All)
- December 21–January 2 – Winter Break (No School)

PLEASE VISIT OUR DISTRICT CALENDAR ONLINE www.bedford.k12.oh.us FOR ALL IMPORTANT DATES & CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL BUILDING FOR ALL ADDITIONAL DETAILS

We Hope You Enjoyed This Edition!



Fall 2026

The RoarReport

Board of Education

Pictured L-R

Montez Morton Sr.

Eva Boyington

Michelle Benjamin

Chris Callender, Vice President

Anthony A. Akins, President



If you are looking for employment, visit these websites:



Bedford City School
District



City of Bedford



City of Bedford
Heights



Oakwood Village



Walton Hills

Bedford City School District
3 Hemisphere Way
Bedford, Ohio 44146
440-439-1500



BEDFORD CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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