



Your Schools

Bedford Board of Education,
Bedford, Ohio

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Improvement Projects Wrapping Up at Bedford High

Several improvement projects are nearing completion at Bedford High School. A new standing-seam roof has replaced the original roof over the cafeteria. "The standing-seam design provides added insulation and a service life of more than 50 years, saving on maintenance costs over the long term," noted Business Manager **Jerry Zgrabik**.

In the cafeteria, the installation of new energy-efficient windows are nearing completion. The double-paned windows with aluminum frames and fiberglass panels reduce heat loss, saving on energy costs. At the gymnasium entrance, the foyer was rebuilt, walkways were upgraded, new entrance doors and a roof were installed, and improvements were made to two adjoining classrooms. Also, new bleachers to accommodate 300 spectators for swimming and diving competitions replaced the original seating at the indoor pool.

At the Administration Center, workers are installing new front doors on the south entrance and new awnings. "The awnings should last 50 years," added Mr. Zgrabik.

All of the projects were funded by the school district's 1.0-mill permanent improvement levy. This levy provides funds to maintain and renovate school facilities (see "**Permanent Improvement Levy on November Ballot**" at right).



Among the projects undertaken this summer at Bedford High School were upgrades to the gymnasium entrance and installation of new cafeteria windows.

Permanent Improvement Levy on November Ballot

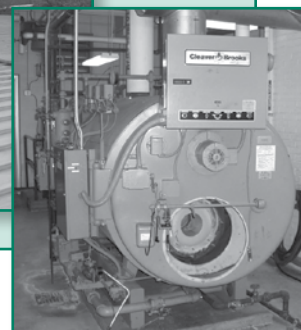
The Bedford City School District has a 1.0-mill permanent improvement levy on the November 2, 2010 ballot. The levy raises about \$472,000 annually to maintain and improve buildings and property of the district. It is a **renewal**, meaning that its passage **will not increase property taxes**.

Currently, the owner of a \$100,000 home pays less than \$20 a year or roughly \$1.65 a month in taxes. Funds generated by this levy have been used to replace roofs, boilers, fire alarms, surveillance systems, make site improvements including playgrounds, and upgrade

electrical services to accommodate technology.

Permanent improvement funds may only be used for maintenance, renovation, and equipment. They cannot be used for salaries and other operating costs.

This past summer, permanent improvement funds were used for several projects (see "**Improvement Projects Wrapping Up at Bedford High**" at left).



Playgrounds, roofs, and boilers are among the projects funded by the Permanent Improvement Renewal levy.

Kid-Friendly Computers Prepare Preschoolers for Learning in a Technology Age

Students in Glendale Primary School's Bright Beginnings Preschool are getting a jump on math, science, and language using computer centers designed just for them. Glendale was one of 20 sites selected to receive the Young Explorers computer centers through a donation from IBM Corporation in conjunction with United Way of Greater Cleveland.

"The computer centers are a valuable teaching tool," said preschool teacher

Elsie Tarczy. "They allow children to learn at their own level, which is so important in our program, where we have children of different ages and ability levels. And, the software is compatible with our teaching standards in literacy, math, social studies, and science."

"The children really enjoy the computer centers," noted Special Education Supervisor **Monique Winston.**

"The kid-size, brightly-colored Little Tikes™ furniture and cute characters make learning fun and help them grasp key concepts quickly."

IBM selected United



Special Education Supervisor Monique Winston (right) and an installation representative review the Young Explorers computer center's software.

Way of Greater Cleveland as one of four organizations from an eight-state territory to distribute the computer centers to nonprofit organizations, including public schools.

Where are they Now?

Bedford Grad Has Paper Published

Elizabeth (Liz) A. Yuhas, a 2006 Bedford High School graduate, has had a paper published through the U.S. Department of Defense. She wrote the paper while interning at the Naval Research Air Warfare Center Weapons Division in China Lake, Calif. in the summer of 2008. Entitled, "Application of Numerical Methods to Solve Integral Equations Arising in Computational Physics/Electromagnetics," the paper provides an overview of numerical integration techniques by developing computer programs to solve math and physics equations. "If anyone is looking into basic physics problems they could read my paper and get some ideas," Liz matter-of-factly explained.



Elizabeth Yuhas

Liz graduated from the Ivy League's Cornell University in spring 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Computer Science. She is currently employed at Epic Systems Corp., a healthcare management software company, in Madison, Wis.

She credits Bedford High School math teacher **Jim Marunowski** and physics teacher **David Burnside** for her success in college. "I always had an aptitude for math, but Mr. Marunowski let me realize that I wasn't just good at it, but that I love doing it. And, without Mr. Burnside's awesome physics course, I would've never ended up in California, nor would I have looked at the applicable side of math," she noted. "Without great teachers like Mr. Marunowski and Mr. Burnside, I wouldn't have gotten as far as I have." Liz stated.

Good Citizenship Starts with Respect

Helping students learn to respect themselves, their teachers, parents, property, and one another is a priority in the Bedford Schools. This year, the district has implemented an initiative entitled, "**Respect: A Right and A Responsibility**" in all schools. This theme will be integrated into every aspect of school life, from the classroom, to the school bus, and on the playing field. Posters and banners reflecting the "RESPECT" theme are on display in every school.

"For the most part, our students demonstrate good citizenship by being respectful," noted Special Education Supervisor **Diane Schentur**, who is coordinating the initiative. "Yet not all young people have developed the social skills that our society expects. This initiative supports what parents are doing at home by helping students understand appropriate behavior in today's world."

Students in grades kindergarten through six are receiving 30 minutes of instruction per week using the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) curriculum. PATHS focuses on teaching students about respect, self-concept, and problem-solving in a non-confrontational way.

Students in grades seven through nine use a curriculum called "Positive Actions" to learn social skills, including self-concept, getting along with others, problem-solving, and socially acceptable expressions of feelings, as well as healthy living skills.

Seventh and eighth graders will participate in twice-weekly lessons during their Advisory Period. Ninth graders will receive instruction weekly in their English classes.

Counseling with a focus on respect themes will be provided for 10th through 12th graders who need reinforcement in this area.

Welcome Mr. Vawters



Bedford High School began the school year with a new principal: **Samuel J. Vawters**.

"Mr. Vawters brings a wealth of experience to Bedford High," said Bedford Superintendent **Sherman C. Micsak**. "He has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and a relationship builder, both qualities we look forward to in his role as principal."

Mr. Vawters was principal of Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) Academy in the Cleveland Municipal School District. Among his accomplishments were moving the faculty and students to a newly renovated school, implementing single-gender classrooms, and moving the school up to the Continuous Improvement rating on the Ohio Report Card.

Prior to being principal of FDR, he was Principal of Thomas Jefferson School. He also was Assistant Principal at FDR and an Assistant Principal at Audubon Academy (grades K-8).

Mr. Vawters taught for five years in the Akron Public Schools at the elementary and middle school levels, and in the juvenile correctional facilities. He also worked in diverse educational settings in the Dayton and greater Akron areas.

Additional Appointments

Two additional administrative changes have taken place. **Kevin Gibaldi**, former principal of Bedford High, is the new Assistant Principal at Heskett Middle School, and **Robert Rutkowski**, former Dean of Students at Bedford High, was named Assistant Principal.

Teacher and Employee of the Year Can't Wait to Get to School

Though their jobs can't be more different, Heskett Middle School teacher **Cheryl Goldstein** and Cafeteria Manager **Karen Szarka** couldn't be more excited about coming to work every day in the Bedford Schools. A 19-year classroom veteran, "Cheryl is a true professional who has an extraordinary passion for teaching and working with students," said Assistant Superintendent **Linda A. O'Neill**.



Cheryl Goldstein

Karen Szarka

An Intervention Specialist for students who need additional help in reading and math, Mrs. Goldstein is Bedford Schools' Teacher of the Year. "It is an honor to be receiving such recognition," said Mrs. Goldstein. "So many people have helped me throughout the years to become the person I am today."

A Bedford resident and 1970 Bedford High graduate, **Karen Szarka** has never missed a day of work since she started in 1988. As the Cafeteria Manager at Bedford High School for the past 11

years, "she is well-respected by her staff, is a master at organization, and meets literally three deadlines (three lunch periods), on time, every time," said **Pat Bizer-Mahan**, Nutrition Services Supervisor.

"At my 40th class reunion this summer people asked me what my favorite memories of the Bedford Schools were, and I told them, 'I'm still making them!,'" she said.

Special Days Strengthen Parent-Child Connection

"What did you do in school today?" Columbus Intermediate School parents may already know the answer if they participated in Mothers' Day or Fathers' Day at the school. By attending their designated days during the school year, adults are being encouraged to take an active role in their children's education by spending an hour in their child's classroom to see what students are learning.

"We saw this as an opportunity for parents and other significant adult figures to better connect with their children regarding what they are learning in school, and to support their efforts in the classroom," said Columbus Principal **Iwanda Huggins**. "Research indicates that this bond can bolster success in school, particularly among young boys."



After walking their child to school, some Columbus fathers stayed to hear Principal Iwanda Huggins (standing beside balloons) talk about what students are learning in school.

The first Fathers' Day took place on Wednesday, September 22, in conjunction with the sixth annual Father's Walk sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative. After walking their children to school, about 20 fathers worked with students in classrooms. Mothers and other significant mother figures did the same on October 21, 2010.

"The results have been encouraging," said Mrs. Huggins. "The children are really proud to show what they are doing in school and are motivated to work harder because they truly feel that their efforts matter to an adult in their lives."

Did You Know . . .



Crystal Brooks

. . . Heskett Middle School 7th grade language arts teacher **Crystal Brooks** was a recent guest on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* – for the 2nd time! Ms. Brooks, who first appeared on the

show as an eager 9-year-old, was among several most-memorable guests invited back for the premiere of the show's final season on September 13. Oprah caught Ms. Brooks by surprise when she suddenly appeared on September 12 on the classroom's interactive white board and invited her to the season premiere. Ms. Brooks stood in stunned silence while her class cheered. She, and her parents who were in on the surprise, were escorted from the building by the entire student body and the high school percussion section into a waiting limousine. They were whisked to the airport where they boarded a flight to Chicago for the taping the next day. Ms. Brooks' initial encounter with Oprah was 17 years ago, when she wrote a letter telling the talk-show legend how much she admired her and wanted to be like her. Oprah invited the young Ms. Brooks to shadow her for the day followed by a guest appearance on the show in 1993.

. . . A newly installed data network has enabled almost the entire school district to become wireless. The new network is 100 times faster than the previous network and able to accommodate emerging classroom technologies, such as distance learning, faster Internet connections, and streaming video applications. The equipment also will enhance the district's telephone system. New capabilities include voicemail delivered directly to teachers' laptops, text messaging between laptops, and text messaging to classroom telephones to enhance building safety and security.

. . . Three Bedford High School students enrolled in the Building & Property Maintenance Career/Technology Education Program at Maple Heights High were among the volunteers to build a home in a week for a Maple Heights family as part of the ABC network's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition!" television show. The episode is set to air in early December 2010.



The Madrigal Singers appear on the scoreboard.

. . . For the second time since 2004, the Bedford High School Madrigal Singers sang the "The Star Spangled Banner" at Progressive Field. The most recent was on September 14 before the Cleveland Indians took to the field against the California Angels. **Gary Kaplan** is the choir director.

. . . Glendale 2nd-grade teacher **Angie Avalon** was among more than 1,000 teachers across the nation to be surprised with an "A Day Made Better" honor from OfficeMax. She was presented a basket of flowers and a big box of classroom supplies valued at more than \$1,000 by representatives from the Cleveland Heights store. "Mrs. Avalon has an intense passion for teaching children how to read and has made a major impact on our school," said Glendale Principal **Nora Beach**. "She is truly deserving of this award."



Angie Avalon and student Johnny Warren examine supplies provided by OfficeMax.

. . . With a perfect score in creativity this year, the Bedford High school 2010 Epic yearbook received its sixth 1st Place Award from the American Scholastic Press Association. The cover, designed by the Class of 2011's **Joey Schwind**, also received an Outstanding Cover Award. Editor in Chief was the Class of 2010's **Sarah Cardenas** and the *Epic* advisor is art teacher **Jennifer Pozz**.

. . . Two Bedford District art teachers showcased their own artistic talents at the Bedford Arts and Cultural Board's "Weekend of the Pooka – Celebration of the Arts" in September. Bedford High art teacher **Dagmar Clements** and Heskett Middle School art teacher **Rebecca Geneo** had their drawings, paintings, photography, ceramics, and jewelry featured in an art show on Bedford Square. Mrs. Clements' Art IV class also displayed flags featuring poetry and original artwork that they created for the Southeast Library's *Poems in the Wind* project. The event honored the late local artist, Richard Sedlon, creator of the whimsical gnome-like "pooka" creature.

. . . Carylwood fifth-grade teacher **Kim Rado** has been named one of only three finalists representing Ohio for the national Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Award. This award is the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the U.S. As a finalist, Ms. Rado's candidacy will automatically be reviewed by a prestigious committee reporting to the National Science Foundation. One teacher will be selected among the three finalists as the state Presidential Awardee. That individual will receive a \$10,000 prize and an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to be honored at a variety of events.



Kim Rado



. . . Seniors **Lisa Penn** and **Nick Wetzel** are the 2010 Bedford High School Homecoming Queen and King. Members of the court include (left to right) **Theo Locke, Tramaine Blackwood, Nick, Lisa, Michaela Williams**, and **LeeMonte Tinsley**.

District Remains Committed to Academic Achievement for All Students

The Bedford City School District will use the 2009-2010 Ohio Report Card as a benchmark for addressing academic achievement in the 2010-2011 school year. "We are pleased with some of the results on this year's Report Card but we have work to do in order to be rated an 'Excellent' school district," said Superintendent **Sherman C. Micsak**. "We remain committed to helping all of our students to achieve academically."

Glendale and Central Primary Schools achieved "Excellent" ratings. Glendale was rated Excellent for the second year in a row and Central moved up to Excellent from its Effective rating last school year. Carylwood, Columbus, Heskett, and Bedford High School retained their "Continuous Improvement" ratings as did the Bedford District as a whole.

The district saw double-digit gains in several areas, including in 5th grade science and in reading at nearly all levels. There was also some good news

regarding the Value-added measurement. Value-added is a criterion that measures students' academic growth from one year to the next in reading and math in grades four through eight.

Heskett Middle School's Value-added rating moved from **BELOW** to **ABOVE**, meaning that students' academic growth from one year to the next was greater than expected.

Bedford Students Participate in "Whirled" Peace

The pinwheel is a childhood symbol that reminds us of a time when things were simple, joyful, and peaceful. As part of the Pinwheels for Peace program, students at Carylwood Intermediate School and Heskett Middle School created their own pinwheels with messages of peace and displayed them on the school grounds. Their efforts were in conjunction with International Day of Peace on September 21.

At Carylwood School, the students were challenged to create a pinwheel that reflected their thoughts about war

and peace, tolerance, and living in harmony with others, explained art teacher **April DeVincentis**, who spearheaded the project. "On one side, students were invited to express their feelings through poetry, prose, haiku, or other writing forms. On the other side, they were encouraged to create their own artwork to visually express those feelings," she explained. "The result was a sea of colorful pinwheels spinning in the wind in front of the school. It was truly a beautiful sight."

Pinwheels for Peace was started in 2005 by two Florida high school art teachers as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. Since then, Pinwheels for Peace has grown from 500,000 pinwheels the first year, to three million pinwheels in 2009! Pinwheels spinning in the wind are intended to spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world.



Carylwood students displayed their pinwheels on the school front lawn to promote "whirled" peace.

Walton Hills to Continue As Part of Bedford District

Once again, Ohio's highest court has ruled that the Village of Walton Hills will continue to be a part of the Bedford City School District. On August 25, 2010, the Ohio Supreme Court denied a last-resort motion by Walton Hills to reconsider a decision that the Court had issued on June 17, 2010. In that decision, the Supreme Court effectively ruled in favor of the Bedford Schools by upholding a lower court's decision on the transfer matter.

With this final ruling, the request by Walton Hills to transfer from the Bedford District to the Cuyahoga Heights Local School District is now officially over.

"We're pleased that the tradition of Walton Hills being a part of the Bedford Schools will continue," said **Sherman C. Micsak**, Bedford Schools' Superintendent. The transfer would have resulted in the loss of millions of dollars to the Bedford Schools and seriously impacted the school district's efforts to deliver quality educational services to its 3,600 students residing in the communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood, and Walton Hills.

"We will be concentrating our efforts on working with the students and families of all four of our communities, including Walton Hills, to provide our students the best possible education and to prepare them for life in the 21st century," added Mr. Micsak. "With the support of our four communities, we look forward to continuing efforts to make the Bedford District a quality district that all residents can be proud of."



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Your Schools is a publication for residents of the Bedford City School District, including the communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood, and Walton Hills. To request additional copies or for more information, contact **Margaret G. Bierman**, communications coordinator, (phone: 440-439-4520). No material may be reprinted without written consent of the Bedford City School District. ©2010.

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Central Primary Named a School of Promise

Central Primary School has been named a "School of Promise" by the Ohio Department of Education. Central was among 161 schools throughout the state to receive this recognition. Schools of Promise show high achievement based on test scores, despite the fact that 40 percent or more of the children are from low-income backgrounds.

Central joins the Bedford District's Glendale Primary School which was named a School of Promise last school year.

Central moved up from the "Effective" to the "Excellent"

rating on the 2009-2010 State Report Card, earning all three possible standards. These standards took into account 3rd grade reading and math scores on the Ohio Achievement Test, plus the school-wide standard for attendance. The school has approximately 550 students in grades kindergarten through three.



The Ohio Department of Education has named Central School a School of Promise.

Directory of Services

Schools

- Carylwood — 440-439-4509
- Central — 440-439-4225
- Columbus — 440-786-3322
- Glendale — 440-439-4227
- Heskett — 440-439-4450
- BHS — 440-439-4848

Administration

- Superintendent — 440-439-4777
- Asst. Superintendent — 440-439-4377
- Business Manager — 440-439-4333
- Treasurer — 440-439-4670

Departments

- Athletics — 440-439-4588
- Curriculum & Instruction — 440-439-4412
- Pupil Services — 440-439-4363
- Transportation — 440-439-4234

Safe Schools LiveTip line

1-866-LIVETIP (548-3847) ext. 134

For a department or service not listed above, please call 440-439-1500.