



Your Schools

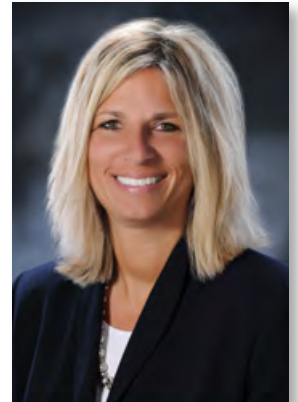
Bedford Board of Education,
Bedford, Ohio

Superintendent's Message

There are plenty of new initiatives and much good news to share this spring. Besides the news that you will read in this issue of *Your Schools*, here are a few other items I am happy to share with you:

- Our Career and Technical Education program will be expanding. Beginning next school year, the Bedford-Maple Heights Consortium will join forces with the Tri-Heights Consortium, which includes Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, and Warrensville Heights City School Districts. This expansion will give our students many more program options, such as Firefighter/EMT, Computer Networking Technology, Digital Video Production, Audio Engineering, Pharmacy Technician, and Exercise Science. This is in addition to the courses we currently offer, such as Auto Technology, Biotechnology, Business Management, Digital Design, Marketing Management, Health Sciences, Cosmetology, Construction Tech, Media Arts, Teacher Academy, Criminology and Financial Management.
- We received great news from the Literacy Cooperative of Greater Cleveland that our district will be included in an exciting grant they have received. The grant funds the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a unique book-gifting program that mails a brand new book to enrolled children every month from birth until five years of age, creating a home library of up to 60 books and instilling a love of books from an early age. Parents can enroll to receive these free books by simply filling out a registration form. Forms will be available at the schools in late April.
- We are pleased to announce that we will be adding a second full-day preschool classroom beginning in the 2017-18 school year. I visited our preschool classroom in February and I was amazed! Our four-year olds are writing their names, reciting their colors, shapes, and alphabet, and even reading sight words! We are optimistic that this early intervention will improve kindergarten readiness and overall student success.
- Our district has had impeccable financial audits and has been recognized as being fiscally responsible by

the Auditor of the State of Ohio for many consecutive years. Historically, our district has been fiscally solvent and able to operate with the passage of 4.9 mil levies approximately every four years. We have been faced with the reduction/elimination of State funding, coupled with rising delinquencies and decreases in property values resulting in a sharp decline of the value of a mil. We will be making concessions this year and next year in order to avoid putting a levy on the ballot in the Fall of 2017. We are currently attempting to reduce our budget by \$700,000 to maintain a responsible levy cycle that is affordable for our communities and educationally sound for our students. The passage of our last levy was in 2014, which would put us on track with our four-year levy cycle, as we will need to go to the polls in 2018.



We value the support of our community and the dedication of our staff in our ongoing effort to improve our schools.



Mark your calendars for April 30, which is Sunday Funday in the Bedford City School District. Plan to spend the morning at BHS with neighbors, friends, and family. Compete in a 5-mile or 2-mile race or enjoy a more leisurely 2-mile walk. Feast on a delicious pancake and French toast breakfast. Enjoy a myriad of marvelous student artwork at the District Art Show. For more information visit the district's website at www.bedford.k12.oh.us.

Bedford Schools Committed to the “Whole Child”

by Eboni Akins

The District is committed to more than just making sure students succeed academically, but also focuses on the social-emotional development of its children and teens.

“That is what Bedford does so beautifully,” said Lisa Adamson, a guidance counselor at Central Primary School. “I spoke to the Board of Education last year and said that I feel so blessed that they look at the whole child.”

Though several programs in the district take care of the “whole child,” one organization in particular that benefits middle and high school students with a variety of icebreakers, tutoring, and group discussions is the Mentoring Network. “Through all that we do, we’re instilling character, leadership, and positive relationships through mentoring,” said Michael Millet, the Mentoring Network’s After-School Club Director. Its partnership with the Bedford school district has positively impacted the lives of students at Heskett Middle and Bedford High Schools. To date, the Mentoring Network serves 403 students.

Some programs offered include CREW5771 (Character Required Everywhere in the World); Sports Character Coaching; TOPUCU Compass Academy (The Only Person You Cheat is You), a program for students in the COMPASS Academy that is devoted to character development; One-on-One

mentoring; and UBUR3 (You BE Yourself – Respect, Responsibility, and positive Relationships).

While the Mentoring Network helps middle and high school students, Kids Hope USA is a program that helps Bedford students at the primary and intermediate school levels.

“The relationship between the Kids Hope mentor and the child continues throughout the summer, and the mentor becomes like a family member to the child,” said Lisa Adamson, noting that students graduate from Kids Hope once they reach sixth grade. “We’ve seen kids cry. They don’t want it to end.”

Other programs the District offers to address and support its students’ various needs include:

- **PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)** is social-emotional program geared toward reducing behavior aggression for children in grades K-6.
- **Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)** is a program at Carylwood Intermediate School consisting of fathers and father figures who support students and help enhance school security. Since 2014, more than 50 fathers and father figures have been a part of the program. Contact Scott Kronstain at 440-439-4198 to learn more.
- **Coffee with the Counselors** is a support group for parents of primary school children in which they can talk confidentially with guidance counselors and share parenting advice. Contact Lisa Adamson at 440-439-4225 or Bridget Graham at 440-439-4227 for more information.
- **Unity Week 2017: BEARCATS TOGETHER against bullying, united for kindness** was a district-wide initiative held the week of February 20th. All the schools participated in activities and assemblies throughout

the week that focused on kindness, empathy, inclusiveness, positive support and anti-bullying. (See Unity Week 2017, page 5.)

- **WhyTry Program** is a resilience education curriculum that provides simple, hands-on solutions for dropout prevention, violence prevention, truancy reduction, and increased academic success.

In addition, a variety of counseling services are offered to students through partnerships with organizations such as Beech Brook and the Behavioral Mental Health Group.



Columbus Sixth Grader Named MLK Holiday Scholar

The Cleveland-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Scholarship Committee named Columbus Intermediate School sixth grader **Austin Luke** to the 2017 Class of MLK Holiday Scholars. As contest winner in his grade category in the “Happy Birthday Dr. King!” Birthday Card Contest, Austin received three complimentary tickets to the 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast Celebration, which was held Monday, January 16th, downtown at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. During the awards program, the winners were introduced to the community, and each student received a \$500 scholarship and other prizes. Austin’s art teacher at Columbus is **Victoria Watkins**.



Mentoring Network staff includes:

Seated: Sandra Weeden, Community Relations Coordinator and Rosanna Ryan, Coordinator of Character Development

Standing: Willie Colbert, Assistant Coordinator and Michael Millet, Director of After-School Club

Bedford's Bright Beginnings Preschool to Expand

This school year, the district opened one full-day (M-F) general education preschool classroom, in addition to the half-day (M-TH) Bright Beginnings preschool program that has been historically offered for students with special needs, as well as typically developing peer models. All preschool classes are currently housed at Glendale Primary School.

Bedford Schools' preschool program earned a Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) 5-Star Rating, the highest rating possible, from the Ohio Department of Education. The high rating is largely based on the district's provision of evidence-based instructional strategies within a language-enriched environment to

assist every child in meeting his or her unique learning needs. High-quality early learning experiences provide the basis for the brain's development and directly impact the success of children in kindergarten and beyond.

The district will open a second full-day classroom for the 2017-18 school year. "It is a major district goal to continue to grow this program to provide preschool experiences to all district families," said Special Education Supervisor **Rasheeda Smialek**, who oversees the preschool program. However, slots are limited at this time and fill quickly."

Children must be three years old on or before August 1 to be included

in the half-day programming. Children



must be four years old on or before August 1 to be included in the full-day program. For more information, or to begin the application process, please call the Glendale office at 440-439-4227.

Interested families are encouraged to attend the preschool fair for free developmental screenings on Thursday, April 27, at Glendale Primary School from 4 to 7 p.m. The last developmental screening will be at 6:30 p.m. Please register for the event on the district's website.

Eleven Inducted into Heskett NJHS

Seven Heskett Middle School students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) during a ceremony on December 21, 2016. The inductees are **Kayla Goczo, Jamika Jackson, Braxton Moore, A'Shontae Peterson, Malik Simmons, Christina Troyer, and Deana Washington**. The NJHS advisor is Heskett language arts teacher **Jennifer Wolters**. **Crystal Brooks**, Heskett school data coach, was the inspirational speaker at the school's 15th induction ceremony.

"This extraordinary honor is indicative of students who have achieved significant success in the field of academics," said Principal **Virginia A. Golden**. "They are, in every respect, model students in whom we have the greatest of pride." Mrs. Golden also said that she congratulates the inductees' parents who have contributed so much to who they are and what they have accomplished. "I firmly believe that the guidance and encouragement of parents are vitally important in promoting academic success for all students," she said.

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to identify outstanding middle level students. An offshoot of the high school National Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society recognizes middle school students who exemplify excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.



Back Row: **Virginia Golden** (principal), **A'Shontae Peterson**, **Deana Washington**, **Jamika Jackson**, and **Kevin Gibaldi** (assistant principal)

Front Row: **Jennifer Wolters** (NJHS advisor and 8th grade language arts teacher), **Christina Troyer**, **Kayla Goczo**, **Braxton Moore**, **Malik Simmons**, and **Crystal Brooks** (NJHS induction inspirational speaker and school data coach)

BHS Students Rank in Statewide Competitions

Late winter and early spring is competition time for many Bedford High School students involved in career and technical education programs and professional clubs, and many students have advanced to the State-level and even to the National-level.

BHS marketing students won four of the top 10 placements at the Ohio DECA Career Development Conference's statewide competitive events. Four students will be advancing to participate in the International Competition in Anaheim, Calif.: **Amya Boyd** competed in the Human Resources Role Play category and, as a first-time state competitor, defeated 50 students in her category. The team of **Daja Lee, Jasmine Groce** and **Karla Ashford** produced a 30-page manual detailing an international marketing plan for the creation of a dual functioning water capture and filtering system for the water crisis in Kenya. The plan captured the concept, market strategy, logistics and warehousing capabilities as well as the financing and revenue strategy. Their marketing teacher and DECA adviser is **Melanie Kirin**.



Marketing Students pictured l-r: Etionne Forte, Karla Ashford, Nathaniel Emory, Jennifer Watley, Montez Oliver, Daja Lee, Sharicka Campbell, Jada Greer, Jasmine Groce, Cashe Biles, Amya Boyd, Jaelen Lattimore, and Destiny Johnson (not pictured: Christopher Cleveland)

BHS students who are members of Educators Rising attended the Ohio Educators Rising State Conference, where they had the opportunity to network with peers statewide who aspire to become teachers. Educators Rising is a professional organization that helps students cultivate the skills they need to be successful educators. The students participated in professional development activities and competed in events that required them to demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the field of education. BHS Junior **Robyn Robinson** placed in the top five in the state competition and will now advance to the national competition in Phoenix, Ariz. Robyn wrote a speech on her "Educators Rising Moment"—the

moment that made her want to become a teacher. She memorized the speech and presented it to a panel of judges. Their adviser is **Carrie Brastine**.

Eleven students from the BHS Business Management program competed at the State Leadership conference for Business Professionals of America. More than 2,500 students statewide competed in skills learned in the classroom that are actively used in the workplace today. BHS junior **Ashontay Montgomery-Reaves** earned a 5th-place finish in Presentation Management, making her a state finalist and earning her the honor of being second alternate for the National Competition in Orlando. Their teacher and adviser is **Glenn Yorkievitcz**.

Bedford High Welcomes New University Bound Scholars

The Bedford High School University Bound Scholars inducted 37 new members at its annual Induction Dinner in February, including one junior, 20 sophomores, and 11 freshmen. Also inducted were five Heskett Middle School 8th graders. These students have maintained at least a 3.4 GPA and are enrolled in two or more honors/advanced level classes.

UBS provides students and their families with a network of support during the college preparation and exploration period. UBS students also have the opportunity to take a bus trip to visit Ivy League Colleges and other highly selective universities to help inspire them to set greater goals in their college admissions aspirations.

Class of 2018

Alexis Cornelius

Class of 2019

Cayla Bluford
Khamya Calaway
Donae Carter
Javion Cook
Omar Habeeb
Alexandria Hunter
Makayla Jones
Ashley Macazana
Emeya MCGhee
Steven Moodie

Mackenzie Morgan

Bria Motley
Deovyonne Patterson
Shanya Reaves
Desarae Simmons
Jada Spencer
Eris Thomas
Nevaeh Tucker
Kiarra Turner
Naziya Whitlock

Class of 2020

Jazmine Barnewll
Kayla Hill

Vanessa Howard

India Matthews
Anthony Merritt
Brayon Miller
Justin Minnor
Najonte Randle
Angel Rista
Anijah Slaughter
Jayla Wilson

Class of 2021

Enese Pigniczky
Shane Robinson
Alexis Scott
Amaya Smith
Christina Troyer



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Bearcat, Sean Francis!

Meet Officer Sean Francis, a School Resource Officer at Bedford High School. While developing positive relationships with Bedford High School students, he also helps to maintain safety and security on school grounds.

How long have you been with the Bedford City School District?

I started as a School Resource Officer with the Bedford Schools in the fall of the 2014-2015 school year. I was hired as a police officer for the city of Bedford in 1996, so at the time I had just about 18 years of experience on the job when I started at the school.

How would you sum up your role as a School Resource Officer?

I'm a mentor, a counselor, an enforcer, and I'm fair and honest with the children.

When you are not at work, what is your favorite thing to do?

I am very involved with my family. I have four children, so the majority of the time when I am not at work, I am doing something with my kids, whether it is school related, or sports related, or something in that regards.

I coach my kids in sports and I coach hockey at Holy Name High School.

What's your favorite food?

I like a good steak.

What is your favorite musical genre?

I am all over the board with music. I like all different types of music, not one in particular. Maybe it's the type of mood I might be in at the time.

If you could splurge on one item, what would it be?

Probably a new wardrobe. My wardrobe is lacking because I wear a uniform everyday.

What is your favorite sport?

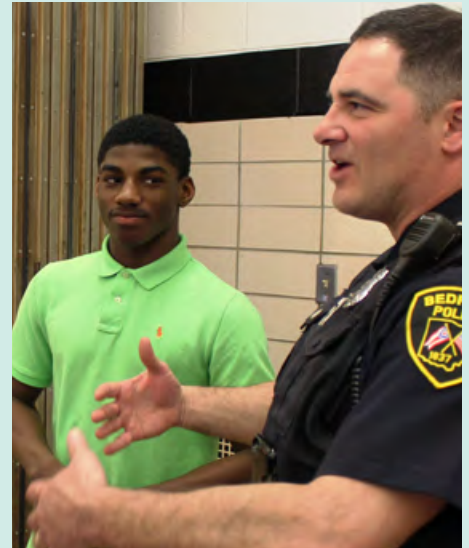
Definitely Ice Hockey.

Who are your favorite sports teams?

I like the Columbus Blue Jackets, the Cleveland Indians, and the Cleveland CAVS.

What do you love most about your job?

I love the interactions with the faculty, staff, and students here at Bedford. I love the fact that I can actually positively change some of our students at some point in time throughout the year. That is very rewarding.



Officer Francis interacts with students during lunch periods.

When is your birthday?

June 25th.

What is your favorite color?

Green.

Are you an introvert or an extrovert?

I'm a hybrid. I'm relatively kind of a shy person, but I have a pretty good sense of humor. I would say I'm an extrovert.

What is your favorite movie of all time?

Wedding Crashers.

Do you have words of inspiration for others?

Always strive to be fair and honest.

UNITY WEEK 2017

Bearcats Together – Against Bullying – United for Kindness!

School guidance counselors along with members of the district's anti-bullying committee organized a new initiative this school year. One week in February was deemed Unity Week and students in every school participated in activities and assemblies throughout the week that focused on kindness, empathy, inclusiveness, positive support and anti-bullying. Some of the many activities included "Mix it up Madness" at Glendale, in which students were encouraged to play

with new students at recess. Glendale students also created a school-wide mural showing that "Everyone Fits in Here." At Central's "TEAM UP Against Bullying" day, students wore sports jerseys, and Bedford High School students came to read anti-bullying books to Central classes. Carylwood's C.A.P.E.D. Crusaders (Carylwood's Agents for Peace, Empathy and Dialogue), a group of more than 100 students who meet regularly, challenged all Carylwood students to not only perform random acts of kindness, but to create the best "Random Acts of

Kindness" videos, some of which would be selected to share via Carylwood's Friday Video Announcements. "Kindness is Contagious" was the theme at Columbus, and the CIS News team provided demonstrations and instructions on different ways students can show kindness. Heskett and Bedford High School held assemblies for all students. All of the schools also competed to see who could collect the most pop tops to donate to the Ronald McDonald House.



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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 **Beth A. Russell**, Communications Coordinator, at 440-439-4520. No material may be reprinted without written consent of the Bedford City School District. ©2017.

The Bedford City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies: **Richard Dillman**, Director of Pupil Services, 475 Northfield Rd., Bedford, OH 44146.

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COMPASS Academy Steers Students Toward On-Time Graduation



A new alternative school has opened this year in the old career-technical (formerly vocational) education wing of Bedford High School. This credit recovery program is designed to assist students in achieving on-time graduation and uses a blended online learning platform to provide them with necessary content. This Blended Learning Model allows students 24/7 access to learning. COMPASS Academy uses the online platform Compass Learning to deliver instruction.

The Academy provides a comprehensive curriculum that offers a broad range of courses and is fully accredited by five associations for schools and colleges. Academy students work online during the school day under the guidance of classroom teachers who give clarity and assistance as needed. The nature of the Compass Learning platform boasts a rigorous component that requires a minimum test score of 70% in an effort to support knowledge acquisition rather than simple work completion.

Additionally, the COMPASS Academy Twilight program, operating from 2:45-4:45 p.m., offers students the opportunity to extend their learning by completing course work outside of the traditional school day.

Directory of Services

Schools

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

Administration

- Superintendent — 440-439-4777
- Assistant 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
- Nutrition Services — 440-439-4530

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