



Your Schools

SUMMER 2019

Diplomas Granted to Class of 2019

The procession of graduates into Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center on May 30th marked Bedford High School's 134th commencement ceremony. Senior Class President **Nakaiyla Hudson** welcomed her classmates and the supportive family and friends in attendance that evening.

BHS Principal **Samuel J. Vawters** addressed the audience, stating: "Each and every year, I am amazed and in awe of our students and their accomplishments." He continued by highlighting some of those accomplishments in his annual "Did You Know?" speech, before turning the stage over to the A Cappella Choir, who performed under the direction of **Sarah Johncock**.

Mr. Vawters then recognized the teachers of the year from each school, an annual acknowledgement that teachers at every grade level help students arrive successfully to graduation. Honored were: **Melanie Kirin**, Bedford High School; **Bakara Robinson**, Heskett Middle School; **Holly Piazza**, Carylwood Intermediate School; **Rosemary Shields**, Columbus Intermediate School; **Terri Harris**, Central Primary School; and **Alison Duiker**, Glendale Primary School.

Class officers **Nakaiyla Hudson**, president, **Shayna Reeves**, vice-president, **Cherron Smith**, secretary, and **Ashleigh Griffin**, treasurer, presented Superintendent **Andrea Celico** with the class gift of \$2,500. This money will be used to fund the 1-4 *Our Students Scholarships*. Five members of the Class of '19 will each receive \$500 scholarships this year: **Cierra Boone**, **Kristan Long**, **Kaela McMullin**, **Ja'Nai Polite**, and **Cherron Smith**.

Senior speakers **Nevaeh Tucker**, **Quincy Scott** and **Ashleigh Griffin** addressed their classmates before diplomas were awarded.

Nevaeh stressed the importance of not comparing your life and your progress with others, as "you won't be moving at the same pace as everyone else. No one will be growing at the same rate." She explained that growing into adulthood will be a cycle of ups and downs. "You will compare yourself constantly and consistently to those around you—in real life and online," she stated. "In this day and age, it's much too easy to fall into the trap of turning other people into your metric for success. Don't. Do. It."

Quincy congratulated his classmates for reaching a milestone in their lives: high school graduation. "High school is a learning institution, a stepping stone in your life, a place you mature, a place where you obtain knowledge, and a place where you experience stress," he said. "... Where friendships are formed, where professions and passions are developed, where goals are set, and where teamwork is established....Most importantly, I believe that high school is the foundation that is credited for molding and developing us into well-rounded young adults before we are submerged into the real world."



Continued on page 6

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Congratulations! Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

– Dr. Seuss

Future Plans

A majority of students in the BHS Graduating Class of 2019 planned to further their education after high school graduation. The following information was obtained from a survey that each student completed prior to graduation. Here is what they reported as their short-term plans.

Adrian College, Adrian, Mich.

Eris Toni Thomas

Alderson Broaddus University, Philippi, W.Va.

Marcus Jermaine Kline, Jr.

Baldwin Wallace University

Rachel Lynette Mathews
Jada Natalie Spencer

Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Alexxus Armoni Clark

Bowling Green State University

Alexander La'Shaun
Gurley
Charna Krishnaun
Maleigh Proctor
Jaden Mykell Smith
Jamila Nevaeh Woods

Bowling Green State University, Firelands

Anthony Epps

Brigham Young University-Idaho

Yessica Nathalia Berru

Capital University

Zachary Pames

Central State University

Erica Kailynn Phillips

Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

Bria Daionni Motley
Nevaeh Angeleese
Tucker

Cleveland State University

Brianna Kay Brown
Aijon Ray-Carl Davenport
Asha Ketara Guy
Jasmine Alexis Hayes
Jeremiah Alexander
Hayes
Makayla Lee Jones
Melaun Nesanai Lanier
Marcellis Rayvon O'Neal
Amarachi Barbara Okocha
Jaini Abrielle Polite
Jaylen Ray Russell
Maya Nicole Turner
Jayson Patrick Wardlow
Logan Akia Wilkins
William De'andre Wilson
Sadie-Marie Pamela
Wright

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)

Darrell Keil Applewhite
Antonio Joseph Baingull
Jervon Thomas Allen Bey
Diavion Unique Brown
Dwayne Alexander Brown
Chania Brunson
Alise Monae Buckner
Khamya Myshye Calaway
Shae'a Rian Cloud
Mariah Eryn Crawford
Alize Monique Davis
Katie-lynn Ann Ferencie
Zshanay Alexandria Fort
Pablo Emanuel Gonzalez
Lawrence Lee Hall, Jr.
Anton James Hancock, Jr.
Cheyenne Ny'eshia
Hardimon
Amira J'Mai Margaret
Harrison
William Scott Hemlinger
Anthony Jerome
Hendking
Kayonna Michelle Hill
Choicy Roxianne Hodges
Nyja Autumn Humphrey
Anthony Latwan Lawson
Cardiair Ralph Lyons
Ashley Cruz Macazana
Jayda Roshay McAdams
Taylor Chanel McIntosh
Kaela Robin McMullin
Khayla Briana McNeal
Michaela Moray
Elizabeth Nelson
Olanrewaju Onatoye
Onamusi, II
Marshawn Michael
Peoples-Paige
Kaiya DeNae Reed
Shaitara Monae
Richardson
Desarae Simmons
Alexsus Marche Smith
Jaylin Romello Smith
Daniel Jason Spoto
Allen Christopher
Stevens
Cameron David Swoope
Kiara Latrice Teasley
Ronald Toombs
Jacob Lee Weingart
Quincy Anthony Scott

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) & Cosmetology School

Veronica Johnnell Knight

Eastern Michigan University

Shantel Marleane
Anderson-Meadows
Logan Simone Odom

Erie Community College

Brian Arnett Kirk, Jr.
John Vaden Law

Fire Training Academy

Kiarra Renee Turner

Hiram College

David Myron Newton, II
Dwayne Taborn

Howard University

Na'Ziya Miatha Whitlock

Kent State University

Nina Rachelle Ali
Soniah Alyce Armstrong
Shaniya Janae
Churn-Huffman
Antoine Tyler Corbett
Aniya Riyaon Johnson
Bailey Hope Mounts
Cherron Smith
Makaela Marie Smith
Ian Anthony Stewart
Jordai Marie Burns
Britney Lashae Holley

LaBarbaria Institute of Hair

Lamarr Deshawn Burton

Lakeland Community College

Jarvis Lamar Ewing

Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Aaron William Needham

Notre Dame College, Ohio

Emeya Patricia McGhee
Alan Christian Meyer
Deovyonne Samuel
Patterson

Ohio Northern University

Michael Aaron Childs

Ohio State University

Cayla May Bluford
Cierra Nevaeh Boone
Ashleigh Ronshai Griffin
Jaylen Khaleel Shy

Ohio State University, Mansfield

Addison Javion Jackson, III
Jorden Deshaun McCoy

Ohio University

Taijay Renee Courts
Mackenzie Alike Morgan
Déja Monet Pulley

Paul Mitchell The School

Nyah Angel Blythewood

PIA-School for Aviation

Kendra Marie Clark
David Delshon Hodge

Remington College

Erin Blue

Remington College School of Cosmetology

De'Arion Nachae Johnson

Siena Heights University, Adrian, Mich.

Anthony Hamilton Lett

Stark State College

Makayla Marie White

Stautzenberger College

Zoe Tatiana Shelton Bell

Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Clarence Jalil Bass

U.S. Air Force

Ashianna Charday Austin
Darius Matthew Bolden
Iman Nicole Mallory
Shahmarr Lee Miller
Ja'en José Roby
Jordan Felice Roby
Taevon Sebron Short
Omar Terrell Williams, Jr.

U.S. Army

Diane Dajahnique
Coleman
Davion Jeremiah
Haynesworth
Tevin Jamal Smith

U.S. Navy

Cha'Keira Delilah
Denise McClain

U.S. Navy or Air Force

Rian Andre Sistrunk

U.S. Navy or Coast Guard

Lauryn Denise Coats

University of Akron

Adam Christopher Croson
Kirsten Sylvea Edwards
Steven James Moodie
Breau Alexis Nicholson
Jamia Deanna Norris

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

MarKeisha Tierra Bearden

University of Cincinnati

Donae La'Shaun Carter
Javion Daimon Cook
Nakaiyla Danyell Hudson
Alexandria Pearl Hunter
Kristan Diavion Long
Arielle Nichole Sharp

University of Houston

Kaylin Michelle Mays

University of Mount Union

Ryan Kortez Cloud

University of Southern California

Amina Sayda Niasse

University of Toledo

Tiara Lashaun Gunter
Austin David Rozier-Bush

Vet Tech Institue of Houston

Kayla Marie Mays

Walsh University

Miracle Tashawonna
Swearingen

Western Michigan University

Kennedy Alexia Robinson

Wright State University

Kristian Renee Pope

Two- or Four-Year College/University

DeArie Jahrel Brown
Leiderly De Los Angeles
Martinez
Jalen Malik Head
Jamell Devon Ross
Aaron Christopher Stone
Ciera Star Tyner
Daniel Jacob Watkins
Jayla Danesh Marshall
Wheeler
D'Andre Marquis
Williams
Quinnell Kenjuan Wynn

Enter Workforce

Damiaunte Nicole Hatcher
La'Vone Tyrese Brooks
Richard Kool Calloway
Nyah Janelle Crosby
Savannah Margaret
Dawson
Marquise Anthony DeScott
Indesha Dewees
Zishon Carlton Bernard
Grady
Elijah Ormond Groce
Byron De'Shon Hamilton
Travon Malik Haywood
Tyriq Quante Haywood
Crystal Rose Leggott
Ashmiben Jitendrakumar
Patel

Krshawn Jasper Stone
Lanyesha Myshale
Stradford-Wiggins
Cornelius White
Kyle Adonis Wilson

**Enter Workforce,
Computer Technician**
Vincenzo Joseph Giunto

**Enter Workforce,
Cosmetology**
Cashé Alexandria Biles
Lynze Leonetta McCall

**Enter Workforce,
Custodial**
Mya Machell Bell

**Enter Workforce,
Dispatcher**
Kayla Kelys Allen-McCoy
Devin Dontez Sutton

**Enter Workforce,
Plumbing Internship**
Danzell Lamont Oliver

**Enter Workforce,
Truck Driver**
Stephan Ameer Sanders

**Enter Workforce, U.S.
Postal Service**
Tyler Andrew Rogers

Undecided
Nathan Tyler Brown
Emiliano Cisneros
Cabrerá
Anthony James Drolson Jr.
Rachel Janae Felder
Andrew Handrich
Court Ne Amir Huston
Jaylen Nashaun Payne
Jeremiah Julian Polite
Journey Amaya
Roberson-Howard
Brandy Marie Rosemond
Melanie Joyce Sales
Michael Lawrence Smith
Elisha Joshen-Matthew
Taffe

Plans Unknown
Jayda Markquise Brandon
Jamayah Brandee Cooper
Marcé Nicole Foreman
John Carlos Genao
Joshua Allen Howard
Dominique Hylton
India Melasia Johnson
Deion Marquale Jones
Jade Monae Love
De'Shawna Yvonne
McClendon
Jai-Da Leondrea
Moorer
Denton Lewis
Patterson
Deangelo Jarees
Penn
Shanya Marie Reaves
Alana Michele Smith
Dorien Roger Strong
Jasmyne Alexis
Thompson

Local Scholarships Aid Students in Continuing Educational Pursuits

The Bedford Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff offer congratulations to the following class of 2019 local scholarship recipients. The generosity of the various community and school organizations and individuals who fund these scholarships is much appreciated.

Shantel Anderson-Meadows
Bedford Lions Club Scholarship

Soniah Armstrong
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship
Bedford Lions Club Bob & Helen
Paulson Scholarship

Yessica Berru
Bedford Education Association
(BEA) Scholarship

Cayla Bluford
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award
Bedford City Schools' Foundation
Scholarship

Cierra Boone
The 1-4 Our Students Scholarship

Donae Carter
Bedford PTA Nora C. Beach
Excellence In Leadership
Scholarship
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award

Javion Cook
Bedford Band and Orchestra
Parents Warren C. Miller
Memorial/Sue Balogh Memorial
Scholarship
Bedford City Schools' Foundation
Chris Valley Scholarship
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award

Kirsten Edwards
Bedford Band and Orchestra
Dona Laing Memorial/Joseph R.
Allie Scholarship
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award
Bedford PTA Council Scholarship
Bedford Education Association
(Bea) Scholarship

Katie-Lynn Ferencie
Ohio Association of Public School
Employees (OAPSE) Scholarship

Jeremiah Hayes
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award

NaKaiyla Hudson
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship

Alexandria Hunter
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship

Anthony Lawson
Bedford Band and Orchestra
Dona Laing Memorial/Joseph
R. Allie Scholarship
Bedford PTA Council
Scholarship

Kristan Long
The 1-4 Our Students
Scholarship

Kaela McMullin
Bedford Rotary Ernest F. Petrilli
Memorial Scholarship
The 1-4 Our Students
Scholarship

Michaela Nelson
Roger Fuhrmeyer Memorial Art
Scholarship

David Newton II
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award

Amina Niasse
Bedford City Schools'
Foundation Scholarship
Bedford PTA Council Scholarship
C. Michael Robinson Memorial
Scholarship
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award
Joseph C. Searcy Memorial
Scholarship
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award

Amarachi Okocha
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship
Bedford High School PTSA
Scholarship
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award

Zachary Pames
Bedford Association of
Administrative and Supervisory
Personnel Scholarship
Charles S. & Virginia A. Bright
Memorial Scholarship
Christopher Koger Memorial
Scholarship

Jaini Polite
The 1-4 Our Students
Scholarship

Kristian Pope
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award

Kennedy Robinson
Bedford Band and Orchestra
Parents Warren C. Miller
Memorial/Sue Balogh
Memorial Scholarship

Quincy Scott
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award
Jeshaune Jackson Scholarship

Cherron Smith
Bedford City Schools'
Foundation Scholarship
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship
Ohio Association of Public
School Employees (OAPSE)
Scholarship
Oakwood Village Scholarship
Award
The 1-4 Our Students
Scholarship
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award

Jaden Smith
Bedford High School PTSA
Scholarship
Bedford Heights Scholarship
Award

Allen Stevens
Bedford PTA Council Grant
T. and Kathryn R. Noble
Scholarship

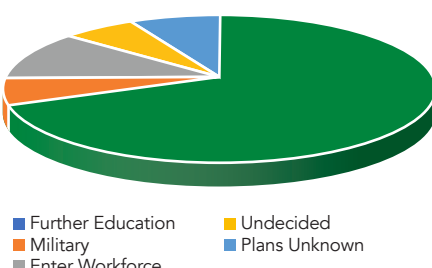
Miracle Swearingen
Cleveland Area Minority
Educators Recruitment
Association (C.A.M.E.R.A.)
Scholarship

Isiah Taborn
Bedford City Schools'
Foundation Paul G. Ward, Jr.
Memorial Scholarship
Bedford Lions Club Scholarship
Bedford Rotary Foundation
Scholarship

Eris Thomas
Bedford High School PTSA
Scholarship

Makaya White
Paul C. Deevers Memorial
Scholarship

BHS Class of 2019 Future Plans



Head of the Class

Congratulations to the three young women who graduated from Bedford High at the top of their class. All graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.9 or higher cumulative GPA). Listed here are their college plans and some of their high school activities.

1. Ashleigh Griffin



- Plans to attend Ohio State University to study business administration and social work
- Activities: Class Officer (Treasurer), Cheerleading, Softball, National Honor Society, University Bound Scholars
- Daughter of Amber Cook and Harold Griffin, Bedford Heights

"In Bedford High School, one is provided with many teachers, classes, and career options. While attending Bedford, I am glad that I have had the chance to be impacted by such things. I love so many of the teachers: Mrs. Dilyard, Ms. Adams, Ms. Brennen, Ms. Flenner, Ms. Pozz, Mr. Brown, Mr. Zirke, Ms. Hujarski, Ms. Genao, Ms. McDowell, Madame Ali, and many more."

2. Cierra Boone



- Plans to attend Ohio State University to study athletic training
- Activities: Girls Basketball, Softball, National Honor Society, University Bound Scholars, Track/Field
- Daughter of Nikkiya White and Carlton Boone, Bedford

"This school has taught me that not everything will come easily. You have to work hard for what you really want. Also, no matter how scared I may be of trying something new, I should go for it, because you never know what could happen. Also, my favorite teacher, Mrs. Brennen, taught me a lot of valuable life lessons, and I appreciate her for that."

3. Amina Niasse



- Plans to attend the University of Southern California to study journalism and political science
- Activities: Student Senate (President), DECA (VP of Communications), BHS Spring Musical (Assistant Student Director), JV Girls Basketball, Varsity Golf
- Daughter of Elhadji Niasse, Bedford Heights

"The teachers at Bedford High School prepared me for the next phase of life by challenging me while also being supportive. My experiences in AP classes, especially in the English department, allowed me to gain more confidence in my capabilities and will help me conquer the inevitable academic challenges I will face in college."

National Honor Society



Twenty eight BHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) this spring. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

BHS NHS Inductees Front Row (l-r): Hailey Thomas, Vanessa Howard, India Matthews, Kennedy Copeland, Sarah Davison, Anijah Slaughter, Chaize Deloach

Second Row: Kirsten Edwards, Jalah Bell, Yessica Berru, Cayla Bluford, Samira Brown, Khamya Calaway

Third Row: Ashley Speight, Kaela McMullin, Dakota Coleman, Shabrionna Fadzl, Kayla Hill, Donae Carter, Melvin Carter III

Back Row: Steven Moodie, Daniel Romero, Celeste Sanders, Anja VanHuffel Gouldlock, Ian Jones, Anthony Merritt, Jr., Brayon Miller, Luke Mohnasky



Board of Education Votes to Secure Grant Funds to Demolish the Chanel Building

At their meeting on May 29, 2019, the Bedford Board of Education overwhelmingly approved a plan to utilize the \$300,000 in grant funds to subsidize the total cost of the demolition of the former Chanel High School building. The funds were initially awarded to the City of Bedford. The Board of Education will forge an agreement with the city to reimburse them for the total cost less the grant funding, as they will be the responsible party for financing the demolition. The Cuyahoga County Land Bank made the funds available to the City and will be responsible for administering the demolition contract.

The Board of Education finalized the deal to purchase the Chanel property in June of 2018 after several months of intense negotiations with the former owner. The purchase of the property is vital to the Board of Education as they continue to work toward a Master Facilities Plan for the future.

The concept of utilizing the property for a future building site was first introduced by the Strategic Planning Team in 2017. They recognized the potential for a campus-like setting of new school buildings and included the site in their vision for the future. After the Board of Education selected and commissioned a well-respected architectural firm, ThenDesign Architecture (TDA), to assess the physical condition of the 63-year old school building, they were faced with the decision to either demolish the building or renovate and restructure it.

The board was then informed that the State of Ohio would not fund any portion of a renovation to the building. Faced with losing the \$300,000 in grant funds and the prospect of foregoing up to \$8 million in matching funds, the board opted to raze the building and prepare the site for new construction at some point in

the near future. Keeping the building intact would require approximately \$100,000 a year, assuming no major repairs were needed. In addition, the staff will continue to be responsible for maintaining the building.

Should the board have chosen to keep the building to accommodate space for students while buildings are being constructed, according to TDA, it would require the district to invest a minimum of \$7-8 million to get the building to basic operating standards—safe, dry, and warm. Those funds would be lost completely when the building is eventually razed for future use.

The cost to construct a new building the same size is approximately \$42 million, while the cost to renovate the entire building is approximately \$30 million. Again, the state will not subsidize the cost to renovate the building, but will contribute approximately \$8 million to construct a brand new building, based upon the state's current formula.

As the district determines its next steps, there are many factors that come into play, a major factor being to solicit feedback from you, our stakeholders. As a result, the district will conduct focus group meetings under the direction of TDA, the board-approved architect of record. At those meetings, the architects will educate district stakeholders and property owners, share some possible recommendations, suggestions, and ideas, and solicit feedback from you relative to the proposed phases, needs of the district, grade bands, and locations. The district would then work on a bond issue campaign and await news from the state relative to their contribution. The district cannot do this alone and will need your help and your support moving forward on this long overdue endeavor.

Facilities and Infrastructure Strategic Plan Timeline

JANUARY 2017

- Strategic Plan Committee Work

MAY 2017

- Presented to Board of Education

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2017

- Presented to Community

JANUARY 2018

- Board approves a Resolution to work with OFCC

JUNE 2018

- Board purchases the Chanel Property
- OFCC Facility Assessments Completed

DECEMBER 2018

- Board approves contract with ThenDesign Architects (TDA)
- Accepted into the OFCC Expedited Local Partnership Program

MARCH 2019

- TDA completes OFCC Assessment Verification

FALL AND SPRING 2019/2020

- Focus Groups and Community Meetings

WINTER/SPRING 2020-2021

- Planning and Bond Issue Campaign (tentative)

NOVEMBER 2021

- Bond Issue (tentative)



Bedford Board of Education
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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 Specialist, at 440-439-4520. No material may be reprinted without written consent of the Bedford City School District. ©2019.

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: **Kenneth Elder**, Director of Student Services, 475 Northfield Rd., Bedford, OH 44146.

Administration

Andrea Celico, Ph.D., *Superintendent*
 Cassandra Johnson, Ph.D., *Assistant Superintendent*
 Janet M. Pavlic, C.P.A., *Treasurer*
 Jerry Zgrabik, *Business Manager*

Bedford Board of Education

Barbara A. Patterson, *President*
 Robert C. Kennedy, *Vice President*
 Tim Tench
 Phil Stevens
 Joseph V. Mestnik

Beth A. Russell, *Editor*

Visit our website for updates and additional information, including supply lists, bus routes and dress code: www.bedfordschools.org

f *Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/BedfordCitySchoolDistrict*

t *Follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/BedfordCSD*

New this year, each school now has its own Facebook & Twitter Pages!

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.

Good Stewards of the Taxpayers' Dollars

The Bedford City School District was once again honored this year with two awards for its good financial practices. It was awarded the **Auditor of State Award with Distinction** from the office of the Ohio Auditor of State upon completion of a comprehensive financial audit. Fewer than 5% of Ohio government agencies receive this award. The district was also presented with the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

As further proof of sound financial practices and planning, the District has now gone five years without going on the ballot for an operating levy. Typically, school district levy cycles average about three years to maintain operations and provide an adequate fund balance to meet expenses, so stretching the district's levy cycle into year six is quite an accomplishment.

Diplomas *continued from page 1*

Ashleigh spoke about how their four years at BHS had really passed in the blink of an eye. "I am sure we would not measure the time we have spent here in years but in the friendships we have built and the memories we have made," she said. "Four years ago, we came with dreams and aspirations. Today, we are leaving with even bigger ambitions. All of us had different backgrounds when we entered here, but we are leaving as the proud students with a common wish to be successful."

After diplomas were awarded, members of the BHS Class of 2019 moved their tassels from the right to the left and recessed out of the Wolstein Center into a future full of hope and promise.