



BCSD Buzz

February 2023, Vol. 15

Committee lays groundwork for BCSD's Building a Brighter Future Project

The Bedford City School District Community Facilities Committee continues its work determining a recommendation to the Board of Education for the BCSD master facilities plan.

The committee of dedicated community members has been meeting since October, reviewing options and discussing priorities to best meet the needs of our students today and into the future.

At the latest meeting, the committee learned about space needs for buildings to ensure the best educational opportunities for our students, as well as possible building configurations on existing district land. The district currently operates six school buildings: Bedford High School, Heskett Middle School, Carylwood and Columbus Intermediate schools and Glendale and Central Primary schools. The existing buildings are inefficient and costly to operate.

The committee and district leaders will make recommendations regarding school locations, grade alignment, and locally-funded initiatives for amenities such as a natatorium. The recommendations will be presented to the school board this spring and the board will then decide the best plan to ask the community to support this fall.

The District is working with an architectural firm and participating in an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission program, called the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), that would pay for a portion of the building project costs within certain guidelines. The District is reviewing options that will provide the best educational opportunities in a cost-effective way.

The District is eligible for potential ELPP funding but has not yet analyzed if the program will make sense in the final plan. If the District participates, the state of Ohio will reimburse the district for 22% of eligible costs.



BCSD Celebrates Black History

Our schools and district plan events and activities throughout February to celebrate Black History Month and acknowledge accomplishments of many African Americans throughout history.

Heskett Middle School kicked off the month with students and staff dressed in black. The school plans a Soul Food Fest later this month, coupled with a Black History program. Staff will participate in a door decorating contest.

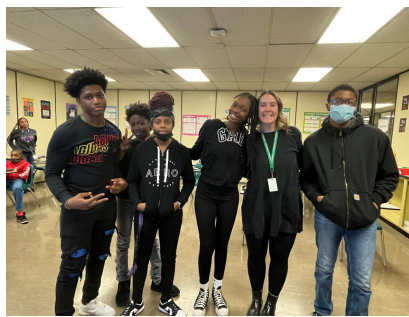
Heskett students will learn in individual classroom lessons, participate in a Black History Month Student Challenge and complete mini research projects and community interviews.

Glendale Primary classrooms will compete in a door decorating contest, enjoy presentations from the Bedford Library, interview BCSD Superintendent Dr. Cassandra Johnson and participate in a Black History Month Wax Museum among other activities.

Central Primary's Black History Month endeavor will focus on African American trailblazers. The school plans a door decorating contest with the winning class enjoying a pizza party prize. Each grade level will also complete projects for the month.

At Columbus Intermediate, families are invited to a weekly virtual Dinner and a Book Series where they can learn about a figure from Black History or read a book by a Black author.

At Carylwood Intermediate, morning announcements are featuring facts about Black figures who have made significant contributions to society. The school also plans a door decorating contest with the theme, "Black Music Through the Decades."



BHS Alum Named University of Mt. Union President

The University of Mount Union's first African American president is a Bedford High School alumnus.

Bedford Heights native Gregory King, who graduated in 1985, will assume the Mount Union helm on March 1.

"I had great people in my life at Bedford," Mr. King said.

He listed Yvonne Sims, Gordon Kimberly, Everett Heard, Frank Perez and Ray Kennedy.

"I had great teachers and administrators in my life," Mr. King said. "They gave me the foundation. They said, 'Keep your head down. Do your work and go get it.'"



After graduating, he attended Mount Union, double majoring in business administration and sport management. His career plans weren't specific and he figured he'd end up working at a bank or insurance company.

While a student at Mount Union, he got to know some administrators who introduced him to the idea of a career in higher education. He became the university's first diversity intern and upon graduation began working full time in admissions.

He's worked his entire 30-year career at Mount Union across several departments including student affairs, financial aid, enrollment and advancement in addition to admissions.

"I've had a 360-degree view of Mount Union from every lens," Mr. King said.

The importance of his being the first person of color to lead his alma mater isn't lost on him.

"It's very significant," he said. "I'm proud of it, but I'm not satisfied. It's been too long. I want to open up more doors. I want to create more pathways so it doesn't take so long next time. It is a significant honor, but we need to continue to do more."

Since 2008, Mr. King has served as Mount Union's vice president for advancement and during that time, he's led three successful university campaigns: a five-year, \$50 million comprehensive campaign, a two-year, \$25 million capital campaign and a seven-year, \$80 million comprehensive campaign. Each campaign exceeded its fund-raising goal.

In addition to those duties, in 2021, the university's president and trustees chairman asked the Bedford native to oversee enrollment. The university had seen three years of declining enrollment.

As interim vice president for enrollment services, Mr. King has focused on rebuilding the admission team and this year, enrollment increased by 12%, the largest class in four years.

He's proud that the University of Mount Union is an institution that welcomes students from all walks of life. Some attend through Pell grants, some are first-generation college students.

"I want to continue to build that," Mr. King said.

He no longer has family in the Bedford area, but many friends remain in his hometown.

Mr. King, who was inducted into the Bedford Hall of Fame in the early-2000s, credits his schooling and where he grew up with helping to shape the person he is.

"Those relationships I made there, the drive and determination and that grit to work hard and get things done — that came from Bedford," he said. "I have great, great memories of Bedford."

New Group at BHS Addresses Needs of Young Men

A new mentoring group at Bedford High School aims to inspire and guide young men to success.

The group, led by BHS Title I tutor Marcus Green and Rondale Reid, a social worker at BHS, meets weekly during the school's advisory period.

"The mentoring group incorporates holistic, intergenerational and asset-based mentoring practices that will encourage the young men of BHS to be involved, lead, incorporate positive/critical thinking skills, intensive self reflection and self accountability habits," Mr. Green explained.

He envisions the group working in conjunction with teachers, administration, and staff throughout the school building. The mentoring group will also have different guest, role models and speakers and offer exposure field trips.

Mr. Green said he and Mr. Reid chose to work with males because they're both men who have experienced some of the same obstacles as the young men they see in the BHS hallways.

"We want to provide opportunity and space to share our thoughts," he said. "According to stats and records, a lot of our young men struggle academically, socially and emotionally. We have the necessary resources to provide for our young men and young ladies, but we just chose to tackle the young men at the moment."

There are other mentoring groups for young men and women as well.

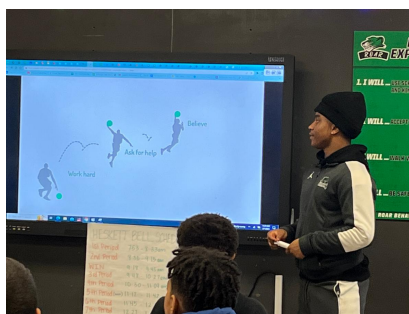
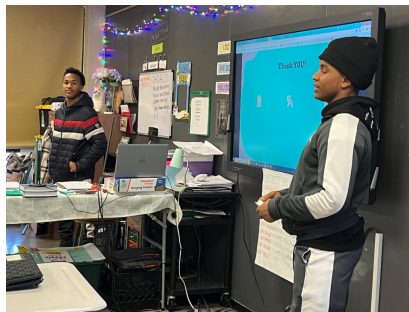
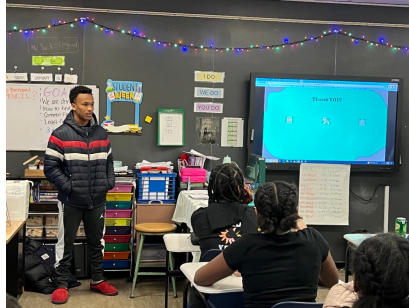
Math Madness Breaks Out at Heskett

The Math Department and Social Emotional Learning Team collaborated at Heskett Middle School for Math Madness.

The Bedford High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and Coach Pete Priola visited Heskett to talk with the younger students about math and mindset.

The event was designed to help build students' growth mindset in a subject with which some students struggle.

The older students talked about their own challenges with math and how they overcame them as well as discussing their strategies on the basketball court.



Challenge 24 Adds Up to Success



Columbus and Carylwood Intermediate School fourth and fifth graders competed in Challenge 24 with the winners from each school headed to a tournament at Kent State University.

Challenge 24 is a math competition where the students have to use all of the numbers on a card to reach 24 through addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The tournament is later this month and the BCSD winners will face students from other

Northeast Ohio schools.

Greyson Vaughn and Dorothy Carroll were Carylwood's fourth-grade winners and fifth-graders Jerimiah Dvorak and Makhala Tyler won for their grade.

Columbus winners were Kyrie Chapel, Sariah Randall and Giovanni Valdez in fourth grade and the top fifth-graders were Caleb Pittman, Mason Burks and Kree Stewart.



BHS Cheerleaders Head to State



For the second consecutive year, the Bedford High School Cheerleaders are headed to the state competition.

The squad is coached by Michaela Brown, Jasmine McCalister and Nina Littlejohn.

The young ladies qualified for the state competition on Jan. 29. The Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators Cheer State Championships is set for March 4 and March 5 at Big Walnut High School in Sunbury, Ohio.

Good luck, ladies!

Donuts for Dudes

The Central Primary School cafeteria filled with the special men in students' lives for Donuts for Dudes.

The event draws dads, grandfathers, uncles, stepfathers and other father figures to the school for breakfast with their students. The men get to meet teachers and other school personnel, participate in activities with their children and learn more about the school.

Members of the Bedford Police Department, including Chief Semple, attended the event to meet the students and father figures too.









Talk of Our Towns

Check out some of the happenings across our communities

City of Bedford Events and Activities



BEDFORD RESIDENT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SUMMER CAMP



In Bedford Heights



Bedford Heights seeks to hire:

- * Community Life Director
- * Accounts Payable Clerk
- * Part-Time Custodians
- * Senior Van Drivers
- * Lifeguards

Find applications and more information: <https://www.bedfordheights.gov/employment/index.php>

In Walton Hills



Transportation Drivers Needed

The Walton Hills Recreation Department is looking to employ part-time drivers to transport residents to and from appointments, (doctor, hair etc.), shopping, recreation program activities, as well as bus trips to local venues.

A CDL license is a plus, BUT we can also train for same. Transportation hours are usually Monday through Friday during the day. On occasion, there may be an evening bus trip, but the transportation schedule can work around driver's personal schedule.

If interested, call the Walton Hills Recreation Department at 440-786-2964.

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