

THE

FOCUS

BURLINGTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

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B

Burlington Community

SUPPORTING BASD



Donation from Sullivan Family Charitable Fund

BASD is BEYOND grateful to the Sullivan Family for their **generous donation of \$185,000** to assist with necessary remodeling for Cooper School for our Montessori Program. At a time of financial crisis, having community members step in to help is truly amazing! The remodel will begin June 2024 and include a new name for the library... "Sullivan Library" (pending board approval in July) - BASD thanks you!!!



First Ardagh Summer Senior Internship!

Thank you to Ardagh for not only providing \$260,000 to support curriculum, training, and equipment for STEM but also for your desire to partner with BASD for our first senior summer internship! **Congrats to BHS student, Jonathan Cowan**, for receiving this internship! Jonathan will be given the opportunity to learn about numerous positions throughout Ardagh along with the assignment of a special project. It is partnerships like this that will create the synergy necessary for BASD to support local businesses while providing amazing opportunities for students!



First Job Fair Partnership with Experience Burlington!

On May 8, 2024, BHS and **Experience Burlington** partnered to offer a free job fair. More than **60 Burlington area employers participated with well over 150+ students/adults seeking job opportunities!** It was an amazing event that we look forward to continuing as we move forward in partnership with Experience Burlington. Working together to support local businesses and provide opportunities for students and adults within and around our community is simply the right work!



BHS Opportunity Day

All BHS students had time to explore and speak with over 90 vendors about options upon graduation! Of the 90 vendors, 43 represented post-secondary options which included 2 year, 4 year, technical colleges, and the Military. There were also over 50 vendors representing all 16 career clusters including finance, architecture, engineering, law, healthcare, and the trades. **Thank you to the vendors and businesses that came to provide this amazing opportunity to our students!** We appreciate you!



Miller Motors Donates Vehicle to Automotive Dept.

Thank you to Miller Motors for the generous **donation of a 2023 Lincoln Navigator** for our automotive students to practice diagnosing, troubleshooting, problem solving, and gaining real world experience on a vehicle with all the up to date technology! The ability for our students to engage and work with a new vehicle is transformative!



First Youth Apprenticeship with Aurora Health

Congrats to BHS student, Juliette Bousquet! In March, Juliette began working at Aurora Medical Center Burlington through our youth apprenticeship program as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). She will continue working through the summer within the surgery department and then plans to attend the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay to study nursing. Thank you Aurora for your new partnership with BASD and congrats to Juliette Bousquet! Burlington Proud!



Building Burlington Leadership Council

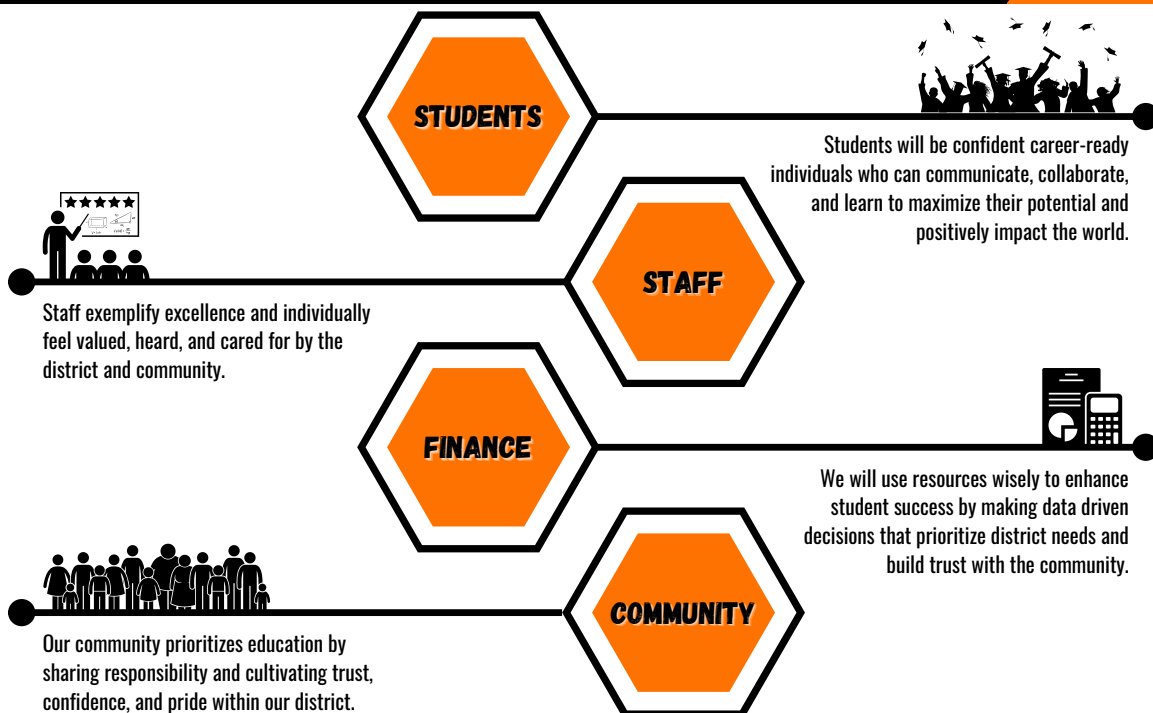
BASD has partnered with **Experience Burlington** to develop a Building Burlington Leadership Council which includes **10 large businesses in Burlington**, along with Burlington Mayor, City of Burlington, Town of Burlington, and Gateway. The goal will be to align efforts for economic development, to attract and retain a talented workforce, and grow the Burlington community sustainably and thoughtfully. This group has been meeting every two weeks since April and is eager to create action in and around Burlington while working to form stronger relationships with the school district for the betterment of student experiences, career opportunities, and synergy between BASD and employers!





STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

The Burlington Area School District has recently engaged in the work of a new strategic plan for 2024 through 2029. The board has worked diligently along with the district steering team and pillar teams to create goals within 4 areas: students, staff, community, and finance. The district's leadership team and the board are eager and ready to elevate, innovate, and improve so everyone is proud of BASD. The district looks forward to developing a stronger synergy and partnership with and for our students and the Burlington community!



BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

2024-2025



As a system, we have reduced our budget by approximately \$5 million as we move into the 2024-2025 school year due to the failure of the February 2024 operational referendum. Below are the larger adjustments executed to balance the budget:



Closing of Lyons Center Elementary School

One way to reduce our expenses is to operate with fewer buildings. Therefore, the district/school board closed Lyons Center Elementary School for the start of the 2024-2025 school year.



Staffing

The closing of a school building allows the district to become more efficient with staffing. Therefore, BASD has reduced staff by 40+ employees as we move into the 2024-2025 school year.



Grade Configuration & Redistricting

With the closing of a school building and reduction in staffing, the district reviewed our grade configuration and noticed the opportunity to create a new grade configuration which will allow a more effective and efficient educational system for our students and families:

- 4K at Dyer Elementary School
- 5K - 4th grade at Dyer, Waller, and Winkler
- 4K - 6th grade Montessori at Cooper
- 4K - 8th grade Wisconsin Connect Charter at Cooper
- 5th - 8th grade at Karcher Middle School
- 9th - 12th grade at Burlington High School

In addition, the Burlington community went through redistricting to ensure balance across the district.



Number of School Days Adjustment

As another cost-saving measure the district/board adjusted the school calendar with a start date of September 3 and an end date of May 23 for students. The new 2024-2025 school calendar is available on the BASD website.



Student Fees & Facility Use Fees

To assist with expenses, the district increased the following student fees and facility use fees:

- Clubs, athletics, fine arts, and/or extracurriculars
- School registration fees
- Breakfast/lunch prices
- Middle School Art & STEM course fees
- Admission to plays/musicals
- Outside user groups/facility use fees





Class of 2024

CONGRATS!

BY THE NUMBERS

241 GRADUATES!

13 - Summa Cum Laude

37 - Magna Cum Laude

40 - Cum Laude

As a class, they provided
1,312 total service hours
within the community.

Received **\$742,658** in
scholarships!



Senior

ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS



STATE QUALIFIERS

- Boys Bowling
- Dance
- FBLA
- FFA
- Forensics
- Girls Volleyball
- Ice Fishing
- Individual Wrestling
- One Act Play
- Track & Field

ADVANCED TRAINING WHILE AT BHS

- Students had the opportunity to earn certifications across **10** different industries during their time at BHS
- **30** seniors took **69** different courses at **5** different schools earning **167** college credits through Start College Now and/or Early College Credit Programs
- **28** students took advantage of School to Work
- **13** students participated in a Youth Apprenticeship (YA) Program
- **3** students earned welding/maintenance technical diploma
- **11** students became certified nursing assistants (CNA)
- **11** students earned their ACE certificate in the trades
- **12** students received their emergency medical technician certificate (EMT)



SUPERB SUCCESS AT BHS

- **303** AP Exams completed earning students over **300** college credits
- Earned **1,416** credits from Gateway Technical College
- **226** Credits from UW-Oshkosh
- **96** credits from UW-Whitewater
- **42** Credits from UW-Parkside
- **173** College credits earned through VanGuard classes
- Grand total of **2,078** college credits earned

OVER THE PAST 4 YEARS, THE SENIORS HAVE BEEN A PART OF:

- **15** Southern Lakes Conference Championships
- **11** WIAA Regional Championships
- **1** WIAA Sectional Runner Up
- **7** WIAA Sectional Championships
- **4** WACPC State Appearances
- **3** WACPC Regional Championships
- **2** WACPC 4th Place State Finishes
- **1** WACPC 3rd Place State Finishes

SOUTHERN LAKES CONFERENCE TITLES

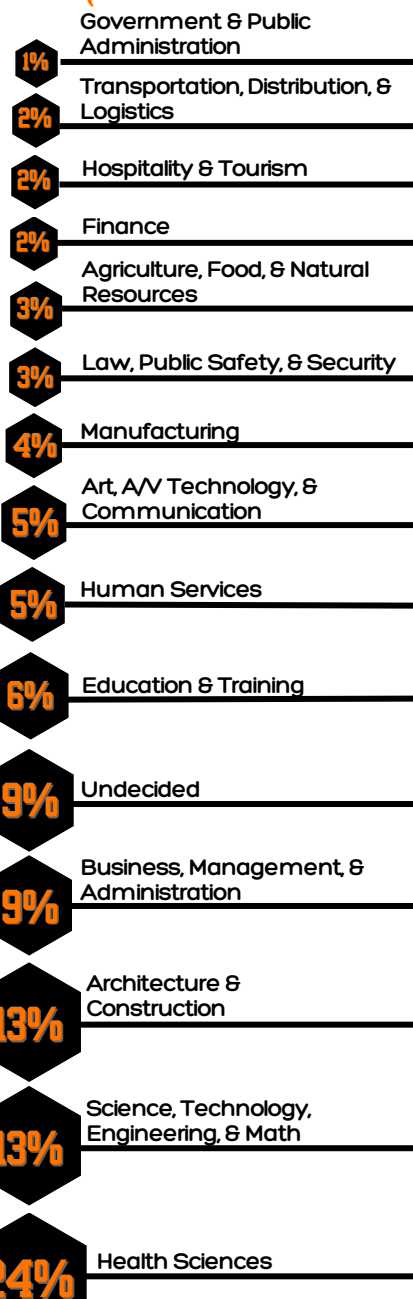
- Boys Basketball
- Dance
- Girls Volleyball
- Wrestling

NUMBER OF SCHOLAR ATHLETES

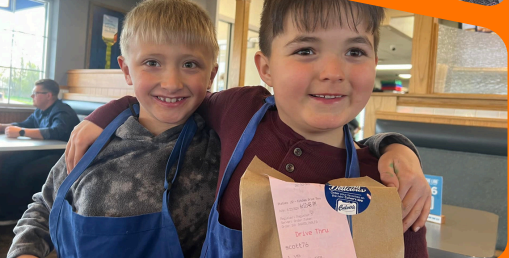
- **22** Southern Lakes Conference Scholar Athletes
- **38** NIAAA Scholar Athletes

CAREER PLANS

by Career Path:



What's happening?



STEAM K-8

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) LAUNCH K-5:

- (NEW) Kindergarten: Living Things + Sunlight & Water
- (NEW) 1st grade: Designs Inspired by Nature
- 2nd-5th grade continue to engage in their PLTW units on matter, variation of traits, structure and function of organisms, and patterns of the universe.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) GATEWAY 6-8:

- (NEW) Green Architecture
- 519 students engaged in one or more PLTW courses at Karcher Middle School. Design & Modeling, Automation & Robotics, App Creators, Computer Science for Innovators & Makers, Flight & Space, Magic of Electrons, and Medical Detectives were all offered as elective STEAM options!

*** All made possible from grant dollars in partnership with Ardagh!!!

SCIENCE OF READING

BASD has been engaging in learning and training around The Science of Reading for the past two years. The Science of Reading is a body of research impacting primarily the early grades where foundational reading skills are paramount. However, our entire system 4K-12 has been engaging in professional development to ensure our staff are skilled and trained around current best practices when it comes to reading and writing instruction.

Our teaching & learning team has been collectively analyzing our 4K - 12 English Language Arts curriculum and the district has adopted new resources and materials as we move into the 2024-2025 school year for grades 4K - 10th grade. Most of the funding for these materials are coming from ESSER III dollars (federal one time dollars) as the district would not be able to financially afford new materials without grant dollars.

Wisconsin Connect Charter School

BASD started a Charter School in August of 2023 called WisCo! WisCo is short for Wisconsin Connect Charter School. WisCo provides an opportunity for families who are looking for a personalized educational opportunity for their students learning that is not within the traditional brick and mortar environment.

Students who enroll in WisCo have the option to engage in hybrid (combination of in-person / virtual learning), fully virtual, and/or within a book-based program option. All 4K-8 grade WisCo students have the opportunity to participate in an in-person enrichment day housed within BASD. The district's goal was to have 40-50 students in the program for the 23-24 school year, but ended the year with an outstanding 80+ students - Amazing growth for WisCo's first year! BASD is looking forward to growing the program and continuing to offer students what they need to thrive.



SCHOOL BOARD

BASD School Board Members:

- Taylor Wishau (President)
- Marlo Brown (Vice President)
- Paul Kobernick (Clerk)
- Peter Turke (Treasurer)
- Rosanne Hahn
- Aubrey Thompson
- Noah Strohm

The school board has monthly school board meetings scheduled on the 2nd Monday of every month starting at 6:30 PM at the District Office. Additionally, the board has established 6 board committees, where 3 board members participate in each committee: Personnel, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Teaching & Learning, Board Governance/Communication, and Policy.

Happy Retirement

We are extremely thankful to have had these amazing staff members as part of the BASD team throughout the years! We are excited to see them begin their next chapter, but we are sad to see them go. In total, **our retirees make up 293 years of service to BASD!** Each and every one of them leaves a BASD legacy of care and compassion with our students and families.

Best wishes and congratulations on your retirement!



BROOK BROSS
FRC DIRECTOR
3 YEARS



JULIE CAUFIELD
2ND GRADE
12 YEARS



CAROL HARRY
SPED PROGRAM SUPPORT
7 YEARS



ELLEN JOHNSON
SPED TEACHER
30 YEARS



LINDA DE BRABANDER
PARAPROFSSIONAL
32 YEARS



CHERYL WILEY-DEAL
4TH-5TH GRADE
40 YEARS



JULIE HEILIGENTHAL
DISTRICT ADMIN ASST.
26 YEARS



DENNIS JACOBSON
CUSTODIAN
25 YEARS



MICHELLE LARSON
PARAPROFSSIONAL
12 YEARS



JAMIE SNYDER
SPED TEACHER
24 YEARS



LAURIE TESS
EL TEACHER
15 YEARS



GREG ZEMAN
SCIENCE
34 YEARS



JENNY GEYSO
ELA TEACHER
32 YEARS



KARREN VETTER-SHATZ
EL TEACHER
5 YEARS



DANIEL LYNCH
MATH
36 YEARS



NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Penny has been a music education teacher within BASD for 37 years!

Penny was selected by NAfME (National Association for Music Education) as the National Music Educator of the Year for 2024!

The values Penny instills in her music courses are commitment, cooperation, and the love of life long singing. Penny excels at all three of these values and has been a beacon of excellence within BASD making her the perfect recipient of this prestigious award. BASD PROUD!

Congratulations!



PENNY YANKE

2023-2024 favorite memories

"Reading. My favorite is the words and pictures. I got better because I kept on reading. My favorite book I read this year was Heidi Heckelbeck and the Snow Day Surprise."

GEORGIA
KINDERGARTEN
COOPER MONTESSORI



"My favorite part of this year was spending time with my old friends and making new ones. My favorite trip was going to the school forest with my class."

WESTIN
5TH GRADE
LYONS CENTER ELEMENTARY



"One of my favorite memories of Karcher this year was when we raised money for a student who was diagnosed with cancer and then participated in an assembly to give him and his family the money we raised. Karcher is a safe and acceptable place to be for anyone destined for greatness."

ELIJAH
8TH GRADE
KARCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL



"My favorite memories are decorating tiles in Garden Club. I also loved my teacher and friends. They are amazing!"

ELLIE
5TH GRADE
WINKLER ELEMENTARY



"I loved learning numbers during Number Corner. We learned how to count by 10's. I also loved the new swings we got on the playground. They were really fun!"

CORBIN
KINDERGARTEN
WALLER ELEMENTARY

"I was excited to meet my friends from other schools that I have been in over the past several years. 'Holy cow, we are going to Karcher next year, I am going to miss my elementary school and I am growing up! It is exciting that I am growing up and being more responsible and how life will be as we get older.'"

EMMA
5TH GRADE
DYER ELEMENTARY



"The Regional Championship in softball. It was our last game together; we said goodbye to six seniors and it was a wrap on a great season with even greater people."

EMERSYN
10TH GRADE
BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

