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A Focus on Teaching and Learning

Preparing K-12 students today for the careers of tomorrow.

Nearly five years ago, district leadership charted a course to focus on essential skills, provide universal access, and implement best practices. Internally BASD refers to these initiatives as the “Big 3”:

Essential Skills: Using the Wisconsin state standards, teachers focus on instruction centered on assisting all students with achieving proficiency or beyond on each grade level standard.

Universal Access: Ensuring every student has equitable access to learning opportunities and feels a sense of belonging.

Best Practices: Staff will be innovative and engage in continuous improvement when it comes to instruction, curriculum, and environment.



These “Big 3” goals have guided the district in improving its learning experience. Using data, the district analyzes academic growth, enrollment, discipline, and attendance.

Further, the district has educated staff on trauma-informed care and promoting a sense of belonging among students. Teachers have focused on developing their knowledge, for example in the Science of Reading or math instruction.

Using federal ESSER funds, the district added instructional coordinators to enhance and support teaching and learning. In the first year, they audited current practices, aligned grade-level standards, supported teaching teams, and focused on instructional and curricular improvements.

The initial Big 3 and all of the subsequent goals that have come out of the Big 3 benefit Burlington students in their learning growth and achievement.



basd.k12.wi.us



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instagram.com/bhs_demons

Enroll in 4K!



TWO 4K OPTIONS:

Full Day 4K or Morning 4K (8-11:30 am)! For children not ready for full-day, the half-day option works well. There is the option to shift to a longer or shorter day at the trimester break.

WHY BASD 4K?

Learning

Students build literacy, math, science, and social/emotional skills through dramatic play and thematic learning! Play-based learning has been a powerful tool to create meaningful opportunities for students. Our program meets the students at their level and differentiates through hands-on activities created to fit each student's individualized needs.

Rachel Baglow, 4K teacher

Friendships

I enjoy the social aspect of a full-day program. In the past, we didn't have time to focus on social skills. Now we do have that time and the students have really bonded with each other.

Teresa Forseth, 4K teacher

Consistency

Our family chose full-day-4-K for multiple reasons. One reason was to give my daughter, who has a speech delay, consistency throughout her day. She is lucky to have the fabulous Mrs. Gyenes all day instead of splitting her time between school and daycare. Full-day 4K is also a financial relief for our family. We are thrilled to have this option available to us!

Jen Valen, 4K parent

Problem-Solving

By allowing play-based learning to be a major component in the day, students have grown academically and more importantly, socially. Full-day students can focus on important social and problem-solving skills that will allow them to be successful in kindergarten and beyond!

Heather Gyenes, 4K teacher

Waller Surpasses Lofty Goal



Students raised \$9,136.45 for the 6th annual PTO Walk-a-thon. Because they surpassed their goal, Principal Ann Phillips spent the night on Waller Elementary School's roof! The funds students raised will go toward ADA-accessible playground equipment.

School Counselor and Waller PTO President Melinda Hoffman planned the Walk-a-thon and confirmed this is the most students have ever raised.

Hoffman added, "We have a student population that includes kids who need ADA-accessible playground equipment due to their physical disabilities. We want them to feel included and have the opportunity to enjoy recess."

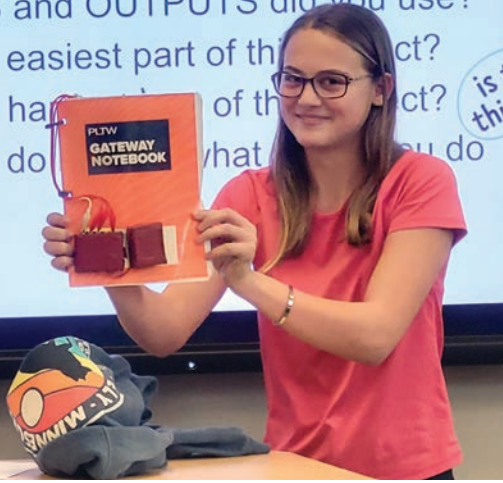
In addition to raising funds to update playground equipment, Waller's PTO supports field trips, assemblies, and end-of-the-year celebrations.

Ms. Phillips spending the night on the roof created a lot of buzz at Waller as the school year ended. When students return in the fall, if all goes well, a new swing area will be ready for them to use because of their Walk-a-thon efforts.



Summer Meet and Read

Students joined Elementary Librarian Mrs. Nie at TraxSide for reading and roller skating.



Expanding CTE Offerings

Coding an app, stop-motion filmmaking, exploring automation and robotics—this is just a sample of the hands-on learning taking place at Karcher Middle School as BASD expands its Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities.

Through a generous grant from the Ardagh Group, students in grades 5K-12 will gain exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts through Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

In the first year of implementing PLTW, 894 students learned using the PLTW modules. The PLTW modules encourage students to collaborate with their peers, problem-solve, and think critically with an overarching emphasis on design thinking.

Karcher Middle School offers STEM as an elective. Karcher offerings will expand in the fall with courses in App Creators, Automation & Robotics, Flight & Space, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Medical Detectives, and Magic Electrons.

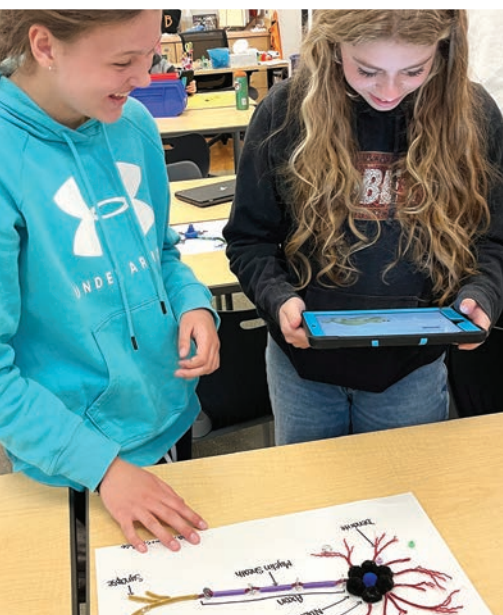
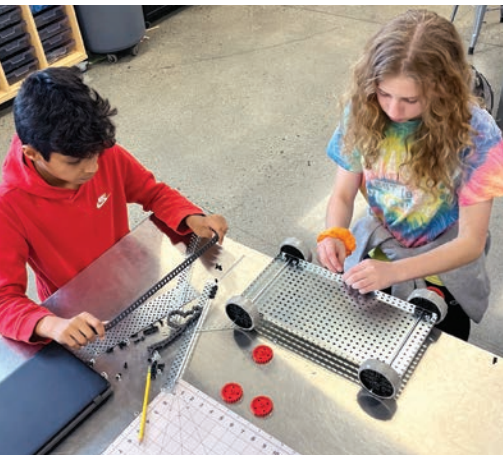
At the high school, students can select from an array of CTE courses. This year teachers realigned previous course offerings to PLTW curriculum for Principles of Engineering and Civil Engineering and Architecture courses. Introduction to Engineering Design and Digital Electronics will be added.

At the elementary level, offering PLTW's curriculum is new! Starting this fall, every student in grades 2-5 will receive PLTW lessons. By 2024-2025, all elementary students (5K-5) will have PLTW modules incorporated into their learning.

"One of the biggest observations in this first year is the level of engagement among students. Students who think they don't like Science really enjoy the hands-on challenges," Katherine Meyer, an instructional coordinator, said.

Before school starts in the fall, more teachers will know how to lead the PLTW modules. These learning experiences teach skills that prepare students for the careers of tomorrow.

“One of the biggest observations in this first year is the level of engagement among students. Students who think they don't like Science really enjoy the hands-on challenges.”



Promoting a Sense of Belonging

Pupil Services meets the individual needs of every Burlington student from pre-school screenings for ages 0-5 through the PAC House program for students ages 18-21 through special education and school counseling services.

“The Climate Survey assesses Student Voice, Wellness, and School Pride.”

Chris Weins, the Director of Pupil Services, started the school year with the mission to ensure every Burlington student can achieve and feel a sense of belonging.

In the past year, Weins and the Pupil Services team have taken a fresh approach, focusing on creating a positive school environment that feels safe and supportive.

The team focused on expanding safety training in schools, evaluating how to support students with an IEP better, and understanding the climate in each school.

Students completed a climate survey in the fall and spring to measure students' sense of belonging. The survey questions link to three core areas: Student Voice, Wellness, and School Pride. The district learned that the majority of students believe they can learn and that adults in their school will challenge and support them through their studies.

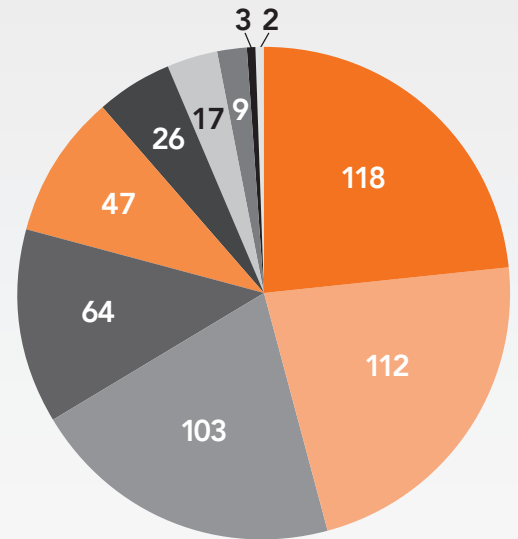
“We will use the information gathered through the climate survey as a baseline to plan for improvements,” Weins said.

In June, the school board approved using “Character Strong” a program focused on developing relationships and executive functioning skills. Funded through a grant, Character Strong’s lessons are sequenced to build from year to year and help students develop the skills needed to be successful young adults.

Priorities for next year include professional development in Trauma Informed Care and how stress impacts brain development in our students.

IEP Student Programs

One in six BASD students has an IEP or Individualized Education Program. IEPs specify the special education instruction, supports, and services the student will receive to be successful in school.



A TOTAL OF 501 STUDENTS HAVE AN IEP

- 118 - Speech or Language Impairment (SL)
- 112 - Learning Disability (LD)
- 103 - Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- 64 - Autism (A)
- 47 - Significant Developmental Delay (SDD)
- 26 - Emotional Behavioral Disturbance (EBD)
- 17 - Intellectual Disability (ID)
- 9 - Hearing Impairment (H)
- 3 - Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
- 2 - Visual Impairment (V)



BASD honors retirees Kim Hoefs, Jackey Syens, Ray Fincutter, Roxanne Robinson, Carrie Heck, and Jenny McKenna at a reception. Not pictured: Mary Jarocki and Leslie Lahodik.



BHS Accomplishments

- Burlington High School's Forensic Team places in the Top 5 percent at the Wisconsin State Speech Festival.
- Six Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members compete at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation names Trinity Ludford as a Student Initiative Scholar, awarding a \$10,000 scholarship.
- The Barbershop Harmony Society named Burlington High School's Female Barbershop Quartet "YTBN" Grand Champion with their love song "Dream a Little Dream of Me" in the NextGen Jr. Quartet Contest.
- BHS's men's quartet, "Reigning Men," received a silver rating and Grand Champion in the Plateau A Division. Here Comes Treble, the female barbershop choir, earned a gold rating and placed second in the Plateau AA Division.

Mamma Mia Receives EIGHT Jerry Awards!

BHS's Spring Musical Performance of *Mamma Mia* received Jerry Awards for

- Outstanding Ensemble
- Outstanding Stage Crew
- Outstanding Lead Performance (Maddie Thompson - role of Tanya)
- Outstanding Supporting Performance (Ben Stork - role of Bill)
- Spirit Award (Bella Stoughton and Razalyn Kramer)
- Outstanding Musical Direction (Kerry Bieneman and Penny Yanke)
- Outstanding Choreography (Peggy Morgan Strimple)
- Outstanding Overall Design (Jeremy Fitch, Jennifer Garza-Stork, Jesse Bourassa, Nathan Hynes, Michelle Morrell, and Rod Stoughton)

The production received a total of 29 nominations!



Introducing Amy Levonian

As principal, Burlington High School's Amy Levonian brings an enthusiasm for connecting students to opportunities that lead to careers.

Before joining the Burlington High School as assistant principal in the fall, Levonian served at Horlick High School as the Principal for the Academy of Education and Technical Services and as the Freshman Academy Dean of Students.

Congratulations Class of 2023!



CLASS MOTTO: "There are far far better things ahead than any we leave behind" C.S. Lewis

CLASS SONG: "Walking on a Dream" by Empire of the Sun

A Little About BHS's Class of 2023

Summa Cum Laude: 15 students

Magna Cum Laude: 32 students

Cum Laude: 66 students

National Honor Society: 47 students

• • •

- 36 School-to-Work Students
- 25 Seniors took 44 different courses at 4 different schools through the Start College Now/Early College Credit Program
- 1,840 college credits earned
- 5 Seniors completed the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Academy
- 6 Seniors received the STEM Award (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- 7 Seniors received Business Microsoft Office Specialist Certificates
- 389 AP exams



14,321 Service Hours
6 students serving
200+ hours:

**Erin Bartelson • Clare Freeburn,
Rabeka Liberto • Emilie Runkel,
Caleb Weis • William Wheaton**



Top Scholar:
Graelen Kwiatkowski

Career Plans by Career Cluster

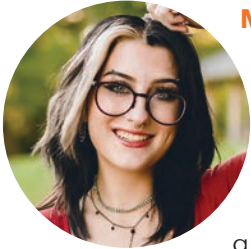
- 10% Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
- 12% Architecture & Construction
- 6% Arts, A/V Technology, & Communication
- 11% Business, Management, & Administration
- 8% Education & Training
- 3% Finance
- 2% Government & Public Administration
- 18% Health Science
- 6% Human Services
- 2% Information and Technology
- 3% Law, Public Safety, & Security
- 3% Manufacturing
- 9% Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math
- 3% Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics
- 4% Undecided



TJ Kopchinski

"BHS allowed me to take classes like EMT and CNA, which led to me getting a job at Aurora as a CNA. Not only did it benefit me from a career standpoint it also strengthened my resume for college. Taking

these classes allowed me to get accepted into the University of Milwaukee Nursing Scholars program."

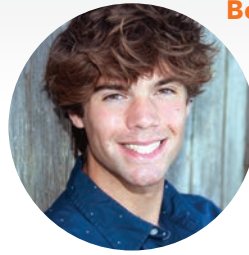


Marlie-Madison Hansen

"The astonishingly talented art department at BHS, specifically Mrs. McCanna and friends, helped me fine tune my future goals. I am eternally grateful for the rigorous growth and determination that AP

Art and Design has lead me through. I plan to continue this journey at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design this fall!"

BELOW: Members of the Class of 2023 returned to their elementary school as part of a new "Grad Walk" tradition.



Ben Johnson

I was in the school's musical *Mamma Mia*, played soccer, football, and track, and participated in the boundary waters trip. These were experiences that also really rounded out my high school experience.



Katelyn Busch

"The selection of AP Classes set me up for my next step. I plan on going to Gateway Technical College to get an Associate's Degree in Accounting."



Nathan Jessup

"BHS helped me personally by letting me take the ASVAB, a test required for military enlistment, while still in school. Now because of that and all my other opportunities I'm well on my way to joining the U.S. Coast Guard."



Educating the Entire Community



The Burlington Community Education Department (CED) hosts a wide range of classes and camps throughout the year. Last year, 2772 individuals participated in 188 different courses, classes, or camps.

Kids love the sports camps for boys and girls in basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, golf, wrestling, dance, and football. CED also offers science enrichment and music classes. Everyone can try something new.

Have something to offer? Community members may contact community education about offering a class at 262-763-0219.

The Summer Rec program provides daytime fun for children between the ages of 5 to 12 years old. The 17 employees supervise activities and instruct PeeWee camps as well as Archery, Intro to Soccer, and Arts & Crafts. In 2022, there were 375 PeeWee camp registrations.

Remember: The activities office at Burlington High School sells discount tickets to area attractions, too!

Bravo! Bravo!

Star Stuff Theater presents Peter and the Starcatcher July 28-30 at Dyer Elementary School.

The district invites the Burlington community to come to see a show. Both the Star Stuff Theatre and BHS drama entertain with high-quality performances.

The Star Stuff Theater is a Community Education program that includes children from Burlington, Waterford, and Lake Geneva.

Their plays attract up to 70 participants who learn about acting from the three directors who have directed 18 shows.



BHS's Barbershop quartet, YTBN, received Grand Champion Barbershop Harmony Society's midwinter convention.

Welcome Dr. Oelslager



The school board appointed Dr. Jill Oelslager as Interim Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. She started her education career as a Science teacher and then

as assistant principal at Burlington High School. For six years, she served as Principal at Karcher Middle School leading the school to a "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" state report card ranking and overseeing the construction of the new middle school. She is known as a leader in education across the state and looks forward to engaging the community in achieving BASD's future goals. She lives in Burlington with her husband and two daughters who are BASD students.



Register for the Demon Tri

The second "Demon Tri" takes place on August 20. The sprint triathlon course includes a half-mile (750 m) swim in Rockland Lake, transitions to a 12.4 mile (20K) bike ride through the countryside, and then finishes with a 3.1 mile (5K) run through beautiful downtown Burlington. Proceeds from the event support maintenance at the Burlington School Forest.

basd.k12.wi.us/families/demon-triathlon.cfm

The Demons are fierce competitors across several sports. Fifteen seniors signed to play at the collegiate level.

Sports Highlights

WINTER

Boys Basketball

The team advanced to the WIAA Regional Final. JR Lukenbill breaks the school's all-career scoring record with 1,211 points.

Boys Swimming

Trey Smith breaks school's 100 Back and 200 IM records.

Varsity Dance

Dancers placed 4th in State for Div III Poms at WACPC championship.

Girls Basketball

Brinley Clapp scored a record 34 points in one game. Ella Clapp breaks the school's record with 89 all-career 3 pointers.

Boys Wrestling

WIAA Regional Champions. Evan Gill, Patrick Skrundz, Austin Skrundz, and Kade Boyd competed at State.

SPRING

Baseball

The team played in the WIAA State Quarterfinals.

Track and Field

Tommy Teberg and Jenna Weis qualified for the Track & Field State Championship.

Softball

The team played in the WIAA Regional game versus Oregon.

Girls Soccer

Girls soccer competed at the WIAA Regional game.

Boys Golf

Benjamin Graham and Mason Meier competed at the WIAA Sectionals.

Boys Tennis

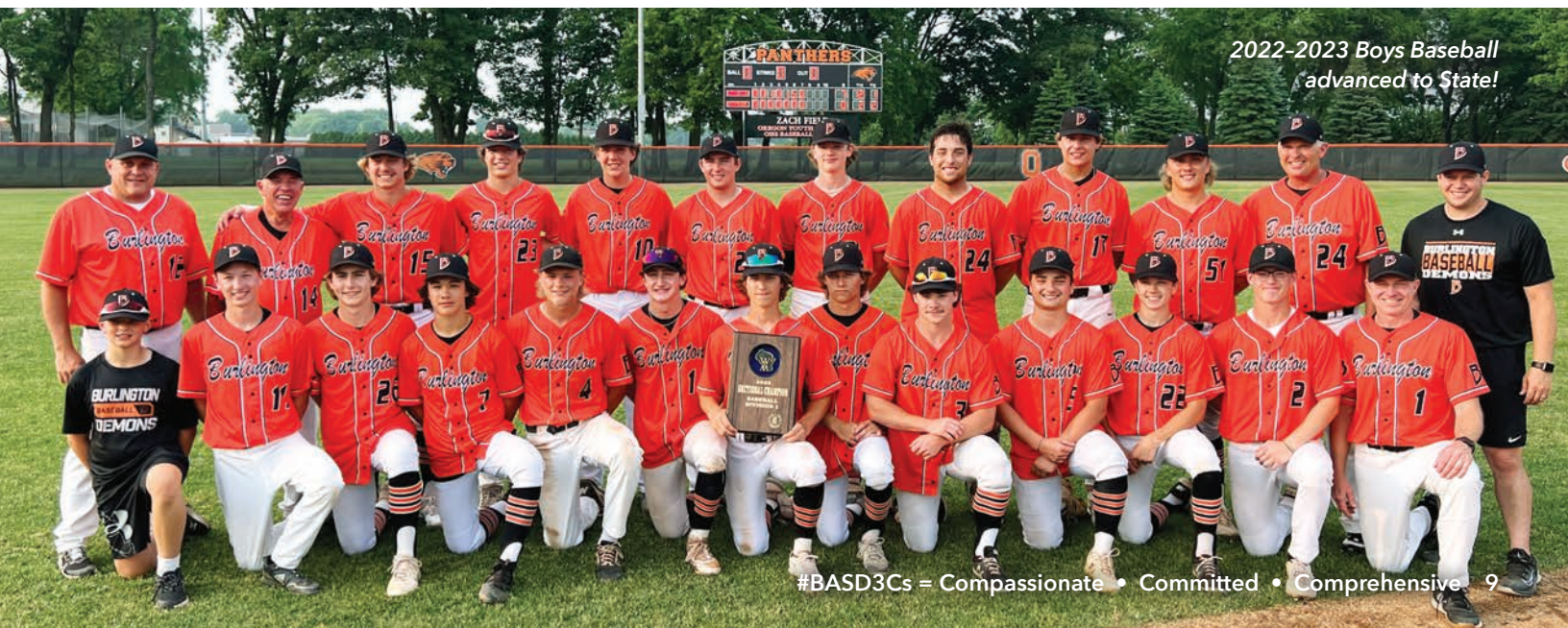
Mitchell Crabtree, Quinn Solofra, Patrick Savaglia, Ethan Vanswol, Porter Tiedt, and Kade Boyd competed at the WIAA Sectionals.



Congratulations to BHS's Dance Team who placed 4th for their Poms routine at the WACPA State Championship.

Burlington Coaching Legend Don Dalton

In December, Coach Don Dalton was posthumously inducted into the National Athletic Directors Hall of Fame, honoring his significant contributions to education-based athletics. In 2014, Burlington High School named the stadium in his honor to recognize his dedication as the winningest football coach to date and as athletic director for 18 years.



2022-2023 Boys Baseball advanced to State!

BASD's WisCo Charter School

Wisconsin Connect Charter School, known as "WisCo," will offer three options starting in the fall.



- Fully online learning provided through VLN (grades 5K-12)
- Hybrid with up to two in-person classes and virtual instruction (grades 6-12)
- Book-based (4K-8)

"WisCo is ideal for families who need more flexibility than the traditional brick and mortar learning environment," Mandy Adams, Program Coordinator for WisCo, said.

WisCo students (4K-8) have the option to meet at Waller Elementary for one enrichment day each week to explore art, music, and PE with other WisCo students.

WisCo's enrollment numbers have doubled in size from year one to year two.

"What makes us unique is the individual attention WisCo students receive to support their overall well-being, not just their academic progress," Adam said.

Learn more about enrolling in WisCo by calling Mandy Adams at 262-763-0210 or email wisco@basd.k12.wi.us.

BASD Using the Science of Reading



BASD district understands the importance of building reading skills in young learners. Now the district is using Science of Reading research to influence how students learn to read.

This year the district has focused its efforts on learning about the Science of Reading. The growing body of research impacts teaching and learning, primarily in the early grades where foundational reading skills are paramount. The Science of Reading is not a curriculum, a program, or a philosophy, but rather a body of information and research that continues to grow and evolve.

The shift comes in how teachers cue and support students in their early development of learning to read.

An example is the focus on phonological awareness and phonics instruction to ensure students first understand that sounds make up letters. This is followed by word recognition and language comprehension so all students become skilled readers.

During the 2022-2023 school year, an early literacy team was formed alongside district administrators to research, learn, and plan shifts for the 2023-2024 school year and beyond to support student literacy. To support this work, the district engaged in training and professional development with CESA 6, CESA 2, The Reading League, and the AIM Institute for Learning and Research. The work around the Science of Reading is extremely exciting work! BASD will continue to grow and promote high-quality literacy instruction for all students.



DID YOU KNOW? During the last school year, BASD served **197,305** free breakfasts and **216,824** lunches.

Info on School Finances

The Burlington Area School District carefully stewards its financial resources from local taxpayers and state aid.

DID YOU KNOW...

...debt defeasance benefits local taxpayers?

BASD uses a debt defeasance strategy to pay off debt early. Pre-paying debt saves taxpayers because less money goes toward paying interest. Debt incurred with the 2018 capital referendum improvements will be paid off nearly two years early saving taxpayers more than \$2 million.

...BASD's 2022-2023 mill rate was below the state average?

A "mill rate" is the tax dollars levied per \$1,000 of equalized property value. Residents approve the tax levy at the annual meeting. BASD's 2022-2023 mill rate was \$7.64 while the state average for K-12 districts was \$7.70.

...ESSER Funds support operating expenses?

ESSER is short for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. ESSER is a short-term federal grant to be used toward learning loss. Like many school districts across the state, BASD is using ESSER to fund operating costs. This contributes to what has been referred to as a "fiscal cliff" meaning when ESSER funds are no longer available after September 30, 2024, schools will need another way to pay for ongoing expenses.

...BASD needs to have a healthy fund balance?

School districts use a fund accounting method. The differ-

ence between the fund assets and liabilities establishes the "fund balance." A sufficient fund balance would allow the district to avoid short-term borrowing. With funding (calculated through the state revenue limit formula) not keeping pace with inflation, BASD's fund balance is in jeopardy.

...BASD established Fund 46 to create a reserve for big projects?

With Fund 46, the school board can choose to set aside funds for larger capital projects identified on the 10-year facilities plan.

...BASD control costs?

The district has been creative to stretch every dollar. Sometimes an investment is made to ultimately save money. For example, installing LED bulbs lowers utility costs.

...BASD is grateful for the support it has received through donations?

In 2022-2023, community members and businesses directly donated more than \$68,000 to support students.

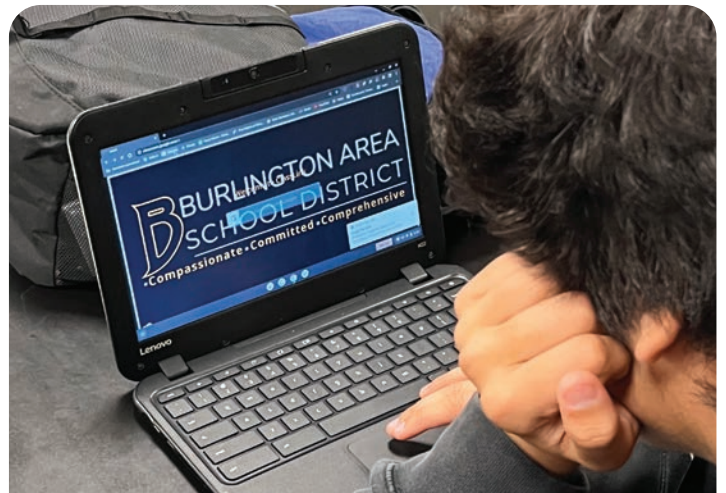
Seeking Community Involvement

We need community input to keep Burlington schools strong.

- Attend the annual meeting.
- Provide input on the Strategic Plan.



On Arbor Day, BASD welcomed Governor Tony Evers to the Burlington School Forest. Students demonstrated the outdoor skills they have learned in forestry and biology. The 160-acre school forest is located on Hwy. J in the Town of Burlington.



2023 marks the beginning of a new four-year Chromebook lease which costs \$835,419. Students use technology in the classroom for assignments, testing, and accessing digital materials.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS IN AUGUST!

*****ECRWSSDDM****

Residential Customer
Burlington, WI 53105



The Gebel Girls perform at Karcher Middle School.



Project WIN students show their artistic talent.



Lyons students learn how to take care of plants.



4K students release their butterflies!

WE are Burlington Proud!



BHS students learn about HVAC



Waller students perform at a Spring Concert.



Montessori students share what they learned about ancient Egypt.



Montessori's culinary corner.