Inside the Hive

Bethel Local Schools Newsletter

Volume 4: Issue 3 Spring 2026



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Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! This momentous achievement is the culmination of your many years of dedication to your academic progress. While you all took different paths to reach this point, you all get to share this moment of celebration for each and every one of you. As you step across that stage to get your diploma, you officially become a Bethel Alumnus, and in doing so, join an amazing network of Bethel Bees. While we can't wait to see how you add to the ever-growing Bethel Legacy, remember there will always be a place for you here at the Hive!

Graduation

132nd Annual Commencement

Sunday, May 24th

Hobart Arena

Ceremony Begins: 7:30pm

Doors Open: 6:30pm

No Tickets Required



Valedictorians, Salutatorian, Top 10%



Congratulations to our valedictorians, salutatorian, and top ten percent for the Class of 2026! This year's valedictorians are Patrick Firstenberger, Delaney Franck, Marissa Hoeferlin, Connor McElroy, Gleb Rybas, and Kade Schweikhardt, and our salutatorian is Ava Tallmadge. The top ten percent of the Class of 2026 are Delaney Franck, Hunter Webb, Gleb Rybas, Connor McElroy, Makenzie Turner, John Sebastian, Korben Williamson, Kade Schweikhardt, Cassie Dobmeyer, Marissa Hoeferlin, Elyana Eljawad, Ava Tallmadge, Patrick Firstenberger, and Adel Eljawad. We are proud of all the hard work these students have done, in and out of the classroom!





BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE

CLASS OF 2026



Total Graduates 140

- **43** Attended Bethel K-12
- **74** Students Who Earned College Credit
- **35** Participated In Work Studies
- **95** Involved in Athletics & Marching Band
- **47** Attended MVCTC

Our Bees Future Plans

- **23** Entering the Workforce
- **107** College Bound
- **7** Enlisting

132ND BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL 5TH-6TH

As we approach the end of our first inaugural year at Bethel Middle School 5/6, I am filled with pride reflecting on the many accomplishments of our 5th and 6th grade students. This year has been marked by tremendous academic progress, meaningful relationships, and a strong commitment to growth. Our students have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and determination in their learning, and it has been rewarding to see their confidence build across all subject areas. Just as importantly, they have continued to grow socially, learning how to collaborate, communicate effectively, and support one another in positive ways.

Beyond the classroom, our students have enjoyed a variety of memorable experiences that helped bring learning and community to life. Our 5th grade camp provided an opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones, build independence, and strengthen friendships. The reward trip to Scene75 was a well-earned celebration of positive behavior and effort, while our outdoor reward day with bounce houses gave students a chance to relax, have fun, and enjoy time together. These events, along with the many engaging and creative activities happening daily in classrooms, have helped make this a joyful and enriching year for our students.

As we close out the year, I want to thank our dedicated staff and supportive families for their role in helping our students succeed. The growth we've seen, both cognitively and socially, sets a strong foundation for the future. Our students are leaving this year more prepared, more confident, and ready to take on new challenges. It has been an honor to serve as your principal, and I look forward to seeing all that our students will continue to achieve in the years ahead.

Go Bees!
Josh Sowder, M.Ed.

BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH-8TH

As the school year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an absolutely wonderful year for our 7th and 8th-grade students. It has truly been a privilege to witness the growth and enthusiasm within our school community over the past several months, and I am incredibly proud of everything we have accomplished together.

One of the most memorable moments of this year was undoubtedly the Drama Department's spectacular production of Once Upon a Mattress Junior. The talent and dedication displayed by our 7th- and 8th-graders, both on stage and behind the scenes, were truly professional and brought so much joy to our school.

In addition to our success in the arts, our students have excelled on the field and court, achieving many impressive athletic accomplishments that showcase not only their skill, but also their remarkable sportsmanship and team spirit. In the classroom, we have seen our students make great academic strides, showing a commitment to their studies and a level of intellectual curiosity that will serve our 8th graders well as they prepare for high school.

This really has been a great school year, filled with achievements that speak to the hard work of our students and the unwavering support of our families and staff. As we head into the summer, I want to thank you all for making Bethel such a special place to learn and grow. I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and rejuvenating break, and I look forward to the bright futures ahead for all our students.

Together we SWARM,
Brent D. Fugate, M.Ed.

BETHEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As we come to the close of another eventful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many experiences, accomplishments, and memories that have made this year so special for our students, staff, and families.



This year was filled with meaningful opportunities for both learning and celebration. Our students worked hard to demonstrate positive behavior throughout the year, and we were excited to celebrate their efforts through our PBIS rewards. Highlights included Stadium Recess, the ever-popular Candy Cart, and a high-energy Glow Party—each one a well-earned celebration of students making positive choices to be respectful, responsible and ready to learn.

We are also incredibly grateful for the continued support of our PTO, who helped make several memorable events possible. The Fun Run and Caring for Classrooms fundraisers not only brought our school community together, but also provided valuable resources that directly support our students and classrooms.



Beyond the classroom, our students had the opportunity to extend their learning through a variety of field trips to local farms and parks, allowing them to connect real-world experiences to their academic studies. Our students also had opportunities to shine creatively through the 3rd - 4th grade choir concerts and the K-4 Art Show, where their talents and hard work were proudly displayed for families and the community. Lastly, one of our favorite events of the year is our annual Literacy Night. We appreciate all of the teachers and staff who made the event possible, as well as the families that attended the event to play games and enjoy learning alongside their children.



As we reflect on this year, we are proud of the growth our students have made—academically, socially, and emotionally. Looking ahead, we are excited for another year of learning, growth, and opportunity. We remain committed to providing engaging instruction, meaningful experiences, and a supportive environment where every student can succeed.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We wish all of our families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another fantastic school year!







BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL

The second half of the school year was an exciting one at Bethel High School!



The Art Show took place on March 5 in Bethel Hall. The show featured amazing works of art created by our students. The night also featured performances by the jazz band, poetry readings, and soloists.



Students in grades 9-12 had the experience of a Mock Crash presented to them. This was a staged crash scenario that took place on the old track/ stadium. Students that are members of Bee Hope acted as victims of the crash while the local fire department, sheriff's deputies, and the MedFlight helicopter added realistic components to the event. It was a sobering message to our students to drive safely.



The spring musical, Matilda, was a great success! Our talented students did awesome as they sang, acted, and managed the stage and tech work for the four performances. This year featured a performance by the understudy cast as well.

Our Juniors and Seniors enjoyed an elegant evening at prom 2026. This year's theme was Once Upon a Prom and it took place at Royal Banquet and Event Center. Congratulations to Prom Queen Jacki Bragg, Prom King Ethan Wishon, Princess Kalley Burket, and Prince Justin Brinson.





Graduation will take place on Sunday, May 24, 2026 at Hobart Arena. Doors open at 6:30pm and the ceremony will begin at 7:30pm. Seating is on a first-come, first served basis with no tickets needed for admittance.









Important Dates from the Guidance Department

- **August 13th:** Schedules Released Online
- **August 13th:** Schedule Change Form Made Available
- **August 18th & 19th:** Schedule Changes [Appointment Only]*
- **August 20th (1pm):** Freshman Orientation
- Physical copies of student schedules can be picked up during Open House

**Students can fill out a schedule change google form instead of coming in person*

Music Department

A Fall Full of Theatre!

The Bethel Theatre Program is looking forward to producing three productions this fall, and we are VERY excited for all of them! Please watch our Theatre page, @backstagebees, to see up-to-date info on ticket sales and production information.



Six The Musical Teen Edition
September 5th-6th
Bethel High School
Bethel Hall



Beauty and the Beast Jr.
November 13th-15th
Bethel Middle School
Bethel Hall



George Romero's Night of the Living Dead
December 11th-13th
Bethel High School
Bethel Auditorium

Buzzy Bees Theatre Camp

Bethel's Muse Machine is proud to be sponsoring the second annual Buzzy Bees Theatre Camp this summer. Come out June 13th at 6pm to see the results of the kids' work after a week of theatre games and activities! Register now through the QR Code or this link: **https://bit.ly/BLS_BuzzyBees26**

Music Booster Mattress Sale

Mark your calendars for the second annual Bethel Music Boosters' Mattress Sale on Sunday, September 20. All proceeds go straight to the Bethel Music Program!

Fall & Winter Concert Dates

Please join us at our fall Choir concert on October 14! We also will be having our winter concerts for the HS on December 9 and the MS on December 16.

2026 BHS Marching Band Schedule

Here are the important dates for the 2026 Pride of Bethel Marching Band season:

June
- Leadership Camps for Section Leaders & Drum Majors

July
- 9th-10th (9:00am-12:00pm) - Leadership Meetings
- 13th-14th (9:00am-4:00pm) - Rookie Camp
- 15th-17th (9:00am-4:00pm) - Preband Camp
- 27th-31st (9:00am-9:00pm) - Band Camp

August
- 21st - Football Game vs Tri-Village
- 28th - Football Game at Oakwood

Evening Rehearsals will happen every Wednesday from 6:00pm-8:00pm starting on August 5th, 2026, until the end of the season. Friday rehearsals will also happen every week after school until 4:00pm

The full season schedule for the Pride of Bethel Marching Band can be found via the QR Code below or this link: **https://bit.ly/BHS_MarchingBand26**

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rust at rustm@blsk12.org

Athletic Department

Senior Athletes

Bethel Local Schools is proud to recognize the following student-athletes on their college commitments:

Football

- Landon Cornwell – Ohio Northern University
- Lucas Truman – Ohio Northern University
- Brandon Neubauer – Capital University

Cross Country

- Patrick Firstenberger – Baldwin Wallace University

Girls Basketball

- Madisyn Halfhill – Clark State College

Boys Soccer

- Logan Newell – Ohio Northern University

Congratulations to all of these student-athletes on their hard work and dedication!

2026-2027 Sports Registration

The 2026-2027 sports registration opens on Monday, June 8, 2026. Any student who is going to be trying-out and/or participating in a sport needs to be registered on Final Forms, sign all parent/athlete documents, and have a current physical on file in the Athletic Office in order to participate on the first day of tryouts for any sponsored sport. All participation in athletics are pending academic eligibility checks.

2026-2027 All-Sport Passes

All-Sport Athletic Passes for the 2026-2027 season go on sale Saturday, June 1, 2026! These pass options are a significant cost savings over conference adopted gate prices and are great for families, fans and especially students who come to a lot of athletic events! Please keep an eye on our athletic website and social media platforms to purchase your passes and be ready to go when events start up in August!

Thank You For A Great Year of Athletics!














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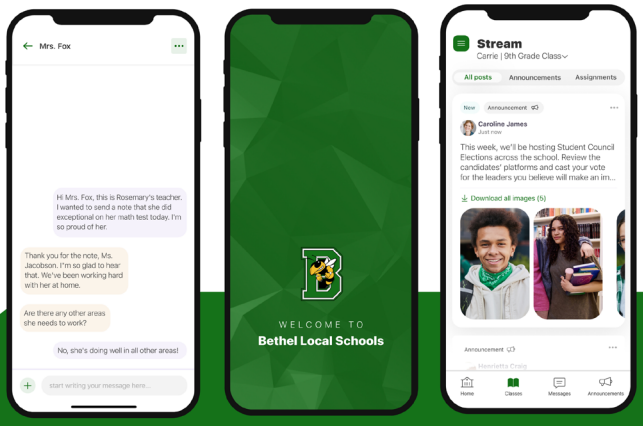
FINALFORMS

Scan this QR Code or go to our website to log in and update your information!

This information is used when notifying guardians about delays, closings, and emergencies!

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