BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PAW PRINTS



November 2026

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Bobcat Nation,

November is a month which specifically reminds us to give thanks. At Brandywine Community Schools, we have so much for which to be thankful. As I reflect on my first few months as Superintendent and consider the previous years of service to this district, my list is immense. Here are some reasons I am truly grateful to be a Bobcat.

- Students who come to school with curiosity and a willingness to learn and grow.
- Parents who entrust the care of their children to our dedicated staff.
- Staff who strive to create safe and welcoming environments for all students.
- Administrators who are seasoned professionals and support each other, the staff and most importantly, the students.
- A community who rallies together to celebrate the major wins and console each other in tough times.
- A school board who is committed to doing what is best for students and is supportive of our leadership.
- A passed bond which is allowing our students to access modern, state of the art facilities to further their learning and development.
- Optimism that the future will bring new opportunities.
- Commitment that we will figure out the challenges together.
- Humility and the grace to know that no one has all the answers, but that we are willing to put in the hard work to find a pathway forward that empowers our students.

It is with deep gratitude that I share my thanks for being able to lead Bobcat Nation! I hope that you have many things to be thankful for this season, too!

Yours in education,



Amanda Lezotte
Superintendent

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Each year, Brandywine provides staff with luncheons to celebrate Opening Day, the holiday season, and the end of the school year. These celebrations would not be possible without the help of our sponsors. Thank you for your contributions!

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STUDENT COUNCIL FALL RECAP

What a busy and exciting fall season it has been for Bobcat Nation! From high-energy school spirit to meaningful community impact, the Student Council has been hard at work keeping our school connected, energized, and giving back. Here is a look at everything they've accomplished so far this fall!

Kickstarting the Year: Back-to-School Pep Assembly
They launched the school year with unmatched energy at the Back-to-School Pep Assembly. Student Council brought the student body together to celebrate the fresh start, introduce the hardworking fall student-athletes, and recognize the dedicated teachers. With high-stakes class games and plenty of school pride, the assembly set an upbeat tone for what has already become an incredible school year. Members of the Student Council also helped out during 7th grade and new student orientations before school started.

Homecoming 2026: "Around the World"
Homecoming brought global flair to the Brandywine Middle/Senior High School halls as Bobcats traveled "Around the World." Each class took on the culture of a different country to design and build their parade floats:

Seniors: Japan
Juniors: Brazil
Sophomores: Jamaica
Freshmen: Italy

The Junior class took home the 1st place trophy in the competitive float contest!

The spirit week excitement culminated on the football field with the annual Powder Puff game. In a thrilling matchup, the combined Senior/Freshmen team secured the championship victory over the Junior/Sophomore squad.

Giving Back: Fall Blood Drive Success
On September 24, the Student Council hosted their first blood drive of the school year. Thanks to the generous donors, 18 successful donations were recorded, which helped save up to 54 lives!

The Student Council blood drives are always open to the public, and they need community support to reach their ambitious goal of 150 total units collected this school year. Mark your calendars for the upcoming drives!

Spooktacular Community Fun: Trunk-or-Treat
Closing out October, Student Council partnered with the Bobcat Nation Leadership class to host the first ever Trunk-or-Treat on October 30.

The event exceeded all expectations! With 20 fully decorated trunks hosted by various student teams and clubs, Brandywine welcomed over 500 trick-or-treaters from around the district. A massive thank you to all the clubs, sports teams, and staff who sponsored trunks. Because of this year's overwhelming success, students are already brainstorming ways to make next year's event even bigger and better.

Looking Ahead to Winter
Fall may be wrapping up, but Student Council isn't slowing down. They are already diving straight into planning for Winter Homecoming.

Thank you for supporting the Student Council and making Bobcat Nation a great place to be!





THE PRIDE OF BRANDYWINE

The Pride of Brandywine Marching Band just wrapped up their 2026 season. Their show this year was “Tapestry: 250 years of U.S.”

Their journey starts in the late Spring when their show is chosen and they begin to learn their music. They continue working on their music throughout the summer and learn the movements (drill) and memorize their music at band camp.

The band participated in the Jenison Invitational, and also the East Kentwood Band Invitational (the largest scholastic marching band competition in the state) where they came in 3rd place. They received the Harmony Award at the Apple Festival parade, and the highlight of their season was receiving straight Division 1 ratings at District VI MSBOA Marching Festival. The band is led by Mrs. Ruth Livengood, assisted by Mr. Luis Sanchez.

There were many instructors, staff and parents who donated so much of their time and resources throughout the season. Many thanks to: Susan Roth, Tristan Bower, Danny Lopez, Meg Pomranka, Elisa Skinner, Maddison Sanborn, Ella Shafer, Stacie Detgen, Jen Swank, Todd Swank, Taylor Swank, Martha Olson, Rex and Holly Pomranka, Kathryn and Steve Glass, Lee Livengood, Sarah Kline, Aimee and Kevin Miracle, and Tyler Automotive.











ILLUSTRATIVE MATHEMATICS BRING STUDENT VOICE INTO THE CLASSROOM



This school year, our elementary classrooms have embraced a shift in how we teach and learn mathematics. With the adoption of Illustrative Mathematics, this year math class looks, sounds, and feels remarkably different than it used to. Gone are the days of teachers quietly lecturing at the board while students passively copy down steps. Instead, our classrooms are buzzing with energy, debate, and problem-solving.

At the heart of this new curriculum is math discourse—a structured approach where students regularly talk through their mathematical thinking, explain their reasoning, evaluate strategies, and learn from one another.

Moving Beyond “Right vs. Wrong” to True Understanding
Traditionally, math assessment often focused on the final answer: Is it correct or incorrect? While accuracy remains important, a correct final answer doesn’t always guarantee deep conceptual understanding, just as an incorrect answer doesn’t mean a student is completely off track.

Math discourse changes the game by making student thinking visible and audible. Through daily conversation routines, teachers and peers no longer have to guess what a student is processing—they can hear it in real time.

When students explain why a strategy works, justify their steps, or defend a solution:

Misconceptions are revealed instantly: Teachers can catch the exact moment a student’s logic strays, allowing for immediate, constructive intervention rather than waiting until a test is graded.

Partial understanding is celebrated: Teachers can identify the strong mathematical logic a student does possess, using it as a stepping stone toward full mastery.

Multiple pathways are uncovered: Students quickly realize that there is rarely only one way to solve a problem, broadening their problem-solving toolkits.

Key Benefits of Math Discourse in the Classroom
1. Deepens Conceptual Understanding- When students have to translate their internal logic into spoken language, they are forced to organize their thoughts. Explaining a concept to a classmate solidifies that knowledge far more effectively than completing a page of repetitive drill problems.

2. Builds Confidence and Mathematical Authority- In a discourse-rich classroom, the teacher isn’t the sole authority on what is right or wrong. Students learn to rely on their own logical reasoning and the collective wisdom of their peers. This empowers hesitant learners to share their ideas without fear of being immediately marked “wrong.”

3. Enhances Language and Communication Skill- Math discourse provides embedded support for all learners, particularly those developing academic language. By regularly using math vocabulary in context—such as numerator, decompose, proportional, or equation—students build fluency that supports their overall literacy development.

4. Fosters Equity and Inclusive Learning-Every student brings valuable intuition and unique background knowledge to a problem. Math discourse creates a structured, safe space where every voice is heard, valued, and leveraged as a learning tool for the whole class.

We are thrilled to see our students growing not just as doers of math, but as confident, articulate mathematical thinkers.

FALL SPORTS RECAP

As the fall sports season comes to a close, Bobcat athletes have plenty to be proud of. From impressive individual performances and postseason success to hard-fought team victories, our student-athletes represented their school with determination, sportsmanship, and pride. Several athletes earned conference and district honors, while others advanced to regional and state competition. Here's a look back at an exciting fall season!

Boys Tennis
The Boys Tennis team wrapped up its season on October 7 at the Allegan Regional, finishing sixth in both the conference and Regional competitions. The Bobcats competed in a challenging conference and Regional field that featured four state-ranked teams in each competition.

In conference play, Maddox Carpenter earned First Team All-Conference honors, while Jordan Bryant and August Forray received Honorable Mention recognition.

The Bobcats finished the Regional with eight points and a sixth-place finish. Carpenter also had an impressive postseason run, advancing to the Regional semifinals.

Boys Soccer
The Boys Soccer team put together a strong season, finishing with a District semifinal appearance. Several Bobcats were recognized for their outstanding performances throughout the season with All-Conference and All-District honors.

All-Conference Honors:
First Team: Mason Michelin and Liam Sosnoski
Honorable Mention: Joe Sherrick, Malachi Gamble, Brady Hood, and Tanner Inman
All-District Honors:
Malachi Gamble, Liam Sosnoski, Mason Michelin, and Joey Sherrick
Honorable Mention: Brady Hood and Tanner Inman

Football
The Varsity Football team had several players earn All-Conference recognition for their performances this fall. The Bobcats were represented on both the First Team and Honorable Mention lists.

First Team All-Conference:
Will Hubbard – Offensive Line
Kodee Young – Punter
Honorable Mention All-Conference:
Jaxson Andrews – Offensive Line
Emerson Gogley – Flex
Jarvis McElvene – Linebacker
Parker Anglin – Defensive Back

Cross Country
The Cross Country team finished the season on a high note, with all runners turning in strong performances at the Regional meet and achieving personal bests.

Leading the way was Ali Murray, who finished fourth at Regionals to qualify for the State finals for the third consecutive year. Murray continued her strong season at State, finishing 78 out of 255 runners!

Volleyball
The Varsity Volleyball team closed out its season with an impressive 17-23 record and a strong postseason run.

The Bobcats advanced to the District Championship after earning victories over Cass and second-seeded White Pigeon. Their postseason journey eventually came to an end against the top-seeded Red Arrow Red Raiders in the District finals.

Several players were recognized for their outstanding seasons with All-Conference and All-Region honors.

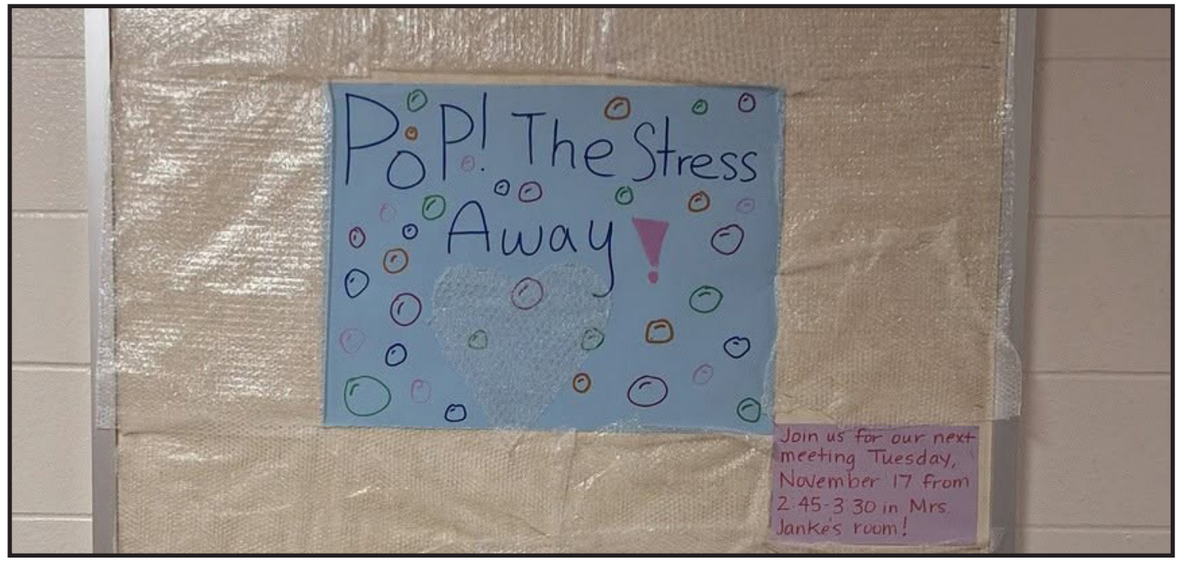
All-Conference Honors:
First Team: Zaya Price and Mackenna Price
Honorable Mention: Nariya Mason
All-Region Honors:
Zaya Price

A Season to Celebrate
From the tennis courts and soccer fields to the football field, cross country trails, and volleyball court, Bobcat athletes gave their best throughout the fall season. With numerous postseason accomplishments, individual honors, personal records, and team successes, there is plenty to celebrate.

B-LEAD

The student leadership group, Brandywine - Leadership, Energy, Action, and Determination (B-LEAD), had a busy, wonderful October supporting student mental health and wellness within Brandywine Middle/Senior High School and throughout the Brandywine community.

B-LEAD is a student created group that focuses on supporting Brandywine students with their mental health. To celebrate the end of the first marking period, students in B-LEAD created a bulletin board that allowed students an outlet for their stress by popping bubble wrap. For Halloween, B-LEAD made sure students felt cared for with candy and kind words at school on October 30, and they also participated in the first ever Trunk or Treat hosted by Student Council and Bobcat Nation. B-LEAD has big plans for the rest of first semester. They will be attending the Student Mental Health Summit in Lansing in December and have plans to help students reduce their stress during final exam time.





SPREADING KINDNESS AND PREVENTING BULLYING ACROSS OUR SCHOOLS!

This season, our entire school community came together to focus on empathy, inclusion, and taking a stand against bullying. October was National Bullying Prevention Month, and from our youngest learners to our high schoolers, students and staff actively built a culture of care. Here is a look at what happened across our buildings!



Merritt Elementary: Building Chains of Kindness
During October's Bullying Prevention Month, our Merritt students dove into inspiring classroom read-alouds—exploring wonderful stories like Stick and Stone, The Recess Queen, and The Invisible Boy to learn what it truly means to be a caring friend.

To extend these valuable lessons to the home front, families received a Family Kindness Bingo board filled with fun, actionable ways to spread joy together.

Back at school, our Bobcats put kindness into action during Community Circle Time. Each student wrote or drew an act of kindness on a strip of construction paper. Classrooms first linked their individual strips together to reflect on how each small action counts. Then, in a powerful demonstration of unity, every single link from across the entire building was connected into one massive, school-wide Kindness Chain—a beautiful visual reminder of how individual acts of kindness create a massive ripple effect across our entire community!

Elementary School: Spirit Days, Creative Posters & Unity Day
Elementary students were actively engaged in October Bullying Prevention Month initiatives also. They kicked off the fun with a week of daily themed spirit days. During BEST time, students were encouraged to design Bullying Prevention Posters to participate in a schoolwide contest. Posters were to include positive, school-appropriate messages promoting kindness, such as "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully!"

On Wednesday, October 21, students joined together for a special celebration featuring classroom lessons and a school-wide Unity Banner Signing to pledge their commitment to inclusion and respect to celebrate Unity Day.

Thank you to all of our students, teachers, staff, and families for helping us make our schools a safer, kinder, and more welcoming place every single day! Families interested in exploring these resources, starting conversations at home, or learning more about bullying prevention tools can visit PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center website.



FALL HOMECOMING 2026













HONOR ROLL

3rd Grade All As

Beaver, Raelynn
Bonham, Lauren
Davis, Chandler
Dodd, Maple
Easton,
Gilman, Owen
Johns, Calvin
Lawrence, Liam
Perry, Deklynn
Phillips, Avery
Schmidt, Silas
Shaffer, Cole
Stout, Savannah
Wieger, Emrie
Willis, Addison

3rd Grade All ABs

Anders, Emily
Antisdel, Elliott
Arndt, Mason
Austin, Spencer
Black, Blaine
Bortz, Rylee
Cole, Stormeigh
Cuc, Eleazar
Davis, Camdyn
Farrow, Jonah
Fortier, Camille
Foshey, Edward
Gamble, Jonathon
Gleason, Cam
Gooch, Journei
Haff, Maddie
Haulcomb, Wyatt
Hay, Larry
Hechtl, Amelia
Herrera, Miguel
Hollingsworth, Aleah
Janke, Brynlee
Jankoviak, Peter
Johnson, Bowen
Julian, Dani
Kohler, Paxtyn
Lamson, Peyton
Lane, Demetrius
Lewis, Maximus
Malisa, Kayden Lee Willa
Malisa, Raygen
McGrath, Matthew
Peterson, Xayla M
Prentice, Benjamin
Purdy, Michael
Smith, Serenity
Smith, Shylah
Stanley-Pytlarz, Hayden
Stantz, Trystan
Stombaugh, Naomi
Velasco-Roman, Jesus
Winter, Archer
Zimmerman, Leland

4th Grade All As

Easton, Tobin
Mitschelen,
Nimtz, Brynlynn
Reed, Ellee

4th Grade All ABs

Aguilera, Riot
Boone, Nadia
Crouch, Quinn
Davis, Ayla
DePue, Oliver
Ellison, Mackenzie
Flynn, Madison
Huntsman, Allison
Low, Calvin
McNeil, Giovanni
Monjeau, Isabella
Poffenberger, Lukka
Prentice, Lucy
Schrader, Leahnelle
Smallmon, Journey
Visser, Ryan
Warren, Vahn
Whelchel, Parker
Williams, Ayvie

5th Grade All As

Earles, Roczen
Edwards, Sophia
Foshey, Paige
Foster, Noah
Giver, Olivia
Hull, Sophia
Jankoviak, Sadie
Kelley, Emilah
Martinez-Lopez, Matteo
Okerbloom, Madelyn
Saddison, Elliott
Vigansky, Braxton

5th Grade All ABs

Aguilera, Iris
Andrews, Elliott
Cotter, Lincoln
Cruz, Juliet
Fox, Deacon
Frye, Laura
Hubbard, Jaylen
Julian, Marlee
Okonski, Kyson
Perez-Rodriguez,
Pruett, Daisy
Rigler, Trystin
Rust, Samuel
Sarrels, Spencer
Thurston, Xavier Lee
Unger, Sophia
Vaughn, Boston
Winslett-Miller, Karleigh
Wise, Cattleya

6th Grade All As

Albright, Caroline
Barnes, Kahliyah
Crouch, Grace
Crowley, Elora
Dains, Corbin
Elder, Scarlette
Gambino, Stella
Gustafson, Kinsley
Hillebrand, Laurium
Mears, Locklynn
Pearison, Fayah
Perez-Rodriguez, Dulce
Place, Alice
Renkiewicz, Cameron
Sater, Sophia
Stanley-Pytlarz, Harper
Stombaugh, Lydia
Stout, McKenna
Wieger, Adlie

6th Grade All ABs

Alstott, Amar'e
Barnes, Kahlil
Brackett, Hayden
Carpenter, De'Marius
Carpenter, Kingston
Carrera-Garcia, Josiah
Cole, Savannah
Compoe, Brooke
Cooper, Brantley
Culp, Aspen
Daniel, Clayton
Davis, Elizabeth
Draper, Jaxon
Earles, Braxton
Flynn, Reed
Frank, Jameson
Gilman, Oliver
Glaser, Kailynn
Godfrey, Cameron
Huss, Mia
Jackson, Eli
Jones, Alexia
Lintz, Kaci
Miller, Xzavier
Nimtz, Brogan
Owens, Faris
Seidner, Maggie
Sherman-McGraw, Joleigh
Sherwood, Melody
Shindeldecker, Zayden
Ulrich, Ethan
Walker, Lavette
Westfall, Macee
Williams, Kacen
Williams, Olivia
Williams, Savannah
Wood, Amiah

7th Grade Excellence

Aguirre Lopez, Antonio Jr
Banish, Kaydence
Beadle, Kyler
Cole, Savanna
Crouch, Ellie
Dodd, Analise
Holmes, Toby
Hood, Carson
Howard, Lilyth
Huntsman, Karina
Jankoviak, Ezra
Kelems, Samantha
Kidman, Jax
Monjeau, Hannah
Schmidt, Charlie
Schoff, Ziva
Simpson, Hunter

7th Grade A/B

Anderson, Noah
Baker, Hunter
Ballge, Wyatt
Bonham, Ashton
Covyeou, Harper
Flynn, Alivia
Germann, Cal
Gibson, Hazel
Harris, Rowan
Hicks, Miley
Kerley, William
Lutes, Kason
McGowen, Sophia
McNary, Annabell
Overholt, Sadie
Pontius, Lilly
Quinton, Peyton
Suasto, Evan
Watford, Damarius
Westfall, Sadie
Williams, Kalayah

8th Grade Excellence

Bestle, Raelynn
Brumitt, Rae
Colburn, Raven
Huss, Emma
Keefer, Makayla
Letcher, Abagail
Monjeau, Lilianne
Peterson, Virginia
Plouhar, Madison
Storey, Samantha
Ulrich, Evelyn

8th Grade A/B

Antisdel, Lexie
Book, Hannah
Hoover, Ava
Hopper, Alexzander
Klug, Elliana
Lauri, Joseph
Long, Gryffin
Okerbloom, Jaycie
Oliver, Samantha
Paul, Owen
Pelc, Wesley
Riggs, Theresa
Rinker, Blake
Roule, Hannah-Faye
Simpson, Alexx
Starr, Elaine
Whitman, Cohen
Williams, Levi

9th Grade Excellence

Anglin, Parker
Adamczyk, Emma
Albert, Jax
Fisher, Jenson
Grice, Dyosa
Harris, Libbie
Hood, Brady
Michelin, Jett
Moore, Mya
Olson, James
Pomranka, Emma
Ramos, Xoey
Saddison, Alexander
Saddison, Cooper
Sircher, Jackson
Smothermon, Carson
Swartz, Ava
Vanderboegh, Kirra
Wixson, Stryder
Young, Kodee

9th Grade A/B

Adamczyk, Ava
Adams, Sophia
Beadle, Kaylee
Brumley, Danni
Cross, Kaydence
Desmond, Ava
Elrod, Ella
Fultz, Colton
Gordon, Bailee
Halby, Max
Heed, Jaxon
Hernandez, Myah
Kopczynski, Aleczander
Lazaro, Cristian
Livengood, Grant
Mattos, Eli
Payton, Spencer
Peterson, Isabella
Renkiewicz, Aubree
Rivera, Damian
Sallee, Sophia
Stier, Owen
Tokar, Lucas
Weiss, Mallory

10th Grade Excellence

Colbert-Lorenz, Grace
Frye, Shawn
Germann, Ben
Hallaway, Ivory
Harris, Hudson
Kisakye, Seth
Manigold, Dayton
McGinnis, Landon
Okerbloom, Brady
Pelc, Wyatt
Province, Miracle
Roberts, Alaina
Stover, James
Wallick, Eloise
White, Toriee
Wogatzke, Laila

10th Grade A/B

Anglin, Parker
Banish, Addysen
Bartus, Beatrice
Baxter, Dorian
Bortz, Sophia
Brandon, Keaghan
Clark, Brayden
Clark, Jaxson
Crocker, Lauren
Daniel, Paige
De La Cruz, Manuel
DeHart, Janea
Flynn, Mason
Foley, Aiden
Gonzalez-Torres, Jonatan
Hodgins, Payton
Martin, Kayle-Lynn
Mason, Nariya
Murdock, Bristol
Price, Zaya
Rohl, Emily
Rose, Isabelle
Smith, Hailey
Solarek, Shannon
Sosnoski, Liam

11th Grade Excellence

Bosch, Brady
Brant, Kelsea
Carter, Brooke
Craig, Noah
Gipson, Evan
Huss, Madison
Murray, Alison
Potthoff, Landyn
Roeder, Sydney
Tonkel, Kolton

11th Grade A/B

Anderson, Holly
Andrews, Jaxson
Babcock, Lincoln
Colburn, D'artagnan
Davis, Elyzabeth
Denney, Kyle
Hood, Bryce
Howard, Isaiah
Inman, Tanner
Liebetrau, Kaitlyn
Miracle, Benjamin
Padron, Isabella
Ramos, Dominic
Ritchey, Colten
Ritchie, Kyle
Shaffer, Greyson
Simpson, Maxx
Smothermon, Jack
Swank, Taryn
Tonkel, Jackson
Wylie, Issac

12th Grade Excellence

Allen, Jacob
Bright, Avery
Brumitt, Brook
Bullock, Shara
Davis, Madison
Deno, Lucy
Elrod, Camillia
Gonzalez-Padron, Melonie
Hoover, Brayden
Hubbard, William
Juarez, Oswaldo
Kidman, Chase
Kubisiak, Hannah
Miller, Olivia
O'Hara, Brian
Olson, Chelsy
Reske, Madelyn
Rodriguez, Abigail
Roseberry, Ragena
Rosenhagen, Gwendolyn
Shier, Kya
Slates, Mikayla
Storey, Tiffany
Vance, Jillyan

12th Grade A/B

Bates, Brayden
Bauman, Baylee
Bortz, Chloey
Bryant, Jordan
Burt, Elijhia
Clark, Dominic
Forray-Molica, Augustino
Freeze, Emery
Gaudin, Kayla
Gill, Aleta
Gonzalez-Torres, Agustin
Hunsberger, Logan
Ibanez-Molina, Alex
James, Tionna
Jordan, Ronson
Krisher, Sophia
Lary, McKenzie
Peterson, Louisa
Price, Mackenna
Rivera, Francis
Smith, Brenden