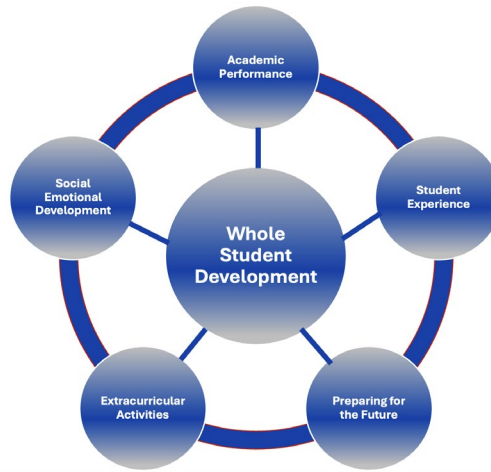


January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bedford Elementary School



December Character and Grit Award Winners



Pictured below are our December Grit and Character Award winners. These students were selected by their teachers for demonstrating growth in the classroom, perseverance through challenges, demonstrating kindness to classmates and teachers, and a general commitment to positive behavior.

Front L – R: Gabriel McClelland, Willow Hartman, Connor Shipley, Avery Bittner, Dylan Rhodes, and Sophia Haslacker.

Back L – R: Cambrie Weyandt, Sammy Shinall, Abigayle Fluke, Brantley Nichols, Caleb Long, Payton Brouse, and Officer Joe Kovel



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

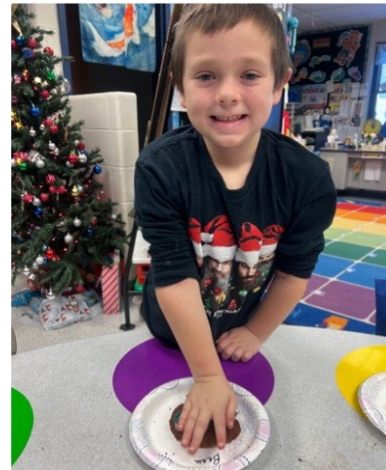
Christmas Activities

Student
Experience

Social
Emotional
Development

Academic
Performance

Before the holiday break, BE students took part in many holiday themed activities. For example, Mrs. Sabo's and Mrs. Toner's Kindergarten students participated in Grinch-themed lessons, holiday reading, and hands-on projects, including cinnamon ornaments and reindeer antlers. A special reading and viewing of *The Polar Express* helped make the week both educational and memorable.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Surfin' Santa Performance

Student
Experience

Extracurricular
Activities

Social
Emotional
Development

Bedford Elementary presented three performances of the Christmas musical *Surfin' Santa* on December 17th. A total of 133 students participated, with approximately 60 students who stayed after school for weeks learning theater basics and the importance of teamwork while showcasing their talents. Bedford Elementary is proud to be one of the few schools in the area to put on a full elementary musical.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Share the Warmth



Bedford Elementary's annual Share the Warmth initiative helped provide essential winter clothing to students in need. Thanks to the generous support of BEST in Action, proceeds from the Bedford Candies fundraiser, Rex Heat Treat, and local churches, winter essentials were provided to 49 students. Bedford Elementary teachers and staff volunteered their time to shop for items based on each child's needs and prepared gifts for families to pick up before Christmas break. We are grateful to our community partners and supporters who continue to make this tradition possible each year.



January 2026 School Highlights

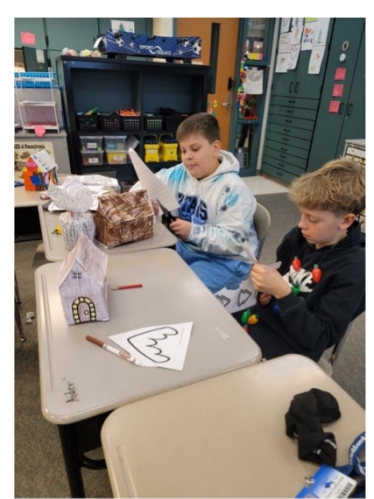
1/20/2026

5th Grade Volume Projects

Preparing for
the Future

Academic
Performance

5th grade students applied their understanding of volume through hands-on math activities. In Ms. Adams' class, students created zoo animals using rectangular prisms and calculated total volume, while in Mrs. Miller's class, students built gingerbread houses and calculated the additive volume of prisms. These activities reinforced key math concepts while encouraging creativity and problem-solving.



January 2026 School Highlights

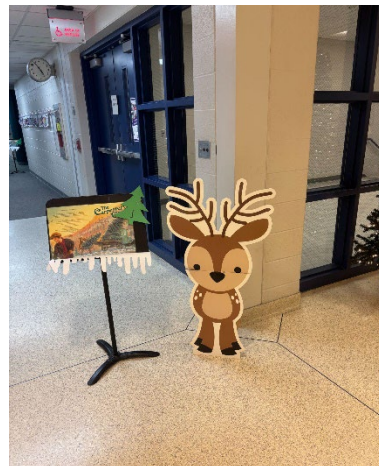
1/20/2026

Into the Woods - Family Event

Student
Experience

Extracurricular
Activities

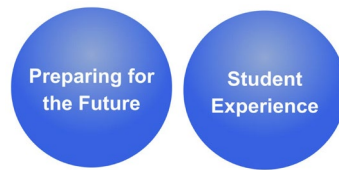
Bedford Elementary hosted its family engagement night, *Into the Woods: Reading Adventures*, on January 8th. Families explored a woodland-themed evening featuring interactive story walks, literacy-based activities, and hands-on crafts. Highlights included a Breakout EDU challenge, scavenger hunts, and creative projects that blended reading with exploration and fun. The event welcomed 345 parents and students, creating a memorable evening of literacy, creativity, and community engagement.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

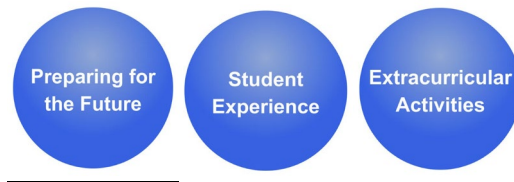
After 3 Book



All artwork submitted by the Bedford Elementary After 3 program was selected for publication in the upcoming national children's art book, *Monster Madness*. The nationwide contest included hundreds of entries from after-school programs and elementary schools across the country, and organizers chose to feature every piece submitted by Bedford Elementary.

Participating students will be recognized by name in the publication and receive certificates celebrating their achievement. The book is scheduled for release on March 23, 2026, highlighting our students' creativity on a national level.

MinecraftEDU Team Competition



Four Bedford Elementary 4th grade teams entered the state's first MinecraftEDU competition, which challenged students to design a farm capable of supporting an entire community. The build required students to grow crops, raise animals, and design a safe, functional, and welcoming farm environment.

Abygail Sweinhart, Ashtyn Turman, and Lila Sevin were named regional winners as hundreds of teams competed statewide and will advance to the face-to-face Build Challenge on February 6th in Lancaster, where they will plan and build a new MinecraftEDU world within a two-hour time frame.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bedford Middle School



Best Schools



For the third consecutive year, Bedford Middle School will be listed among the US News & World Report Best Middle Schools in Pennsylvania. Schools across the nation were analyzed based on individual state test scores in math and English, along with socioeconomic demographics. To be eligible for a Best School classification, schools need to be ranked in the top 40% in their home state. Congratulations to the staff and students of BMS for the hard work on this national recognition!

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Musical Performances at Christmas

Student
Experience

Extracurricular
Activities

Social
Emotional
Development

The BMS Band Christmas Concert was a wonderful success! With 158 students participating in the middle school band program, the BMS gym was filled with music and holiday spirit. Our students did an awesome job. Their hard work and dedication were on full display and we are very proud of their performance. We look forward to continuing this musical journey and are excited for the spring concert in May, which will be held in the new auditorium.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

The BMS 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choruses also performed a phenomenal winter concert in December. With over 175 students participating, favorite tunes included “Somewhere In My Memory” from *Home Alone*, “Northern Lights”, “Let It Snow”, “Sweet Silent Night”, “Silver Bells”, and “Jingle, Jingle, Jingle” from *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. We are very proud of this performance and can't wait for the spring concert in May!



December Bison Awards

Social
Emotional
Development

Preparing for
the Future

Three students were recently recognized with Bison Awards in December at Bedford Middle School. To be eligible for the award you must be “caught” doing a Random Act of Kindness. 22 students were included and 3 winners were chosen in this drawing. The winners received a \$25.00 gift card to Wal-Mart.

Pictured, L-R: Kree Easter (6th Grade), Elyse Hoover (7th Grade), Kaalan Wilt (8th Grade) and Officer Joe Kovel



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Christmas Meals

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

The Bison Weekend Backpack Program ended the year with a huge amount of support from staff at Bedford Area School District. With all of the help, the program was able to provide Christmas meal boxes for 22 families in the district. Students from different grade levels also helped to pack and prepare the boxes for the families to pick up before the holiday break.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Christmas Fun

Student
Experience

Social
Emotional
Development

Leading up to Christmas break, BMS participated in many spirited events. The students and staff took part in a Christmas Spirit Week, dressing up with a variety of different themes such as Christmas Character Day, Red & Green Day, Flannel & Plaid Day, etc. Classes participated in "Name That Christmas Tune", and all students enjoyed the annual Holiday Social.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Junior High County Band

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Preparing for
the Future

Junior-Senior High County Band was held on January 5th and 6th at Chestnut Ridge. Bedford Middle School was able to send 10 students. Over the two days, students practiced several pieces of music and worked closely with county band directors to prepare. The event concluded with an evening concert on January 6th. Overall, students had a great experience, learning, collaborating, and performing with fellow musicians from across the county. Congratulations to Mason Bullington, Graci Clark, Lydia Claycomb, Stella Ebersole, Emilia Koontz, Henry Leap, Alice Miller, Graham Paxton, Levi Vent, and Grace Yinkey on a job well done!



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Seussical Jr. Musical

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Preparing for
the Future

Bedford Middle School presented three performances of the musical *Seussical Junior* this past weekend in the BHS Auditorium. After more than four months of preparation, the cast and crew put on a fantastic performance. Congratulations to the 52 members of the cast and crew who worked so hard to put on a fantastic performance. Special thank you to the Board and Administration for making it possible for the students to perform in a beautifully renovated auditorium!



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Jr. High Winter Sports

Extracurricular
Activities

Preparing for
the Future

Student
Experience

Our Junior High winter sports teams are having successful sports seasons. Please enjoy photos of our teams giving it their all! Teams include: Junior High Boys' Basketball, Junior High Cheerleading, Junior High Girls' Wrestling, Junior High Girls' Basketball, and Junior High Boys' Wrestling.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bedford High School



Youth Leadership Bedford County Class of 2026



Eight 10th grade students from Bedford High School were selected to participate in this year's class of Youth Leadership Bedford County. At each session, the students meet with other 10th graders from the county at various locations to be exposed to leaders from Bedford County. Students learn about the qualities that make a good leader, as well as the roles leaders play within our community. The “Social Norms and Communication” session took place in December at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort.



Row 1, L to R - Olivia Freidenbloom, Alivia Snyder, David Hershey, Isaac Holtz
Row 2, L to R - Keira Koontz, Olivia Ritchey, Gavin McCoy, Chad Browell

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bison Buddies & Santa's Workshop

Extracurricular
Activities

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

The Bison Buddies partnered with 1st and 2nd grade students during Santa's Workshop in the final week before Christmas break. The older students guided their younger buddies through budgeting, decision-making, and finalizing purchases. In addition, the Bison Buddies surprised each 1st grade student with a special gift, helping to spread the joy of the season and make every child feel valued and special.



Photo 1, Left: Grace Brallier, Eden Locke, and Maddox Jones

Photo 2, Right: Taylor Ruhlman and Emrick Winesickle



Photo 3, Below: Lexi Hershey and Mrs. Steele's 1st-grade class



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

New Equipment for Technology classes

Academic
Performance

Extracurricular
Activities

Preparing for
the Future

Student
Experience

The Bedford High School Technology Education classes received a grant from PARSS (Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools) to purchase a new piece of equipment this winter. Bedford was able to purchase an xTool CO₂ Laser system that will further develop the skills and knowledge in the technology classes, bridging the gap from theoretical to actual parts and pieces. The TSA and Bots IQ club will be able to utilize this equipment to make a more complete and professional finished product. The Technology classes recently used the CO₂ laser to make one of the Board appreciation gifts.



Photo 1- Teacher Cody Buterbaugh, students Gavin Maust, Bryce Wertz, Haylee Fetter, Kowen Long, Thomas Blackburn, Sean Cessna



Photo 2- Seniors Bryce Wertz and Kowen Long with the check from PARSS

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

PMEA District Chorus Festival

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Olivia Sparks and Ty Regos attended the PMEA District 6 Chorus Festival on January 7-9th. Earlier in the fall, they had to complete a successful audition to be accepted into this festival chorus. They spent two days rehearsing in the Richland High School auditorium with 180 other students in grades 10-12 from across the district. The festival ended with a fantastic concert under the direction of Mr. Jason Bizich.



Ty Regos and Olivia Sparks

Varsity Singers Spread Joy!

Extracurricular
Activities

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

The Varsity Singers spread joy throughout the area with their holiday songs this December. Besides the Holiday Chorus Concert, they also sang at White Sulphur Springs, a Sunrise Rotary meeting, Homewood, Colonial Courtyard, and Community Life. Residents and community members alike enjoyed listening to the sounds of the season.

Row 1 L to R: Holly Tran, Kiara O'Brien, Zoe Kendall, Olivia Sparks, Makayla Ford

Row 2 l to r: Sophia Van Horn, Adriane Romanini, Addison Heming, Gabby Brallier, Hope Crum

Row 3 L to R: Makayla Koontz, Kasey Shuke, Zane Ednie, Ty Regos



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bedford Hosts County Chorus Festival

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Bedford hosted the County Chorus Festival on November 24th and 25th at Everett Middle/Senior High School. Students in grades 7-12 participated in the two-day festival. Mrs. Amanda Coughenour Haney, a Bedford graduate, guest-conducted the Junior High chorus with Mrs. Shannen Billie at the piano. Dr. Scott Rieker from Frostburg State University conducted a senior high chorus with Mrs. Caroline Leap at the piano.

Row 1, l to r: Elaina Lang, Kiara O'Brien, Makayla Ford, Gabby Brallier

Row 2, l to r: Adriane Romanini, Khiana Muir, Addison Heming, Olivia Sparks

Row 3, l to r: Makayla Koontz, Elizabeth Rose, Daisy Keel, Zoe Kendall, Scarlett DeWitt, Mrs. Leap

Row 4 l to r: Ty Regos, Zane Ednie, Hope Crum, Malique Minnick



Girls Wrestling Competes at Penn State-Altoona

Extracurricular
Activities

Preparing for
the Future

Student
Experience

On Wednesday, January 7th, the Bedford Girls' Wrestling program seized the unique opportunity to compete on the collegiate stage on the campus of Penn State-Altoona. The Lady Bisons defeated the Central Cambria Red Devils, 30-18, before the Penn State-Altoona versus Pitt-Johnstown women's' wrestling dual meet. The event also included junior high and elementary exhibition matches. All four programs involved hope to make the event an annual celebration of the girls and their courageous participation in the sport of wrestling. *Photos on next page.

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026



Picture 1: Members of Penn State-Altoona, Pitt-Johnstown, Central Cambria, and Bedford Girls'/Women's wrestling teams joined together at the conclusion of the event.



Picture 2, Left: Bedford Girls' Wrestling team warm-up at Penn-State Altoona Adler Arena.



Picture 3, Right: Vanessa Johnson takes on an opponent from Central Cambria during the varsity dual meet.

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Rotary Interact raises money for the Backpack Program

Extracurricular
Activities

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

On December 22nd, members of Rotary Interact held a community gift wrap to raise donations for the District's backpack program. The club received \$200 in donations. The members who participated in the gift wrapping presented the money to Natalie Simmers and Beth Ruffley of the Backpack Program on January 15th.



Photo #1 - L to R - Daniel Steinbrunner, Jaxon Pensyl, Josselyn Boone, Alexis Hershey, Madison Hutzel



Photo #2 - L to R - Mrs. Simmers, Mrs. Ruffley, Zoe Ulanowicz, Alexis Hershey, Daniel Steinbrunner, Madison Hutzel, Jaxon Pensyl, Evan Siverling, Jake Martin

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

BHS Students Provide Spanish Lessons at the Elementary School

Academic
Performance

Extracurricular
Activities

Preparing for
the Future

Student
Experience

Students from Ms. Codie Howard's Spanish 3 and Spanish 4 classes visited the elementary school in December and presented lessons to students.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Christmas Concerts

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience



January 2026 School Highlights

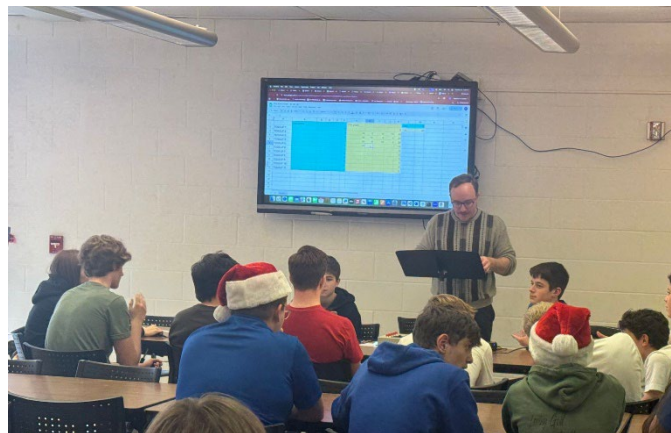
1/20/2026

Battle of the Bisons

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

BHS held its annual “Battle of the Bisons” in December, where grade levels competed against each other in sports, trivia, and video games. The culminating event was a teachers versus students dodgeball game.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Bison Pride and Grit Award Winners for November and December

Academic
Performance

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

The Bison Pride Award recognizes students who distinguish themselves by being deserving of special praise, recognition, or thanks for a job well done at BHS.

Bison Pride award winners for November and December were Claire Barkman, Nathan Crownover, Max Hoover, Makayla Koontz, Sara Meyers, Chloe Pemberton, Wesley Rodgers, Aleah Rose, Emma Smith, Jack Tew, Holly Tran, Owen Trimeloni, Geonna VanPelt, Julie Winesickle, and Carrie Yinkey.

The Bison Grit Award recognizes students who continually display hard work, dedication, and the ability to persevere through difficult situations. Bison Grit award winners for November and December were Oz Bryant, Scarlett DeWitt, Shane Feather, Carter Frederick, Sophia Genditzki, Matthew Milburn, Aiden O'Shea, Emily Penatzer, Michael Robinette, Adriane Romanini, Logan Shipley, and Aura Shoemaker.



January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Entrepreneurship Showcase

Academic
Performance

Preparing for
the Future

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

The Exploratory Business Students culminated their Dream Big Business Project with a showcase event in the cafeteria. The project began in the entrepreneurship unit of the class when each student developed a business idea after learning about young entrepreneurs. Students marketed their business and created a pitch, a 30-second radio ad, a display board, a website, and other promotional items. Students presented their business to their peers and teachers, who evaluated them based on their pitch, marketing materials, product value, and customer service.



Pictured Above: Ellison Will



Pictured Above: Ava Ulrich



Pictured above: Ava Echeverria



Pictured above: Sophia Raymond

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

FBLA



BHS place winners from the FBLA Regional Leadership Competition at ACM were:

First Place:

- Makayla Koontz, Advanced Accounting
- Ava Ulrich, Introduction to Retail Merchandising
- Aliza Brambley, Graphic Design
- Scarlett DeWitt, Introduction to Public Speaking.

Second Place:

- Jack Tew, Securities and Investments
- Alyssa Leydig and Keira Koontz, Sports & Entertainment Management
- Presley Hartsock, Sophia Raymond, and Ellie Rose, Event Planning

Third Place:

- Kenneth Dutil, Introduction to Business Concepts
- Ellison Will, Introduction to Marketing Concepts
- Tucker Boone, Coleton Clark, and Carter Kozielec, Introduction to Business Presentation
- Ava Echeverria, Jacquelyn Heeter, and Emslee Leibfreid, Introduction to Social Media Strategy

Fourth Place:

- Gabriel Bordi, Ethan Davis, and Lane Myers, Sales Presentation

Fifth Place:

- Carter Frederick, Personal Finance

Sixth Place:

- Nabhya Patel, Healthcare Administration

Thirteen of these winners will advance to the State Leadership Competition in April.

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Sophia Raymond was elected Region 17 Secretary at the event.



Indoor Track Updates



BHS Students are having a successful start to the Indoor Track season. Below are recent results:

- AA Rankings Girls (in the Top 10)
 - Eva Shackley - 2nd in the 55m Hurdles
 - Grace Brallier - 2nd in High Jump
 - Chloe May - 2nd in the Mile
 - Carrie Yinkey - 4th in the 2 Mile
 - Sydney Porta - 9th in the 2 Mile
- Jack Tew has represented Bedford at every indoor meet and is currently ranked 18th in AA boys for shot put.
- Athletes who represented Bedford at the Penn State Invitational (had to qualify)
 - Grace Brallier - High Jump (placed 7th)
 - Jack Tew - Shot Put (place 23rd)
 - Lincoln Sipes - 800m (placed 46th)
 - Gavin McCoy - Mile and 3000m (placed 45th and 46th)

January 2026 School Highlights

1/20/2026

Heart of Art Club hosts Christmas Party

Extracurricular
Activities

Preparing for
the Future

Social
Emotional
Development

Student
Experience

Seventeen high school students involved in the Heart of Art club traveled to the Middle School to host a Christmas party for the MDS and Life Skills classrooms. Students enjoyed playing Christmas games, sharing a snack, and creating Christmas ornaments together. The Heart of Art club provides opportunities for nondisabled students to engage in arts and crafts with their peers in the Multiple Disabilities and Life Skills classrooms, helping to build meaningful relationships and promote inclusion.



January 2026 School Highlights

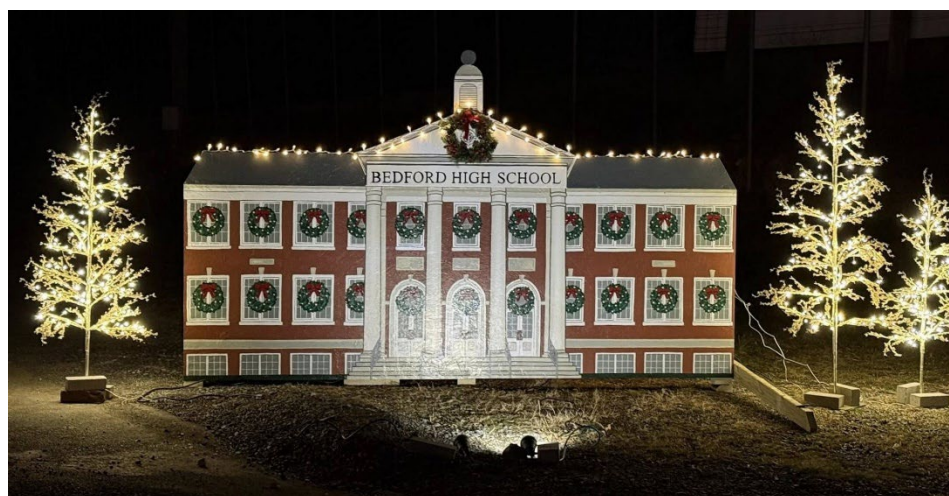
1/20/2026

Bedford High School Represented at Nights of Lights

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Bedford High School participated in the “Nights of Lights” event at the Bedford Fairgrounds for the first time. “Nights of Lights” is a drive-through holiday light display featuring over 210 displays from local clubs, businesses, churches, and schools.



BHS wins 1st place in Paint the Plow

Academic
Performance

Extracurricular
Activities

Student
Experience

Bedford High School art students earned first place in the Paint the Plow contest. The contest included fourteen schools in PennDOT’s District 9, which encompasses Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. Bedford received 1,546 votes, winning by a margin of 428 votes over the second-place school.

