

Bedford County Schools

Good News Report

Date: April 2025

Bedford County Learning Academy...

Both middle and high school students are participating in reviews for TCAP/EOCs. Also, high school students enrolled in online classes are working very hard to get those completed by the last day of school.

BCLA was on the air this week on WLJ 98.7 for Communications' monthly radio show. We appreciate getting to share our teachers' "whys" for being at BCLA and their passion for what they do and who they teach!

CTE Annex...

Smyrna based Contour Airlines has donated a Rolls Royce AE-3007 Turbo Jet Engine to the Aviation Maintenance program so students can learn about jet engines with a hands-on approach. The engine is due to arrive either the third or fourth week of April. This program operates under the direction of Mr. Richard Daniels.

HOSA members and Instructor Mrs. Becky Davis recently attended the state conference and were awarded 1st place in the Health Education Team Event Competition. The team consisted of Christian Hearn, Brylee Reese and Charliene Dezotell, who had to submit a lesson plan and give a five minute presentation to judges about the goal, instructional strategies and assessment used in the lesson. They will go on to compete for Tennessee in June at HOSA International Conference in Nashville! The lesson was taught by several SCHS HOSA members at Eakin Elementary in September. Also, HOSA completed its third and final blood drive for the school year on April 14 and are hopeful that these blood drives are creating a lifesaving habit of donation in our high school students!

Cartwright Elementary School...

STEAM Night "Stories in Motion" was a huge success, drawing over 400 parents and students! Each grade level proudly showcased their Project-Based Learning (PBL) activities highlighting creativity, collaboration and innovation across all areas of STEAM.

The inaugural Cartwright Derby fundraiser was a wonderful event! Students had a blast walking and running in friendly competition, and it was great to see so many parents here cheering them on. It was a fun and memorable day for everyone involved!

Cascade Elementary School...

In honor of Assistant Principal Week, we give a shout out to Mrs. Hannah Fanning for all her hard work!

Cascade Middle School...

We are thankful for the donations for TCAP from parents and businesses. Experience Church, D&R and parents donated gift cards for prizes.

Thank you to Sonic for donating drinks to our students of the week and staff members each week!

Cascade High School...

We are thrilled to share some outstanding achievements by our students at Cascade High School! Addison Parker has been awarded the prestigious Elks Trade Scholarship for the entire state. This scholarship is designated for graduating seniors who are planning to pursue a trade or certificate program. Addison will be pursuing a degree in Radiologic Technology, and we are excited to see her excel in her future endeavors!

Additionally, we proudly recognize the following students who have received the Elks Nursing Scholarship: Kelsey Shatley, Addison Batey and Isabel Kyle. This Nursing Scholarship was established in 1956 as a major project of the Tennessee Elks Association to address a critical shortage of nurses in Tennessee. The importance of nursing scholarships remains significant today, and each year the Tennessee Elks continue to support students by funding scholarships at various levels.

Community Elementary School...

We are excited to extend a warm welcome to our newest kindergarten students at Community Elementary! During our registration event on April 4, we registered 67 eager young learners. We look forward to meeting even more students throughout the summer as we prepare for the upcoming school year. It's going to be an exciting journey, and we're thrilled to have each of these new faces joining our Community family!

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Melissa Castellanos has been selected as our Rookie of the Quarter! Melissa, a kindergarten teacher at Community Elementary, has made a fantastic impact on our school and students. Her dedication, passion and positive contributions have truly made her an invaluable asset to our team. Congratulations, Melissa, and thank you for all that you do!

Community Middle School...

Community Middle School had twenty-five students compete in the International Academic Competition for History and Science on April 5 in Nolensville, Tennessee. Nine of these students qualified for Nationals in Orlando and six out of those nine also qualified for Internationals in Thailand! Students had to take an online exam to qualify to compete at the Regional Level. They studied for several months and competed in "mock" competitions at school. Congratulations to all who participated, and good luck to those moving on to the Nationals and Internationals!

Each day of TCAP testing, students are encouraged at a morning rally to do their very best on the test.

Community High School...

Community High School recently hosted a Career Day where over 40 businesses sent representatives to speak to students! We appreciate their willingness to speak about their specialties. A particularly large shout out goes to John Dwyer from JAGTN as our keynote speaker. It was a great day!

Eakin Elementary School...

Eakin Elementary School is proud to announce that it has been selected as one of six finalists across the state of Tennessee for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) 2025 School Uplift Grant! The TVA School Uplift Grant supports schools in making energy-saving improvements and fostering energy-smart habits that benefit students for years to come. Final grant winners will receive funding to implement significant, energy-saving, building upgrades, enhancing both the school environment and overall energy efficiency of the school. This prestigious recognition highlights Eakin's commitment to energy stewardship, community involvement and creating a healthier learning environment for students and staff. As a finalist, Eakin Elementary will participate in a live, online event hosted by TVA on Tuesday, May 6, at 9:30 AM Central Time. During the event, the final grant recipients will be announced. Eakin Elementary warmly invites all Bedford County School Board members to join us for this exciting moment, and your presence would mean so much to students, staff and families as we celebrate this achievement and await the final announcement!

Soles4Souls, a Nashville-based global nonprofit committed to turning shoes and clothing into opportunity, is partnering with cityCURRENT and Bedford County Schools for a shoe distribution event on Friday, May 2 at Eakin Elementary School. Also supporting this event is the Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling, World Literacy Foundation and an anonymous financial benefactor from Bedford County with a mission

to give back to the community. Soles4Souls, their volunteers and school staff will be distributing shoes to every student for this exciting event!

East Side Elementary School...

East Side is home to the BCS Assistant Principal of the Year Jennifer Simons! Congratulations to her!

We are excited to welcome Kona Ice soon as a reward for our students after we will have "iced" out TCAP.

Harris Middle School...

Students from Harris House will be participating in a tour of the Bedford County Commissioner's Office on May 2 to get an insight on county government.

The HMS Boys Soccer team remained undefeated for the season! They will host the CTC Postseason Tournament at SCHS.

Learning Way Elementary...

We had 84 students and teachers who read 1,000 + minutes for the second turn-in for Cooper Steel's Reading Program. Our students and teachers have read a total of 302,098 minutes this school year!

Learning Way had a successful fun run as a spring fundraiser, raising over \$7,500.

Liberty School...

We had a successful Spring Fling where students and visitors enjoyed games, vendors, animals, food trucks and an online auction.

Students were treated to a TCAP pep rally where students were hyped up with game playing to do their very best on the test!

Shelbyville Central High School...

Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG), under the direction of Mrs. Heather Savage, is hosting mock interviews at the SCHS Main Campus on Thursday, April 10. Representatives from Tyson, First Community Bank, Jostens, Newell, Duck River Electric and Wal-Mart Distribution Center will be on hand to meet with students and provide them with real-world job interview experiences.

Eagle Radio is up and running! Neal Gordon and his students are producing new content and playing real music! Senior student manager Hagen Lasne is recording his own radio show weekly. The radio show currently streams all day on Golden Eagle Radio on the Live365 platform.

The video production team is finishing filming the final 12 for 12 video for season 1. Student Director Zoe Rodrigue, will post the new video soon!

Southside Elementary School...

Southside's part two of The Amazing Shake was recently held for 5th grade students. Finalists were put through various scenarios where they had to think on their feet while being professional and well spoken. Congratulations to Noah Daly for being the inaugural winner of the Amazing Shake!

Southside held a STEAM night with many engaging hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math activities. Over 100 participants thoroughly enjoyed the night of learning!

Thomas Magnet School...

Beta club members are doing after-school tutoring for our younger students, and those students are showing great academic improvements.

Sixth grader Sahara Biswa competed in the Titans Scripps Spelling Bee and placed in the top five!
Congratulations to Sahara! All that hard work paid off!

From across the district...

A plant sale from our very own horticulture students at the SCHS CTE Annex will take place 5/7 – 5/10, 9:00-5:00 daily. Come support these students and all their hard work! They have planted and cared for over 5,550 plants since February!

Many activities celebrating our seniors will be taking place in late April and in the month of May including top ten luncheons, all-class photos, walking the halls of their elementary and middle schools, honors days, scholarship ceremonies and graduations. We wish the very best to the Class of 2025!

The Connected Community 5K continues to build momentum with over 600 registrants for the walk or run on 5/10/2025. The cost of putting on the race is 100% covered by generous sponsors, so all race registration fees go 100% to support the foundation's initiatives, including BCS. We are most grateful for several recent sponsors who are helping cover the cost of some of our students who want to participate but are not able to pay. Until May 3, race cost is frozen at \$35. We hope many more will sign up for the CC5K to support Bedford County Schools and the Shelbyville-Bedford Community Foundation!

The April 4 pre-k and kindergarten registration was successful with 505 kindergarteners registered so far for the 2025-26 school year and the largest number of pre-k to sign up – 166! We only have 140 pre-k seats, unless we get funding for another pre-k class, which would add 20 more seats.

Open enrollment is underway with available seats posted on the website (*under the Resources tab*) and applications open beginning 5/1 and ending 5/31. Promotions/notifications of this began in early April.

That concludes the Communications report. Thank you!