

Bedford County Schools

Good News Report

Date: February 20, 2025

Bedford County Learning Academy...

Students have exceeded the number of pages to be read to earn a pizza party for the Tower of Books reading 15,270 pages so far this school year!

CTE Annex...

The AP Computer Science Principles class with instructor Mrs. Wynee Haynes has almost finished the high school section where students are working to earn their high school credit for graduation. The next part will be studying for the University Exam where the students can earn three hours of credit at specific post-secondary schools. Taking this course and passing the University Exam saves students money because they do not have to pay for the class at their next educational level!

The Culinary Arts kitchen is now fully functional! Chef Michael Walker's program has won their first competition against eleven other schools. The Culinary Arts catering team has served at three community events so far in 2025 with more to come!

Cartwright Elementary School...

Thanks to a STEAM grant, Cartwright has added exciting new technology to the school! We purchased two 3D printers, five 3D pens and one drone, giving students hands-on opportunities to explore innovation, creativity and STEM learning. We can't wait to see what they create!

We had a productive meeting with County Commissioner Greg Vick to discuss ways to support Cartwright and our future goals. We appreciate his time and commitment to helping our school thrive, and we look forward to continued collaboration for the success of our students and community!

Cascade Elementary School...

Thank you to Billy and Jan Hix for allowing students to participate in the planetarium!

Thank you to School Counselor Ana Khan and Project Basic Counselor Niki Woods for their hard work and dedication to our students and community!

Cascade Middle School...

Cascade Middle would like to thank the TVA Energy Group for the LED lightbulbs!

Thank you to Mrs. Amanda Thompson, who has started National Junior Honor Society again at CMS, and we appreciate her work in this effort as well as community members helping to fund the induction ceremony that will take place this spring.

Cascade High School...

Cascade High School students recently engaged in a hands-on learning with Berlin Conference Simulation in Mr. Kobe Simmons' World History class, bringing history to life! As part of their study on European imperialism in Africa, students conducted research and collaborated in groups to determine which territories they wanted to claim. The engaging, student-centered approach not only deepened historical understanding but also developed critical thinking, negotiation and collaboration skills. This innovative lesson demonstrates the school's commitment to active learning and academic excellence, reinforcing the district's dedication to providing meaningful educational experiences.

Congratulations to Wrestling Head Coach Andy Giel on reaching a remarkable milestone of 100 wins in his Cascade career! Coach Giel started the program in 2017 and has been instrumental in its growth. His

passion for the sport has driven him to invest significant time and effort in establishing and building the wrestling program for Cascade High School and Cascade Middle School.

Community Elementary School...

Community Elementary had a fantastic Literacy Night recently, bringing students, families and staff together for an evening of learning and fun. The event began with an incredible musical performance by our 3rd-5th grade students followed by engaging literacy games for all ages. To top it all off, everyone shared a meal with delicious pizza. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the night a huge success!

We want to extend a huge thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting our upcoming Viking Voyage! Our goal is to provide every student and faculty member with a commemorative Viking Voyage T-shirt to celebrate this special event. If interested in contributing, February 21 is the final day to become a sponsor; contact the front office for more information. Thank you to all who have already sponsored and helped make this possible!

Community Middle School...

Community 6-12 band students attended Nashville Symphony's second annual "Lunar New Year" performance. Students had the amazing opportunity to experience a professional symphony perform music celebrating the beginning of spring and the lunisolar calendar!

Community Middle School recently provided a taco bar lunch for our students with Platinum cards, and it was a big hit! This is the highest card in our school Renaissance Program, rewarding students with the highest academics and behavior at Community Middle. A huge shoutout to Mrs. Kelly Beasley, Mrs. Cynthia Donnelly, and Mr. Paul Bischoff for organizing and supervising this activity!

Community High School...

One of the school's clinical internship partners shared a "give back" opportunity, and the school received popcorn! This was a give back to educators as a thank you for all they do. Thank you to the partners who made this possible!

Five sets of team captains have been chosen and a festive ACT kickoff rally has occurred, kicking off the 5th annual "21 Days of ACT" at Community High School! Thank you to WLIJ & WZNG for Vikings cups for all juniors and for recording tips and strategies from team captains to share on the air and on the BCS website!

Eakin Elementary School...

Eakin Elementary School is excited to celebrate Black History Month with an Interactive Exhibit featuring interactive posters with QR codes. Students and staff are encouraged to explore 24 engaging displays, scan QR codes for immersive stories and celebrate the achievements, resilience and contributions of black leaders throughout history.

Eakin Elementary says thank you to Cooper Steel for encouraging reading and blessing 146 students with new shoes for meeting their reading goals! Students recorded over 150,000 minutes of reading!

East Side Elementary School...

East Side had 100 students read 1,000 minutes or more and receive a free pair of shoes from Cooper Steel! They read a total of 105,012 minutes! There were eight teachers who received shoes, and their minutes totaled 15,815!

A new initiative is underway! All students have a trusted adult in the building in addition to their teacher - their family leader. Families will have a meeting each month, complete family challenges and have some fun along the way! We are excited to watch this program grow!

Harris Middle School...

Harris Girls Basketball team had a very successful season. They made it to the first round of Regional play!

SRO Deputy Stephens will be featured in an SRO newsletter from the State Department for his outstanding support in contributing to the safety of the students and staff at HMS. Congratulations!

Learning Way Elementary...

Thank you to Billy and Jan Hix for sharing their love of space with LWE 5th grade students! This is a wonderful experience for students and one they cannot get from places around Shelbyville. We are so grateful Mr. Hix selects Learning Way to share this amazing opportunity!

Learning Way hosted its annual spelling bee and congratulates the K - 2 winner, a second grader Olivia Beck and the 3- 5 winner, a fifth grader Florindo Tzunux Solis. We are so proud of both students and look forward to supporting them in the county bee!

Liberty School...

Liberty School hosted a 3rd and 4th grade informational meeting to discuss Tennessee's Pathways to Promotion. The administrative team, classroom teachers, special education teachers, interventionists, ESL teachers and the instructional coach were available to answer questions.

Liberty held their schoolwide spelling bee, and the winners were K-2 Jayden Smith, 3-5 Frank Lipford, and 6-8 Whitney Ledbetter. Congratulations to these students, and we wish them lots of luck at the county spelling bee!

Southside Elementary School...

Southside is excited to announce their school-level spelling bee winners!

K-2: 1st place - Amariani Acosta (2nd); 2nd place - Jayla Beasley (K); 3rd place - Alayna Fleming (1st).
3-5: 1st place - Finn Carter (3rd); 2nd place - Ismael Nudo (4th); 3rd place - Aaliyah Hart (3rd).

On our most recent professional development day for teachers, classroom teachers became students and rotated through all the related services and related arts classes their students visit each week. Teachers were able to experience the lessons their students enjoy in PE, library, art, music, ESL, Intervention and special education. It was a fun and eye-opening experience for all, and so much educational expertise was shared!

Thomas Magnet School...

Thank you to Cooper Steel, who donated two picnic tables and a microwave to the school!

From across the district,

Planning continues for the Connected Community 5K with 286 race registrants to date and 258 of those from school teams. You can get registered through any of our school websites, the county website or through the Community Foundation on the Shelbyville-Bedford Partnership website. Walk/Run day is Saturday, May 10, 2025.

Plans are also underway for a second shoe distribution in partnership with Soles4Souls and a generous community supporter. This one will benefit the students of Eakin Elementary and will take place on Friday, May 2. Thank you to our friends at City Current, Coca Cola, and the Governor's Early Literacy

Foundation for collaborating with us to make this happen! If you are interested in volunteering that day to help, please contact Carol Garrette.

And finally, coming up:

Please join us for the 2nd Annual BCS District Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 27 at 5:30 PM hosted by Harris Middle School in the auditorium. You will *bee* sure to see some spectacular spellers and *spell-ebrate* their success! Thank you to our sponsors First Community Bank and New Covenant Christian Bookstore for their support of this event and our students!

Our full-scale emergency drill, partnering with local law enforcement and Homeland Security is scheduled for Friday, March 7. No students will be present as it is a scheduled staff development day. Communications before the drill are planned to inform the public as well as during the event emphasizing that this is only a drill but giving our staff an opportunity to practice emergency preparedness procedures. Thank you to our radio broadcasting partner Hopkins Farms Broadcasting and WLIJ/WZNG who are allowing us to practice updates live on the air.

That concludes the communications report. Thank you!