

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY — 2023



Dear Baldwin-Whitehall School District Families,

Our 2022-23 academic year was designed around a special idea: fostering an active and empowering Learning Community that everyone in our District can proudly be part of.

It starts by recognizing that the act of learning is not limited to school itself. Whether it takes place in the classroom, on the athletic field, on stage, at work, or in the moment when we reach out to help someone else, learning can happen anywhere. Our lives are filled with opportunities to expand our knowledge and skills, and also with people who can help us learn and grow at every step along the way.

For example, digital-minded students who compete on our esports team not only learn vital professional skills like leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving, but they also gain valuable insights into the \$2 billion esports industry. Meanwhile, BHS juniors and seniors have the opportunity to take special education and child development courses at the Community College of Allegheny County, which can broaden their professional network and accelerate their interest in education, social work, and more.

Developing a Learning Community also means finding new ways to collaborate with others in order to accomplish more together than we ever could alone. For example, by partnering with five fellow Pittsburgh-area school districts, BWSD was able to launch the inaugural Fly Like a Girl Drone Academy, which offers female high school students practical hands-on training in the fast-growing field of the aviation industry.

BWSD is also proud to join the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance, a cohort of regional school districts who are collaborating to create forward-thinking schools. Through innovative education and community support projects and increased exposure to agricultural, technological, and cooperative learning opportunities, the Alliance is focused on supporting the entire student experience, achieving educational equity, and preparing every learner to succeed in the careers and communities of the future.

Perhaps the greatest sign that our Learning Community is thriving can be found in our neighborhoods themselves. In the past, our English Language Learners often lived in our District for just a few years before their families moved elsewhere. Now many of them are buying homes, putting down roots, and helping to build the next generation of our District. Being able to provide a supportive space where new families are excited to move, stay, and contribute speaks volumes about the heart of our region and the character of our Community.

Thank you for being a valued member of our richly diverse, incredibly caring, and deeply inspiring Learning Community. I look forward to working with you to help grow, sustain, and celebrate what makes our District so special for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randal A. Lutz, Superintendent of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District



MISSION

The Baldwin-Whitehall School District, a learning community dedicated to providing all students with a high quality learning experience in a collaborative, safe and nurturing environment.

VISION

In collaboration with our community partners, the Baldwin-Whitehall School District will embrace the social, emotional, academic, and physical growth of all children by delivering an educational program based on innovation, diversity, and high quality learning experiences to support healthy, happy children prepared for the future they choose.

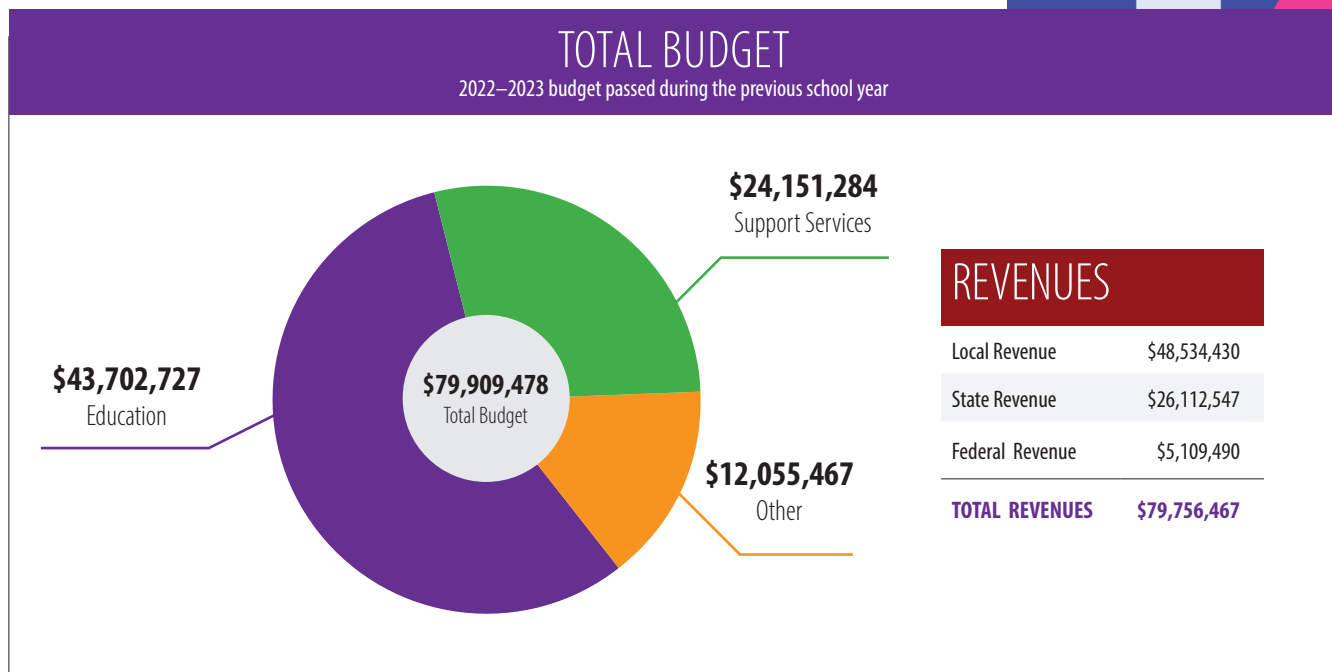
BELIEF STATEMENTS

Our Beliefs are the foundation of our Learning Community and guide our actions on behalf of children.

- Every child is viewed as our greatest resource and thus our most valuable investment.
- Every student has a right to learn and experience appropriately challenging and relevant learning opportunities.
- School schedules and instructional programs are designed with and for students to meet the diversity within their educational and developmental needs.
- Multiple learning pathways and measures shall be used to achieve and evaluate success.
- Safe, supportive and caring environments with high levels of diversity, empathy, respect and belonging shall be the foundation of our learning community.
- Students must develop the skills necessary to function in a future of their choice.
- High expectations and excellence be maintained in all areas of the school district academic, artistic and athletic programs.
- Learning takes place within and beyond the classroom.
- Students and staff must demonstrate digital and media literacy.
- School, parents and community must partner in the education of students.
- Fiscal decisions must effectively balance the educational needs of the students and resources of the community.

How We Invest in Our District’s Future

Our annual budget covers the entire operating cost of the District, from books and buildings to baseballs and buses. Every year, our goal is to maximize all of our available resources while ensuring that every Baldwin-Whitehall student is able to enjoy a full range of academics, athletics, and activities that help them grow as individuals, while also preparing them for tomorrow’s careers. We invite you to review our numbers and see how our investment in student success is adding up.



REVENUES

Local Revenue	\$48,534,430
State Revenue	\$26,112,547
Federal Revenue	\$5,109,490
TOTAL REVENUES	\$79,756,467

EXPENSES

EDUCATION		SUPPORT SERVICES		OTHER	
Regular Education	\$32,561,710	Support Services Administration	\$11,574,305	Student Athletics & Activities	\$1,262,482
Special Education	\$8,813,786	Support Services Business	\$481,500	Community Services	\$10,000
Vocational	\$2,327,231	Facilities	\$8,193,470	Capital Outlay	\$2,484,874
TOTAL EDUCATION	\$43,702,727	Transportation	\$3,846,405	Debt Services	\$8,298,111
		Other	\$55,604	TOTAL OTHER	\$12,055,467
		TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$24,151,284		

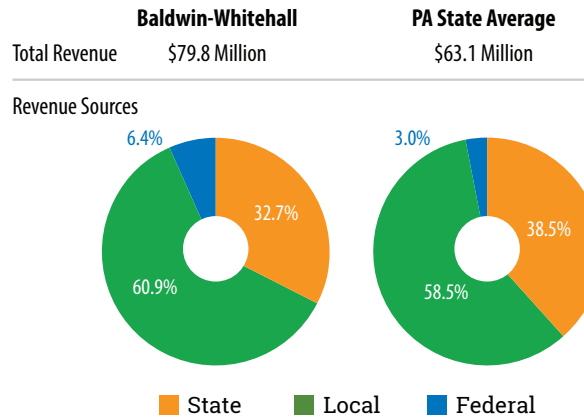
* Budget info is reflective of the 2022–2023 year in review



Comparing the BWSO Budget to Other PA Districts

In addition to making great academic strides over the past decade, our District has also continually improved the efficiency and effectiveness of our annual budget, especially when compared to the average Pennsylvania school district. This data from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) helps explain the biggest differences:

Local Funding Helps BWSO Succeed



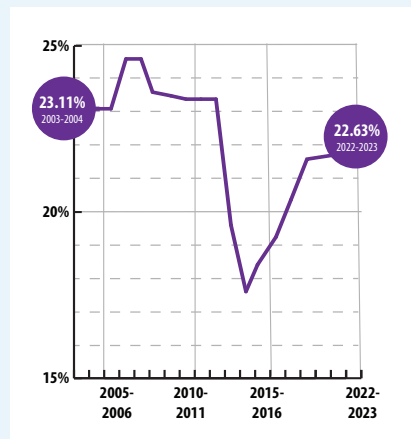
Key Takeaway:

We are so grateful for our reliable and supportive local taxpayers who provide the vast majority of our annual operating budget – nearly 2/3 of every BWSO budget dollar comes directly from our local community and is proudly invested in our students’ futures!

What Is ‘Millage Rate’?

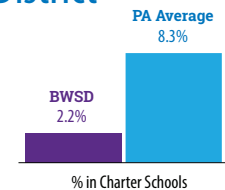
A millage rate is the amount per \$1,000 of property value that is used to calculate local property taxes. School boards use millage rates to calculate local school taxes to be collected based on the total property value within school district boundaries.

Millage History



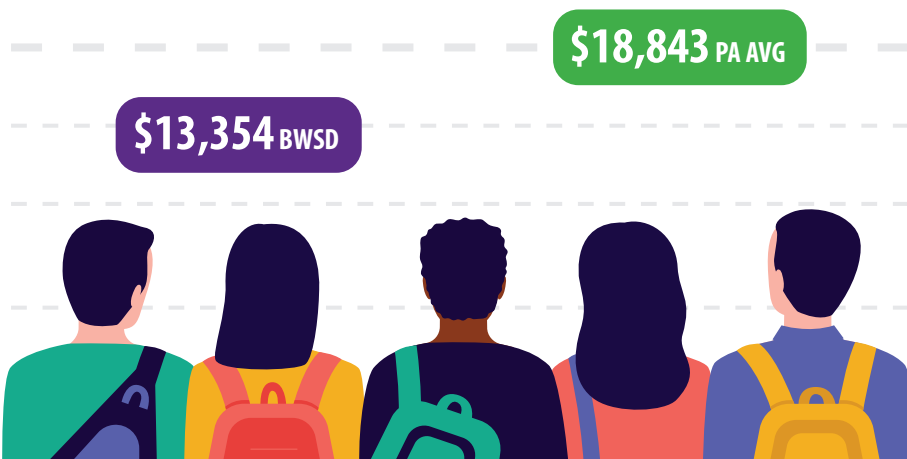
Our Region’s Students Choose to Stay In-District

Key Takeaway: Only 2.2% of BWSO students choose to attend charter schools, which is nearly 4 times lower than the typical PA school district. We are so proud to be the educational choice for over 97% of the families we serve.



Lowest Per-Pupil Cost in Allegheny County

Key Takeaway: BWSO operates with a per-student cost of \$13,354 – the lowest of all 42 districts in Allegheny County! We are extremely grateful for every funding dollar we receive, and we consider it a badge of honor to be able to put each dollar to the best possible use for your children’s education.



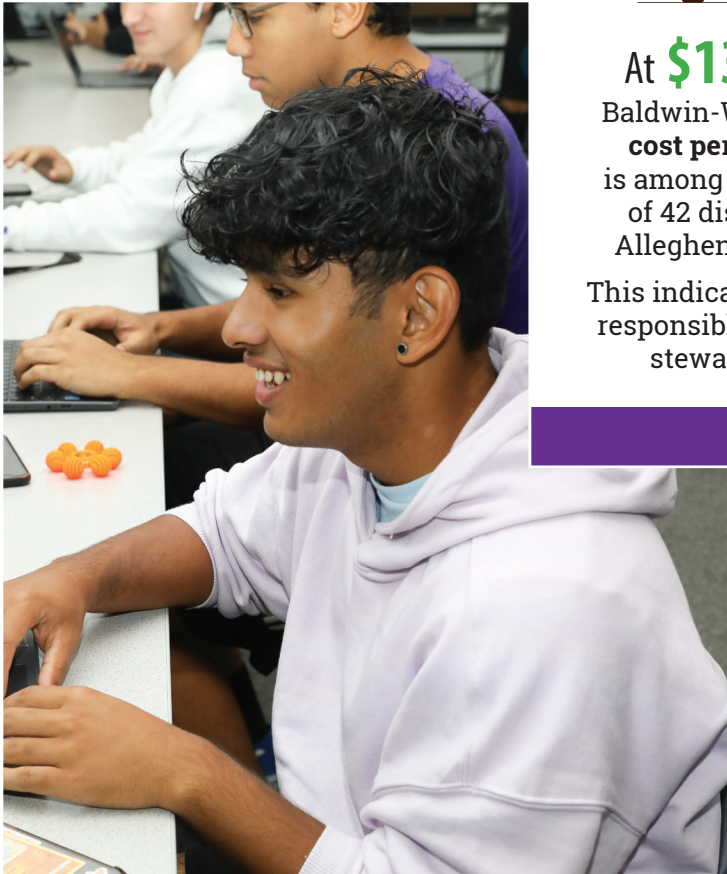


COST PER STUDENT



At **\$13,354**
Baldwin-Whitehall's
cost per student
is among the lowest
of 42 districts in
Allegheny County.

This indicates fair and
responsible financial
stewardship.





When R.A. Lutz Elementary School opens its doors on January 8, 2024, a new era of public education will officially begin for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District including some changes in the locations of grade-level learning as well as investments and improvements in each one of our school building communities. Please review the BWS District Redistricting Plan for grade level building assignments, and learn more about our plans to ensure the best use of all five of our school buildings.

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

In public education, “redistricting” means changing the arrangement of which grade levels are taught in which District buildings. Some grades will not be affected, while others will begin reporting to their new buildings when the 2023-24 school year starts on August 28, 2023.

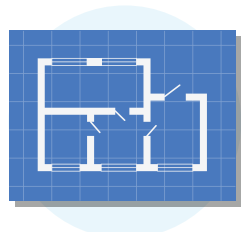
The illustration shows a student with a backpack standing in a white path that leads from two smaller school buildings on the sides to a larger school building at the top. A question mark is above the student.

WHY ARE WE REDISTRICTING?

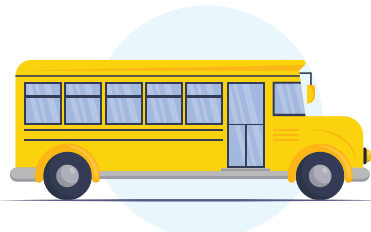
Since 2020, the BWS District Administration and School Board of Directors have evaluated nearly a dozen redistricting plans to carefully evaluate the best possible use of District resources and ideal learning environments for our students. Our current redistricting plans help us optimize our resources in some of the following ways:



Making better use of available learning space



Creating renovation opportunities in legacy school buildings



Simplifying transportation routes for faster service



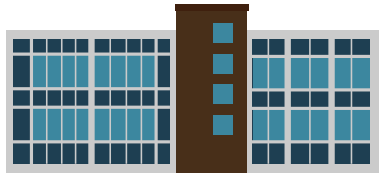
Maximizing the impact of all school funding



WHO IS AFFECTED AND WHERE WILL EACH GRADE REPORT?

Our chosen redistricting plan will only affect certain grades, who will change their learning locations on January 8, 2024, when winter break ends.

Baldwin High School

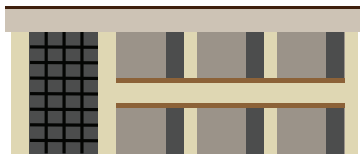


Grades 9-12

Grades 7-8

will remain at Baldwin Middle School
at BHS for 2023-24 School Year

J.E. Harrison Education Center



Grade 6

Grades 3-5

will remain at J.E. Harrison
Education Center for 1st Semester
only (Through December 2023)

R.A. Lutz Elementary School



Grades 3-5

will move to R.A. Lutz Elementary
School for 2nd semester
(Beginning January 8, 2024)

All Students in **Grades 6-8** will report to J.E. Harrison Education Center in the 2024-25 School Year.

Whitehall Elementary School



Grades 1-2

McAnnulty Elementary School



Grade K

KEY POINTS & FUTURE BENEFITS

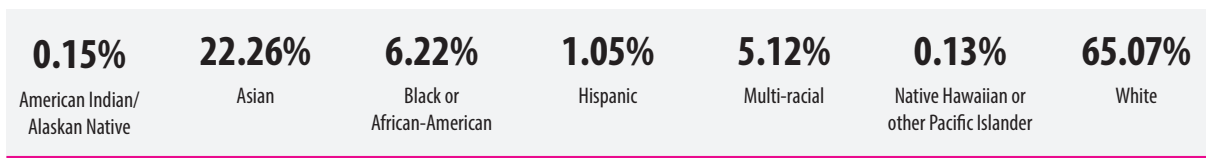
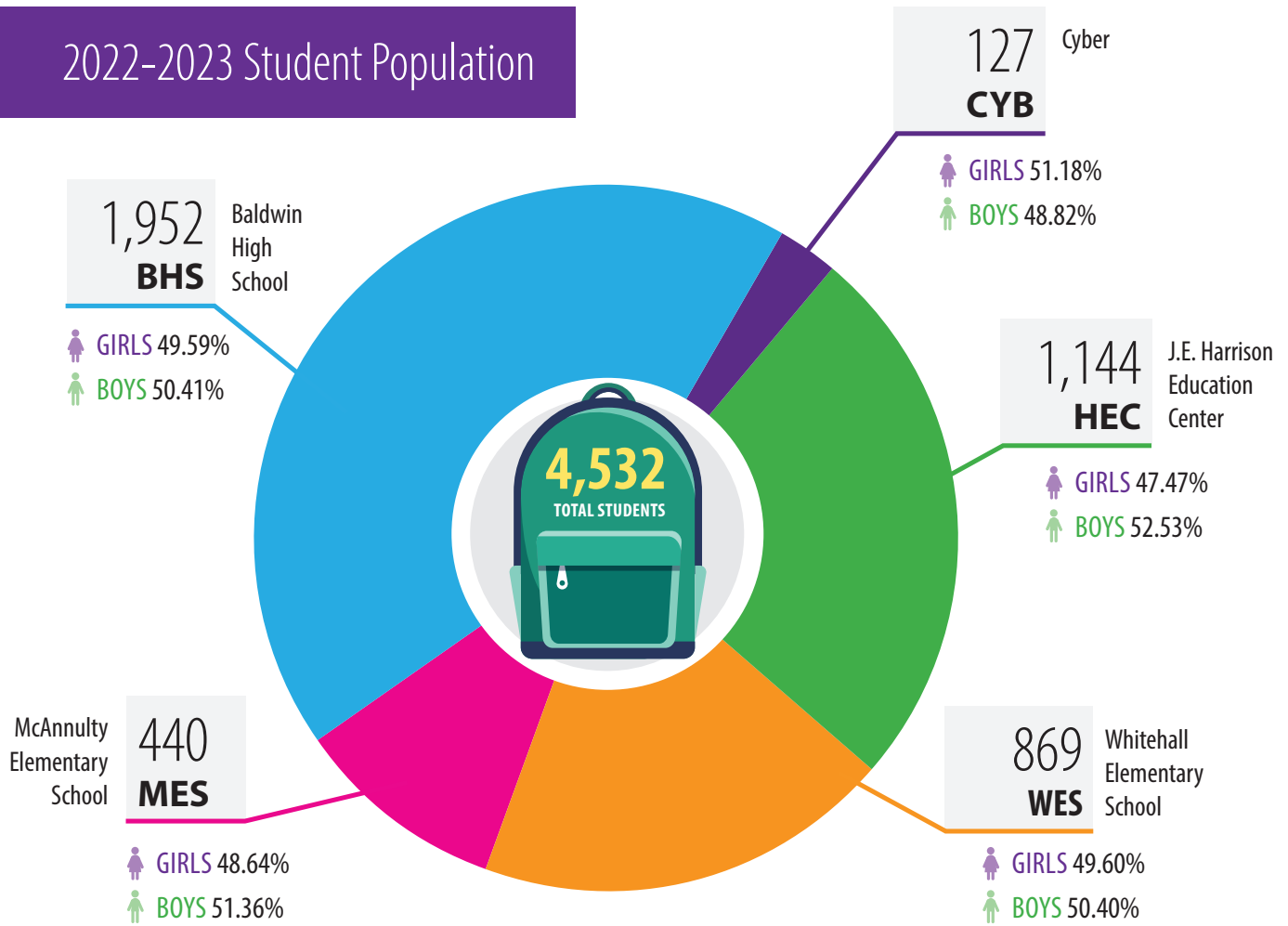
Opening R.A. Lutz Elementary in January 2024 rather than August 2023 is necessary due to delays that will prevent the new building from having its HVAC system installed before August.

Baldwin Middle School will continue to learn on-site at Baldwin High School, which will help optimize our transportation routes by minimizing the number of buses and drop-offs needed.

In January 2024, J.E. Harrison Education Center will experience a temporary, but significant, reduction in enrollment which will create an ideal opportunity to begin planned renovations. This will pave the way for welcoming the full future enrollment of all students in grades 6-8 in Fall 2024.

For more information on our 2023-24 redistricting plan, please visit www.bwschools.net/buildingourfuture.

2022-2023 Student Population



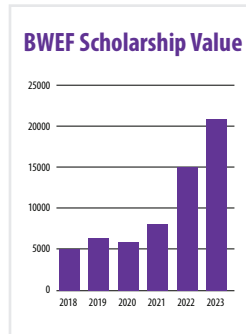


The Baldwin-Whitehall Educational Foundation is Energizing Education

Scholarship Value

Thanks to the support of our community partners, BWEF awarded over \$20K in scholarship value to graduating seniors of Baldwin High School this year, marking the third straight year that the foundation increased support. More than \$60,000 has been awarded since 2018.

In a new initiative, BWEF provided financial assistance to five Baldwin High School students wishing to attend courses through the College in High School program, which allows students to earn college-level credits while still in high school.



Faculty Innovation Grants

Through the generosity of HHS DR Architects & Engineers, UPMC, and GBU Financial Life, BWEF funded multiple seed innovation grants for a total value of nearly \$5,000. The grants resulted in:

- The establishment of Bits and Pieces, a student-managed mobile supply store at Whitehall Elementary School.
- Preschool STEM Night, which brought together nearly 50 BW preschool students and their families for an evening of learning through experimentation with gravity, velocity, light, heat, buoyancy, magnetism, and electricity.
- Curriculum-based projects for English Language Arts classes at J.E. Harrison Education Center. Students in the sixth grade, co-taught ELA course got to create their own pairs of shoes as part of a creative project that connected hands-on making experiences with the novel *Holes*.



Investing in our District and Community



- Partnered in the District's "Library Cards for All" initiative by donating to both the Whitehall Public and Baldwin Borough Public Libraries to host library card distribution nights.
- Continued annual traditions of appreciation:
 - Delivered Sarris candies to all District personnel before winter recess
 - Passed out Rita's Italian Ice to each school during appreciation week in May
 - Catered lunch during senior exit interviews
 - Co-sponsored senior yard signs for the class of 2023
 - Engaged with the Brentwood Baldwin-Whitehall Chamber of Commerce



Incoming Support

BWEF hosted "Comfy for a Cause" this year, where faculty and staff who donated \$10 to BWEF could wear jeans on two Thursdays in March. The effort raised nearly \$1,200 in support of the foundation's initiatives.

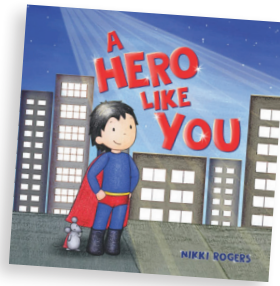
BWEF received two significant donations this year:

- \$5,000 from Mr. Edward Lutz, Distinguished Highlander Hall of Fame (BHS '59, HOF '17)
- \$4,000 from Dr. Robert Forman, in memory of his wife, Dorothy "Dottie" Forman.

Both donations will be used to support the conversion of the industrial shop at Baldwin Middle School into a modernized, multipurpose laboratory that supports creative and collaborative exploration in technology, engineering, and fine arts.



Students Say "Thank You" to First Responders



Students at McAnnulty Elementary are grateful to our local first responders! After reading the story *A Hero Like You* by Nikki Rogers, students discussed the services that our local police, firefighters, and EMS personnel provide to our community every day. The children were quick to point out the many selfless acts that each group performs on a daily basis. Mrs. Palumbo encouraged her kindergarten artists to create illustrations that express their thoughts and feelings about our local heroes. Messages were sent to Baldwin Borough Police Department, Baldwin EMS, and Baldwin Fire Station 105 to express our sincere appreciation for all they do to protect and serve our community.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The fourth-grade Kindness Club has been working hard all year to spread smiles and positivity throughout J.E. Harrison Education Center, and this spring they spread happiness into the community. Kindness Club hosted a canned food drive to benefit the SHIM food pantry. After a week of collecting donations, they presented SHIM with 462 pounds of food and a \$252 check!





Students Share Joy with Residents of Overlook Green

Each fourth-grade student of Whitehall Elementary designed a card and wrote a letter to the residents of Overlook Green Senior Living and then a small group of student leaders delivered the correspondence. The intention of the project was to share a meaningful experience for the residents of Overlook Green, however the tables were turned as it was the children who walked away with full hearts. They didn't want to leave. The engaging conversations and infectious smiles filled the room, leaving a lasting impression on the children.

Baldwin Middle School Students Win Science Bowl

Eighth-grade students Cheyanne, Caitlyn, Ethan, and Nathan were awarded first place overall at the 2023 Science Bowl competition. Students were tasked with answering questions based on their own knowledge and from exhibits located in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The team from BMS showed great curiosity, teamwork, and enthusiasm!



Vigil Honors Victims of Identity-Based Violence

Baldwin High School hosted a 24-hour vigil to honor North American victims of identity-based violence from April 1–2, 2023. This year's vigil focused on victims from North America, and include Indigenous Peoples, victims of lynchings based upon their race, religion, or immigrant status, members of the LGBTQIA+ communities, and victims of school-place violence. Students and staff took turns reading the names of victims at 15-second intervals over the vigil. Over 6,000 victims were commemorated.

DISTRICT of CHAMPIONS



Esports Teams Compete at State

The District's esports teams boasted a strong showing in their inaugural year! This spring, the high school varsity Overwatch 2 team advanced to the second round of the PIEA state playoffs. The middle school Rocket League team reached the final round of the PSEL state playoffs and finished second in the state!



Serving His Community

This year, Baldwin High School student Matthew Colwell earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Less than 5% of scouts reach this level. Colwell completed over 400 hours of community service, including collaborating with others to build a pergola at North Zion Lutheran Church, where the troop meets.



Demonstrated Financial Skill

Baldwin High School freshmen Dylan Leonhardt, Julian Marshall, and Mason Lewis earned second place in the Pennsylvania Personal Finance Challenge. In this competition, students showcase their skills in earning income, buying goods and services, saving, using credit, investing, and insuring. Due to their high-ranking performance at the state level, the trio was invited to the national event.



Students Win Engineering Competition

Baldwin High School sophomores Athena Chen and Lena Skipina won first place in the 2023 Pittsburgh Regional SeaPerch competition. Students build and operate remote underwater vehicles in this challenge that puts science and engineering skills to work in complex challenges.





A Positive Achievement

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) fosters a constructive learning environment that serves students and helps to achieve educational outcomes. Whitehall Elementary School was recognized at the 2022 PAPBS Implementers' Forum for reaching Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fidelity with their PBIS program.



A Class Act: Student Recognized for Sportsmanship on the Court



Baldwin High School student David Werner is one of the inaugural winners of the Western Pennsylvania Boys Tennis Sportsmanship Award. He was one of three students selected from all eleventh- and twelfth-grade players in the region for his positive attitude and actions when interacting with opponents and officials.

Highlander Heroes



Dr. Kara Eckert, Student Engagement Coordinator for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, was named 2023 Duquesne University School of Education Distinguished Alumni



Dr. Randal A. Lutz, Superintendent of Schools, was named University of Pittsburgh School of Education 2023 Distinguished Alumni



Fighting Highlanders

Athletes achieved a number of noteworthy accomplishments this year, including:

FIRST TEAM ALL SECTION ATHLETES

Football: Logan Murphey, Andrew Sharp, Victor Iaquinta, Brady Hartman, Keith Mincin, Bobby Benton, Jaden Duttine

Boys Soccer: Josh Knight

Girls Soccer: Haily Niemann, Mary Vargo, Emma Lieu, Cate Skowronski,

Girls Volleyball: Kay Lindensfelter, Morgan O'Brian, Emmalyn Longo, Audrey Work

Boys Basketball: James Wesling, Nate Wesling, Nate Richards, AJ Chericco

Girls Basketball: Gianna Schoeb, Katie Lucarelli, Bre Swails, Mary Vargo

Baseball: Adam Ledbetter, Carson Chapel

Softball: Gabriella Jaquay, Kalyee Smolko

Boys Volleyball: Logan Pack, Bibeak Bhujel

TEAM PLAYOFFS:

Boys Basketball, Girls BASKETBALL, Gymnastics, Boys Track and Field, Cheerleading

School Record: James Wesling - 1000 points scored - Basketball

WPIAL QUALIFIERS

Individual:

Tennis: Gabby Moder and Braden Yokopenic

Swim: Even Stokes

Wrestling: Keith Mincin, Owen Klodowski, Lachin Islamov, Ramil Islamov, Shrijan Kamar

Track: Andrew Barrett, McKinley Beech, Alexander Castaneda, AJ Chericco, Anthony DiCesaro, Brandy Hartman, Robert Kosslow, Jacob Kunzman, Nico Mlzell, Philip Pegher, Jonus Ruvolo, Jeremiah Simplicite, Marcus Toto, Andrew Winschel, Tanner Zalar, Aliya Blount, Molly Gorman, Annabelle Herlle, Mackenzie Hirt, Brooklyn Lucas, Isabella Niles, Julianne Ott, Rebekah Priano, Ella Schwarzmilller, Olivia Shellman, Eliza Swanson

Gymnastics Medal Wpial Winners: Abby Rexrode, Annabelle Herlle, Ashley Brown, Sophia Pittman, Carly Dowhy, Ella Scurry, Vivien Skalos

Track and Field WPIAL Medal Winners: Jake Kunzman x2, Jonus Ruvolo, Jeremiah Simplicite, Anthony DiCesaro, Philip Pegher

WPIBL Team Qualifier: Bowling

WPIBL Individual Qualifiers: Bobby Benton and Brady Mallow

PIAA Qualifiers: Cheerleading team and Gymnastics team, Owen Klodowski (Wrestling)

Poised for Success: Senior Project Gives Students Career Confidence

High school provides students with foundational skills for the rest of their lives. Baldwin High School has crafted a capstone project that helps students synthesize their learning and pursue their career goals. Through the Senior Project, students assess their job plans, seek feedback from professionals, and crunch the numbers to be sure they can afford the education and certifications that their careers require. Armed with this research, seniors make solo presentations to exit panels consisting of Baldwin's teachers, administrators, staff, and local professionals.

Through this process, students learn about the realities of career and finances that allow them to strategically approach their ambitions. More than that, seniors discover things about themselves – from their interests and skills, to untapped confidence and resilience. Students leave the exit interviews with new poise, insight, and focus for the opportunities ahead.



Zach Saccani

Future plans: studying to become an electrician at Rosedale Tech

"I really thought a lot about what the panel would ask and formulated answers in advance."



Namita Kharel

Future plans: attending Penn State Altoona for finance

"I learned that I know what I want and that I've set good goals for the future."



Cameryn Rosswog

Future plans: attending CCAC

"I learned that I enjoy being prepared and that I am more confident than I knew."



Ronit Giri

Career plans: studying finance at CCAC

"I learned I am prone to over-prepare, but that's a good thing!"



Jacob Manning

Future plans: studying early education and special education at Slippery Rock University

"I am ready for college and ready for the next steps in life."



Elijah Traud

Future plans: studying psychology at Bowling Green State University

"I learned that I am hard-working and adaptive to new situations."



Alana Beermann

Future plans: Studying speech-language pathology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

"I learned what I *didn't* want to do: finance. The process really helped me to discover my future."



Natalie Lutz

Future plans: pursuing a career in healthcare administration at CCAC, Carlow, or Pitt

"It wasn't nearly as hard as I thought it would be. It felt laid back and I was comfortable as soon as I took a second to breathe."



Mason Baker

Future plans: studying performance motorsports at UNOH

“I discovered how many people are here to support us.”



Majda Greic

Future plans: studying nursing at CCAC

“I learned that I can have more faith in myself than I imagined.”



Madison Houser

Future plans: studying welding at Pittsburgh Technical College

“I learned that I am more confident than I used to be and that as long as you’re yourself, you can go far.”



Caitlin Schanck

Future plans: studying art at Slippery Rock University

“Before this experience, there were a lot of questions about myself and my own personality I didn’t have answers to.”



Savauna Nuovo

Future plans: Studying psychology at Carlow University

“This is such a uniquely Baldwin-Whitehall experience, and it shows how much they care about us being world-ready.”



Rachel Zgurich

Future plans: studying early education and Spanish at St. Vincent College

“I am more prepared than I expected I’d be. The project calmed my nerves about what’s to come after high school.”



Shrijan Kamar

Future plans: joining the U.S. Marines, beginning with boot camp on Parris Island, S.C.

“I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was actually fun. People are here to support and see me succeed.”



Next Steps for 2023 BHS Graduates:

231

Four-year college

5

Trade, Technical, or Career Education

63

Entering Workforce

8

Armed Services

U.S. Air Force: 2, U.S. Army: 1,
National Guard: 2, U.S. Marine Corps: 3

36

Other/Unreported

Total: 343

District in the News

There are great things happening in our District and the media is noticing! Here is a small sampling of the stories that have been featured in local coverage.



Baldwin-Whitehall superintendent Randal Lutz honored by University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh School of Education honored Dr. Randal A. Lutz with its 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards, which recognize transformative work in the field of education. Lutz's more than 30 years of service include 11 years in the role of superintendent.

Baldwin-Whitehall students hold 24-hour vigil for violence victims



College test prep classes are expensive. A Baldwin-Whitehall senior is here to help

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Kidsburgh: Local high schools, colleges starting esports teams

Esports is now over a billion-dollar business with professional teams competing in packed stadiums, and colleges and high schools are now making teams too. About a dozen high schools around our region have competitive gaming teams. In today's Kidsburgh, I visited Baldwin High School, which just started a team this school year.



Brose bros. from Baldwin-Whitehall teach us about brotherhood

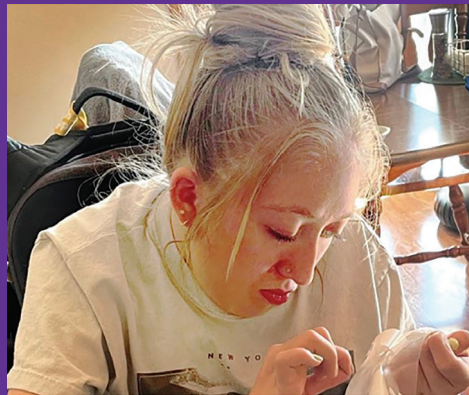
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Baldwin-Whitehall student tells U.S. Senators that more money is needed for teens' mental health

In front of a committee of U.S. Senators, senior Brooklyn Williams said that her mental health issues were overlooked as a child and like many of her peers, her symptoms worsened during the pandemic.

The Baldwin-Whitehall student told the Senate committee on health education, labor and pensions Wednesday during a hearing on supporting mental health in the transition from high school to college, that the social isolation during the pandemic compounded her feelings of stress and despair.



Baldwin High School student launches her own sewing business

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Brothers' heart-warming routine inspires school



Thomas and Nathan Brose are two brothers who have a very special morning routine that has inspired everyone at their school in Pittsburgh.

Nathan Brose, a student at McAnnulty Elementary School, has learning differences and sometimes finds it rough to start the day. His older brother, Thomas, helps to ease the transition by taking Nathan by the hand and walking with him to his classroom. Once the boys arrive at Nathan's classroom, his older brother takes time to admire Nathan's work before waving goodbye and heading to his own classroom down the hall.

ChatGPT in Education: The Pros, Cons and Unknowns of Generative AI



'Fly Like a Girl': New program aims to help high school girls become FAA certified drone pilots

During this Women's History Month, local school districts are getting more young women involved in STEM. A new program aims to train a new generation of drone pilots. It's called "Fly Like a Girl."

"To be a drone operator applies to so many different fields, so our students are going to graduate with this FAA certification. They will be employable the day they have the certification," director of communication, innovation, and advancement for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, Janeen Peretin, said.



Emma Bronder Treats with Compassion

When Emma Bronder was five years-old, she got what every child dreams of for her birthday: a pony. This gift was not only a moment of childhood bliss, but sparked a love that would carry Bronder into her future career.

After graduating Baldwin High School in 2012, Bronder went on to earn a B.S. in Agriculture from The Ohio State University and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University. She now serves as a veterinarian in Eighty Four, Pennsylvania. Bronder enjoys the animals she works with and also loves the variety and challenge of her field. She explains, "On an average day, I see small animals (dogs and cats) for routine checkups and surgeries. Then in the afternoon/evening, I go out on farm calls for horses, and even goats, sheep, or alpacas. As a veterinarian you have the job of being surgeon, nurse, anesthetist, assistant, holder, behaviorist, receptionist, etc. so you have to wear many hats throughout the day and be able to adapt to whatever life throws your way. And this is my day every day – whether it be warm or cold, sunny or cloudy, raining or snowing, day or night, you always have to be prepared." The variety sparks her creativity. Bronder notes, "The thing I enjoy most about my job is that it is never simple – every day you learn something new and you never know what's going to be waiting for you when you get to the appointment."

Sarah Kanar Brings Creativity and Cheer

Sarah Kanar, Baldwin High School class of 2015, has been surrounded with whimsy her whole life. Her mother, Rebecca Kanar, started ABC Balloon Twisting when Sarah was still a baby. Balloons were a constant in their home. Kanar recalls, "My mom always had balloons around and eventually showed me how to twist them too at a young age. When I was about 5 years-old, I started to be able to do different designs."



Kanar now works with her mom as a balloon artist and face painter. "I love that I get to be creative and make other people happy while doing it," Kanar shares. While being a balloon artist includes fun and games, it also requires a large amount of organization, from arranging events to making sure her supplies are stocked and accessible when it comes time to make delightful balloon creations. Kanar is constantly thinking on her feet to innovate designs that meet client requests and serve all customers—often in a short period of time.

Kanar thrives on the joy balloons bring. Once when she was attending a balloon convention, she and a group of other balloon artists brought a flash mob to a mall. "About 30 of us decided to go to the local mall and do a flash mob in the food court. We were all scattered throughout the food court, looking casual, and then we all blew up a balloon and twisted a balloon dog at the same time. It was really funny!" relates Kanar.



Dr. Armand Buzzelli Is in the Business of Recreation

It may look like all fun and games at Robert Morris' Student Recreation Center, but a lot of careful planning and organization goes into making sure all athletic enjoyment goes smoothly. Coordinating all the activities is Baldwin High School alumnus Dr. Armand Buzzelli (class of 2000). He explains, "As the Director of Campus Recreation at Robert Morris, I manage our college's recreation department and the Student Recreation Center. We have a large club sports program, which is essentially a mini-athletic department where collegiate club teams play against clubs at other schools. My team oversees many of our wellness programs, including exercise classes and personal training. In addition to those roles, I also teach sport management classes for our Rockwell School of Business."



It was not a linear path to his current vocation. Buzzelli recalls, "I'm sure like many 18-year-olds I wasn't completely sure of what I wanted to do when I graduated from BHS. The possibilities seemed so endless that I had a lot of trouble narrowing things down to one field. I decided to go to college to be a teacher and while I was in college I participated in intercollegiate athletics. I saw all of the work that went into planning and managing sporting events while serving as a student assistant for our athletic department. That experience made me realize that I wanted to work in sports and higher education and eventually I discovered this unique field of collegiate recreation."

After graduating BHS Buzzelli earned his B.A. in history and education from Washington & Jefferson College, and an M.B.A. in Management, M.S. in Data Analytics, and Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership from Robert Morris University. Buzzelli recognizes that recreation fosters connection. His work provides students a richer experience in their college career.



Caitlin Dee is Opening Paths of Discovery



Caitlin Dee's interest in education was sparked in the first classroom she attended.

Dee recalls, "I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in Mrs. Pamela Wooding's kindergarten class at McAnnulty Elementary School during the 2000–2001 school year." As a six year-old, she never could have imagined that her interest in teaching would take her to the other side of the globe!

After graduating Baldwin High School in 2013, Dee earned her B.A. in Secondary Education and English, with a minor in Journalism, from Point Park University and a M.S. in Instructional Leadership from Robert Morris University. This year, Dee was accepted by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and received an award to work in Malta. She explains, "The Fulbright Program is the flagship cultural exchange program for the United States government. It is funded by the US Department of State which partners with over 140 countries from around the world to promote cross-cultural dialogue as well as academic and professional advancement." Dee serves as an English Teaching Assistant in Malta where she teaches English to secondary students. "I primarily work one on one with students to improve their English-speaking proficiency, as well as teach whole-class lessons on English grammar and American literature, culture, and traditions," she explains. Her students are engaged in their lessons in a way that infuses the school with a positive learning environment. She notes, "the energy that I see throughout the school is invigorating. The students are eager to learn and have many questions for me each week, often stopping me in the hallway to ask their question if we run out of time during the lesson."

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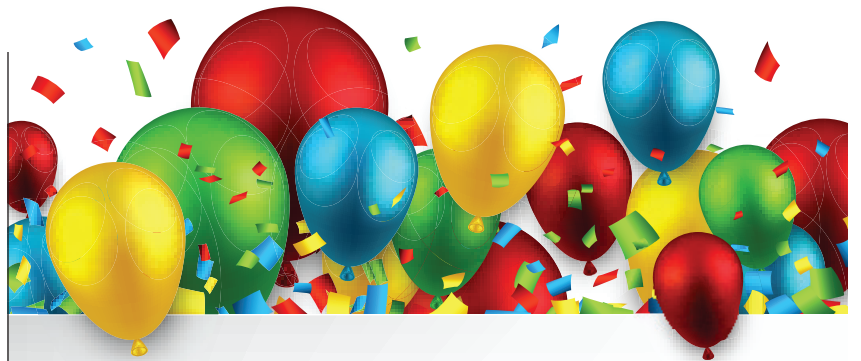
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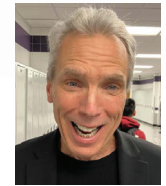
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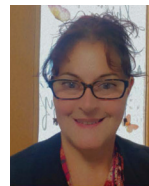
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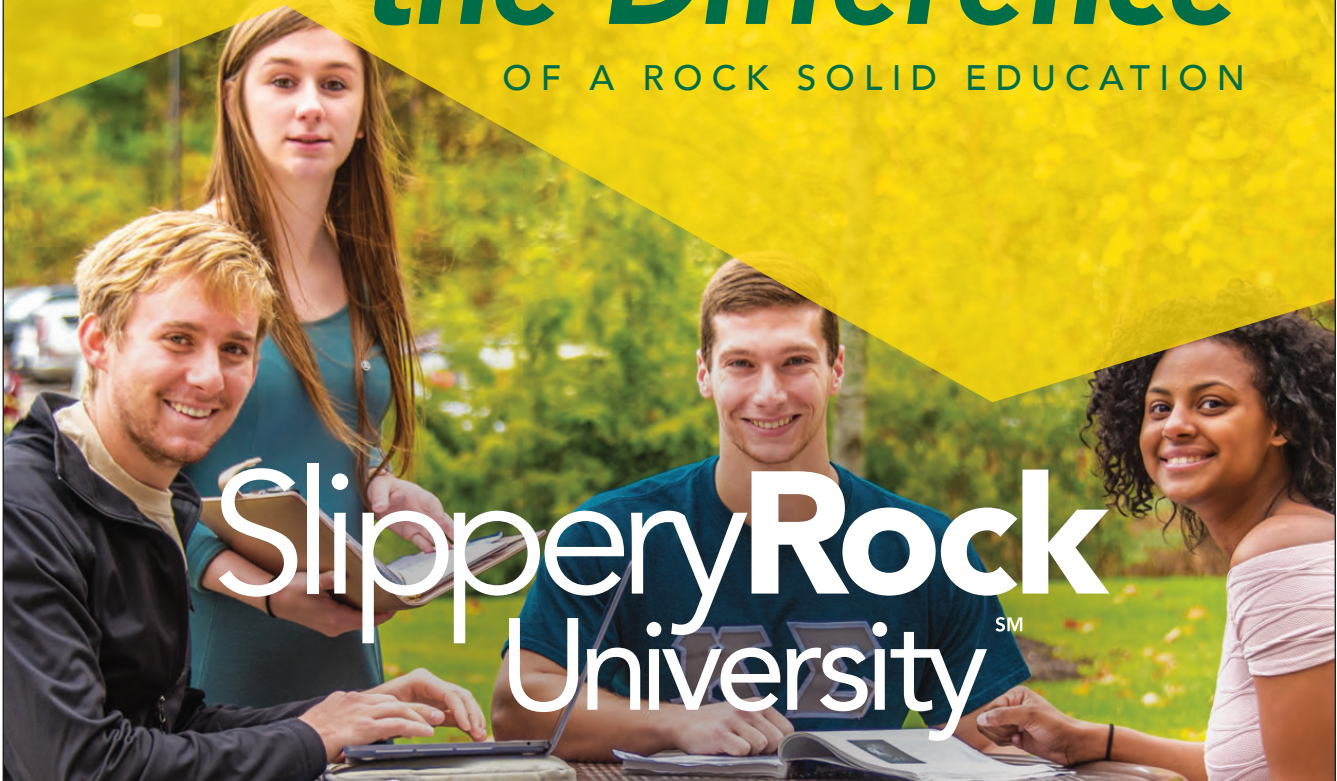
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