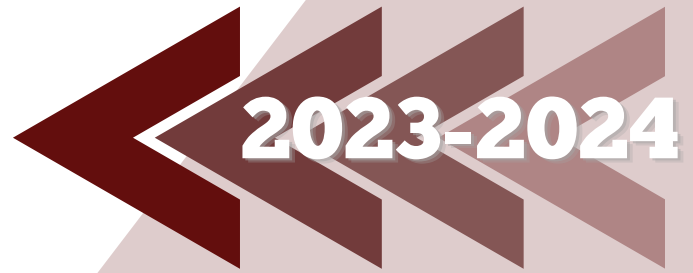




YEAR IN REVIEW



Featuring Updates from the Superintendent, Business Office, Instruction & Operations, Food Service, Transportation, and Technology Departments.

PATRICIA ROBINSON SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Buchanan Community Families,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 school year, it's clear that it has been a year filled with celebrations. Despite facing challenges along the way, our successes have far outweighed any obstacles we encountered.

We are deeply grateful that you have chosen Buchanan Community Schools to educate and nurture your children. With various schooling options available, your decision to entrust us with your child's education means a great deal to us. Our fall enrollment count for both 2023 and 2022 stood at 1530 students, maintaining a steady figure over the past three years. While our enrollment hasn't yet fully rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, this consistent number is a cause for celebration.

Operating public schools relies heavily on funding from state and local taxes. Without this crucial support, we wouldn't be able to offer the diverse range of academic, extracurricular, and athletic programs that we currently provide. We express our gratitude to the community for supporting and approving the recent Operating and Sinking Fund milages, which are vital for our operations. Looking ahead, we anticipate seeking approval for a bond to address the maintenance needs of our aging buildings.

At the heart of our mission is the education of our students. Our dedicated teachers work tirelessly to ensure that students meet state standards while also incorporating additional enriching activities into their learning experiences. Each spring, we administer assessments to gauge student progress. While we await the results of the 2024 assessments, we can celebrate the achievements of the previous year. Our district's proficiency scores in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) have consistently placed us among the top performers in our county, showcasing our commitment to academic excellence.

Furthermore, we take pride in the recognition received by three of our exceptional teachers. Jessica Maurer, Erin Kratky, and Melissa Frost have been honored for their outstanding contributions to education, demonstrating innovation, dedication, and passion in their respective fields.

As we look back on the year, we are reminded of our overarching goal: to prepare students for lifelong success in all aspects of their lives. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a comprehensive education that fosters academic, physical, and social-emotional growth.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support, partnership, and trust in Buchanan Community Schools. It is a privilege to be a part of your child's educational journey.

CARRIE BRUNSTING **BUSINESS OFFICE**

In the past year, the school business office demonstrated resilience and adaptability, navigating challenges in education while focusing on financial stewardship. We restructured the office, bringing accounts payable back in house for improved service, and welcomed Tami Wreggelsworth as the new payroll and accounts payable clerk. Congratulations to Laura Morris on her retirement after 24 years of service; her dedication and contributions have been invaluable, and we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. The District was very active in managing, applying for and receiving numerous grants to assist with funding.

Applied for, received and managed:

- Title IA - Improving Basic Programs
- Title IIA - Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title IV - Student Supports and Academic Enrichment
- ARP Homeless II
- ESSER III
- High Impact Leadership (HIL)
- 23g - MI Kids Back on Track
- 31aa - Mental Health Grant
- 35a(5) - Early Literacy Targeted Instruction
- 51a.6 - Special Education Rule Change Costs
- 67f - FAFSA Completion Challenge
- 97 - School Safety
- 97b - School Resource Officer
- 97c - Safety/Security Risk Assessment
- 97d - Critical Incident Mapping
- 97j - Early Student Behavioral Intervention Tools
- 99h - FIRST Robotics
- 104i - Benchmark Assessments

Automatic allocation and District managed:

- 22l - District Transportation Costs
- 27l - Educator Compensation Program
- 31a - At-Risk

Applied for, did not receive:

- Michigan Community Center Grant

Applied for, awaiting approval:

- 27k - Student Loan Repayment Program

Grants which flow through Berrien RESA:

- GSRP Programming
- GSRP Transportation
- CTE - Perkins
- Diverse Library Grant
- 31n(6) Mental Health and Support Services
- 61a - CTE Added Costs
- 61c - CTE Equipment Grant



As custodians of fiscal responsibility, we aim to build upon these achievements and embrace future opportunities.

NATE WILL **TRANSPORTATION**

We are excited to welcome back some familiar faces this year. Tina Nelson (Route 10), Kristen Wahlstrom (Route 7), and Jane Mitchell (morning CTE and substitute) have rejoined our team. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce Tre' Myers, who will be joining us as a substitute driver. Tre' will undergo training over the summer and will be ready to start when we return from summer break.

BCS will offer transportation for summer school. Please remember that the same rules apply during the summer months as they do during the school year.

In July, parents and guardians will receive an email asking for transportation requests for the fall. Please look out for this email to ensure we have the correct contact information for your child and their pick-up and drop-off locations.



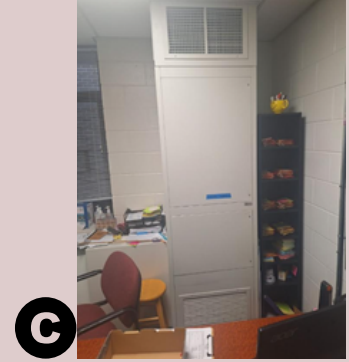
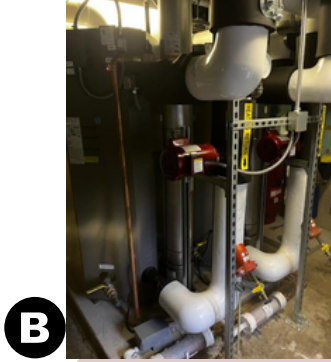


MARK KURLAND

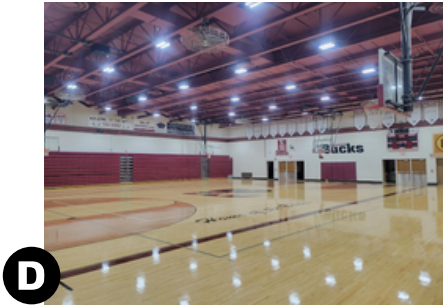
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

The Operations Department consists of maintenance and custodial services. The custodial services are a combination of Buchanan employees as well as a third party company, Enviro-Clean. This is the second year that we have shared custodial services with Enviro-Clean due to staff shortages. Maintenance covers all repairs for the district including heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical. Over the past school year:

I. Ottawa elementary installed two boilers that service 10 classrooms and include new univentilaters that are in each classroom (A-C)



II. Buchanan High School Competition Gym installed new LED lights as part of a sinking fund project (D) and we fixed two sink holes at the football field and track area (E)



III. Moccasin and Ottawa have both had a washer and dryer system added to the building to support custodial services. This includes plumbing and electrical (F). The Moccasin Boiler also had new tubes installed to increase the lifespan (G)



IV. Capital Projects During the 23-24 School Year as of May 22, 2024

Timeframe	Project	Amount
Current & Future	<i>*items are waiting final invoice or are estimated amounts</i>	
	High School Field House Garage Door *	\$ 2,405.00
	Ottawa, Moccasin & Middle School Emergency and Remedial Roof Repairs *	\$ 7,500.00
	High School Emergency Roof Repairs*	\$33,320.00
	Ottawa Playground Deck Repair*	\$28,930.25
	High School “Remedial” Roof Repairs*	\$5,700.00
	Moccasin Drinking Fountain Replacement*	\$2,142.00
2023-2024	High School Track Sink Hole	\$ 4,659.44
	High School Weight Room Masonry Repairs & Architect Services	\$ 6,005.00
	Moccasin Washer Dryer Install (includes electrical & plumbing)	\$ 13,058.00
	High School Air Conditioning*	\$ 52,436.00
	High School Roof Repairs	\$ 25,400.00
	High School Gym Lighting	\$ 19,980.00
	High School Thermostat Replacements	\$ 5,040.19
	High School Heat in Locker Room*	\$ 10,338.42
	Ottawa Washer Dryer Install (includes electrical & plumbing)	\$ 9,680.00
	High School Culinary Plumbing Repair	\$ 3,328.40
	Moccasin Boiler Repair	\$ 9,000.00
	District Roofing Assessment	\$ 8,200.00
	Moccasin Sidewalk Repair	\$ 6,750.00
	High School New Hot Water Boiler	\$ 79,853.50
	High School New Hot Water Boiler Install Electrical Upgrade	\$ 4,984.00
	High School Auto Shop Gate and Fence Installation	\$ 4,172.64
	Moccasin ADA Restroom Upgrade & Renovation	\$ 6,495.00
	Moccasin Parking Lot Repairs	\$ 2,000.00
	High School Roof Repairs	\$ 451.25
	High School Culinary Flooring	\$ 6,065.00
	High School Mixing Valve	\$ 2,516.00
	High School Thermostat Controller Replacement	\$ 6,851.00
	High School Roof Repair	\$ 278.50
	Moccasin Roof Repair	\$ 859.50
	High School New Water Softener	\$ 54,135.00
	High School Football Field Sink Hole	\$ 9,992.99

The Food Service staff carefully plans and serves meals to meet the nutritional requirements of the age group at each school. We continually work to provide meals that are not only nutritious, but also appealing to students. We do this by including a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as time-tested kid favorites like pizza and chicken nuggets. This year we were very pleased to join other school districts across Michigan in offering **free** breakfasts and lunches to all BCS students. This was great for the kids, parents, and staff! On average, we served about 464 student breakfasts and 1,071 lunches each day. Other highlights of the year include:

- Working with student volunteers and Buchanan High School Art Teacher Sandra Miller, we designed and painted a mural in the High School cafeteria.
- We purchased new cafeteria seating for the high school, including BCS branded tables and cafe-height counters with chairs.
- Ottawa Elementary now has a new, larger walk in freezer which has helped with the increased meal counts there.
- For the first time, we have a commercial dishwasher for the high school kitchen. This has allowed us to begin using reusable trays, greatly reducing the amount of styrofoam going to the landfill.



The Information Technologies Department at Buchanan Community Schools is responsible for the maintenance of all technologies used in the education of students and the support of that education. This includes obvious things such as teacher and student computers, projectors, Chromebooks, wifi, etc., but also includes the network infrastructure connecting our buildings together.

Buchanan High School Security Cameras

Through a combination of special security funds and donations, the security camera systems at BHS were significantly upgraded. The extremely old and oddly shaped buildings provide many challenges for placing cameras so that all important areas have adequate coverage. In order to properly monitor and secure the main BHS campus, over 200 indoor and outdoor cameras were installed.

Network Equipment Upgrades (10 Gbps backbone)

Taking advantage of federal eRate dollars, the primary Internet and fiber optic connection into the District was increased to 3Gbps which allows for us to set aside a dedicated 1Gbps to each of three connecting buildings with services originating at BHS. To provide this much more robust network, the equipment at BHS was upgraded to support 10Gbps. This year was a trial run for a much less expensive brand and type of equipment. The positive results have given us the confidence to move forward with similar upgrades at Buchanan Middle School, Moccasin and Ottawa over the next two years.

Elementary IFP Chromeboxes

Completing the classroom hardware upgrades started a few years ago, this year we added a Chromebox computer to each of our elementary Interactive Flat Panels (IFP) complete with wireless mouse and keyboard. This addition provides a dedicated computing device for the panel which frees the teacher's computer up for other work while students are engaged with the IFP. This also significantly extends the abilities of the IFP to include student login, full Google Workspace integration and support of the Google Play store to add educational and classroom apps.

Buchanan Middle School Computer Lab Upgrades

Before school started in the fall of 2023, we were able to complete a series of key hardware upgrades to the student workstations in the BMS computer lab. At a savings of 80% over total replacement, we were able to extend the life of the equipment for another three to four years while simultaneously increasing the systems' capabilities.