

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark DiStefano, Superintendent

Welcome back to another school year! We are so excited to have our students in our schools learning and growing with us. Although we had to push through some record-setting heat to kick things off this year, it was a great start. The 2024-2025 school year will prove to be a very successful year in BDUSD. Our staff worked very hard this summer and during the lead up to this school year to make certain their focus was sharp and they are well prepared.

This year we are working diligently to help support our students and families by clearly articulating some very important “Keys to Student Success” that we as adults can use to help make our children’s experiences as purposeful and powerful as possible. All of our families have been provided a breakdown of those “Keys” and if we come together to support the successful practice and reinforcement of these, more students will experience the successes they deserve. If you are a parent and need a copy, please contact your child’s principal or follow the QR link below.

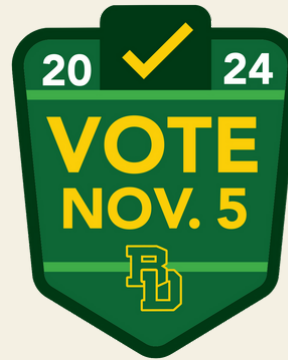
On a final note, as you are likely aware, and can see in this month’s edition, we have a much needed facilities referendum on the ballot this fall. We ask that you take a couple of moments to review the information that is widely available. Of most interest may be the Fact Sheet and FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document. You will find that information provided helps bring clarity to the needs and the why behind this effort.

Thank you for your engagement and partnership in making sure the 2024-2025 school year is great for our students, families, and the community we call home.

Go Beavers!



Keys to Student Success



REFERENDUM INFORMATION

Learn more online
bdusd.org/referendum

What is on the November 5th Ballot?

On August 12, 2024, the Board of Education unanimously approved and adopted a resolution for a November 2024 referendum as follows:

“Shall the Beaver Dam Unified School District, Dodge County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$107,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and facility improvement project consisting of: construction of a new Middle School building and campus, including community and athletic space improvements; construction of additions, renovations and building infrastructure improvements at Washington Elementary School; district-wide safety, security, ADA accessibility, recreation and site improvements; possible removal of all or part of the existing Middle School building; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?”



Students in our Intro to Police Work class got to take a trip to the Beaver Dam Police Department during the last week of summer school!

BOARD MEETING RECAP

At the August Board of Education meeting the board approved the following items:

- A resolution appointing Associated Trust Company, National Association to serve as fiscal agent in connection with the District's outstanding general obligation debt.
- Initial resolution language for the Board to authorize general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$107,000,000.
- Resolution providing for a referendum election on the question of the approval of an initial resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$107,000,000.
- Adopted new and updated Title IX board policies

Monthly Board Business Meetings can be viewed LIVE on the district YouTube channel (Beaver Dam Unified School District). In addition to LIVE access, you may also view previously recorded meetings and other district events on our YouTube channel.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

BUSINESS SERVICES

Mr. Cashman, Director of Business Services

As the new school year begins, it's essential to acknowledge the vital role that school transportation and food service plays.

TRANSPORTATION: School buses not only provide a safe and reliable means of transportation for students, but also help to reduce traffic congestion within the district. Our top priority is the safety of our students. Both BDUSD and First Student have implemented rigorous safety protocols and training. First Student uses the Stopfinder parent app that allows parents to have the most accurate information about their child's bus schedule.

FOOD SERVICE: The district's partnership with Taher Food Service is very important as it relates to supporting the health, well-being, and academic success of our students. The district is committed to ensuring that all students have access to balanced, affordable, nutritious meals as they head back to school.

FACILITIES & SAFETY

Mr. Marshall, Facilities & Safety Officer

Students learn best in a safe environment and safety and security is of utmost importance. As we plan ahead, district-wide site safety includes playground and drop-off and pick-up improvements. We are also

committed to improving ADA accessibility throughout the district. While we have been able to make past improvements, there are areas in need of improvement to increase the quality of experiences. We continue to be a leader in our planning and preparation associated with safety both during and outside the school day. It is important to make every effort to balance the welcoming nature of our community, with systems that ensure the most safe and enjoyable experiences for all.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Dr. White, Director of Human Resources

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are excited to announce our renewed focus on community and family engagement. We are committed to fostering stronger connections between our school and the families we serve. We invite parents and community members to participate in various events, activities, and volunteer opportunities aimed at enriching our students' education. Together, we can create a supportive environment where every child can thrive academically and socially.

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Sponholz, Director of Student Services

Our district is committed to every student's success. To achieve this, we have developed a system of "safety nets" or tiered support system to ensure all students receive a high-quality education and additional academic or social support as needed. This system, embedded at each of our sites, also provides opportunities for enrichment or extension.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Dr. Meyer, Director of Teaching and Learning

The district conducts a focused review of at least one curricular area each year. The goal is to analyze our performance, resources, and instruction in order to make informed decisions for improvement. This past year we reviewed our Music, Art, Health, and Physical Education courses and curriculum. This has resulted in updated instructional materials and supplies to meet the needs of our staff and students. Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, we will be conducting a review of Mathematics. Changes would be put into place in the Fall of 2025. Our course guides, outlining curriculum, are publicly available on our website under "curriculum warehouse."

SHOUT OUTS

NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY

Information Technology Professionals Day is September 17. A HUGE thank you to our outstanding Technology Team! Their diligence keeps district technology running safe and secure.

TECH TEAM MEMBERS:

- Eric Alvin, Network Administrator
- Sebastian Baker, High School Computer Tech
- Cristy Chavez, Middle School Computer Tech
- Greg Ritchart, High School Auditorium Tech
- Troy Schliesman, User Systems Specialist
- Stuart Stevenson, Elementary Computer Tech

BDHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Congratulations to the Beaver Dam High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024! Riley Budde, Jeff Campbell, and Hank Jacobs will be inducted at the Homecoming Football game on September 27.

To read about this year’s recipients or for more info, visit <https://bit.ly/3Z5dFsS>.



A group of our BDMS teachers were on a learning journey this summer at the Professional Learning Communities Institute in Madison

BILINGUAL FAMILY SERVICES

Mrs. Ramsdale serves as the district's Bilingual Family Liaison and works to ensure that all of our students and families receive the support they need in our schools and in the community.

To learn more about our bilingual services please contact Mrs. Ramsdale at (920)885-7300 x1410 or ramsdaleb@bdusd.org or visit the district's ELL Resources webpage at <http://bit.ly/3UUMuxZ>.

Calendar of Events

Visit bdusd.org for the most current listing of events and activities

September 2

- No School-Labor Day

September 4

- 10:00 am: Community Referendum Info Session (*Watermark Community Center-209 S. Center St.*)

September 7

- 9:00 am-12:00 pm: Community Open House (*Middle School & Washington Elementary School*)

September 12

- 7:00 pm: Community Referendum Info Session & Tour (*Middle School*)

September 16

- 6:30 pm: Monthly Board of Education Meeting (*Educational Service Center*)

September 19

- 7:00 pm: Community Referendum Info Session & Tour (*Washington Elementary School*)

September 23-27

- Homecoming Week

September 27

- Homecoming Parade
- 7:00 pm: Homecoming Football Game
- BDHS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (*during halftime*)

September 30

- No School-Inservice

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Click [here](#) to check out Community Flyers. There are flyers for community activities and events such as youth athletic groups, dance programs, BD Library events, and much more!

RESOURCES Visit bdusd.org for a full list of resources

FAMILY

- [Central Wisconsin Community Action Council](#)
- [Church Health Services](#)
- [Clothes for Kids](#)
- [Dodge County Food Pantry](#)
- [PAVE](#)
- [St. Vincent de Paul Society](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

- [Affiliated Counseling Center LLC](#)
- [Alarus Healthcare LLC](#)
- [Church Health Services](#)
- [Dodge County Human Services and Health Dept.](#)
- [SSM Health Behavioral Health Services](#)

FACILITIES REFERENDUM FACTS

WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT NEEDS?

Since our facilities assessment study in 2012, the Beaver Dam Unified School District has been proactively addressing the needs within our district. In 2022, a comprehensive, independent assessment was conducted and identified key areas of concern at the Middle School and Washington Elementary School. The century-old middle school is showing signs of wear, raising safety concerns, and limiting the effectiveness of its learning environments. Both buildings currently do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and their electrical and HVAC systems are outdated, with exterior maintenance also required. Taking action now is crucial to enhance safety, accessibility, and the quality of education for our students.

THE SOLUTION

New Middle School

- Learning Spaces
- Safety & Security
- Maintenance & Building Systems

Washington Elementary School

- Additional classrooms to accommodate Wilson Elementary students
- Addition to support art, music, nursing/health and a commons area for students, families, and our community
- Updated HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems

District-Wide Improvements

- playground updates
- improvements to drop-off/pick-up areas and overall site safety
- enhancements to improve community access to recreational areas

LEARN MORE ONLINE



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ATTEND

COMMUNITY INFO SESSION
The Watermark Community Center
September 4 @ 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY INFO SESSION & TOUR
Washington Elementary School
September 19 @ 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
Beaver Dam Middle School &
Washington Elementary School
September 7 @ 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

COFFEE Chat with the School Board
Washington Elementary School
October 3 @ 8:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY INFO SESSION & TOUR
Beaver Dam Middle School
September 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY INFO SESSION
The Watermark Community Center
October 9 @ 12:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Mark DiStefano 920.885.7300 or distefanom@bdusd.org

Homecoming 2024 September 27



Football Game - 7:00 pm
Golden Beavers vs. Kettle Moraine Lutheran
BDHS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Ceremony at Halftime

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



SEND IN YOUR NOMINATION
WINNER RECEIVES \$300 FOR THEIR CLASSROOM

SPONSORED BY:
 American Bank

HEFFRON FAMILY FUND PART OF THE BEAVER DAM AREA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Nominate a local teacher to become the Teacher of the Month! Email or mail nominations:

Tom Heffron
bdtoyman@gmail.com

Allyssa Gilmore
agilmore@americanbankbd.com

Mail:
112 Washington St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

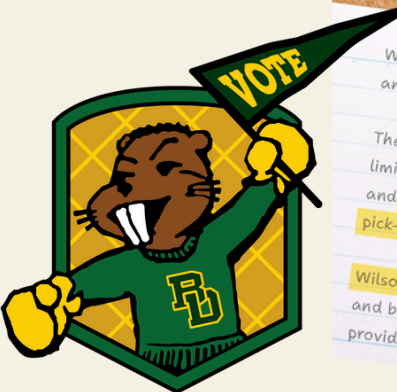
Mail:
American National Bank
Marketing Dept.
115 Front St
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

DID YOU KNOW?

Washington Elementary School was built in 1949 and has not been updated in over 25 years.

The current five-acre middle school site limits the potential for future expansions and creates safety issues around drop-off, pick-up and parking.

Wilson Elementary School will close in 2025 and be leased to a community childcare provider to improve local access to childcare.



BDACF EDUCATION FUND



Please consider supporting BDUSD staff and students by providing a gift to the Beaver Dam Unified School District Education Fund through the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation. For more info visit <https://bit.ly/49LWffj>.