



2022-2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

FEATURING

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

PATRICIA ROBINSON **SUPERINTENDENT**

Greetings Buck Family,

We are nearing the end of another school year and have had a wonderful year filled with recognition and growth. Our staff, students, and families work collaboratively year after year to create a positive environment, academic success, and activities that create connections not only with our families but with our community.

Through the work of our school leaders and staff, we have been able to progress towards our district goals outlined in our strategic plan. Below are a few highlights from this school year.

Ottawa Elementary School was recognized this year for its work and implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which includes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). They increased the consistency of effective behavior supports, built staff knowledge and skills to equitably support all learners, used data to proactively identify and provide support for students, and created a positive culture that nurtures relationships with students and their families (Eric Hoppstock, BRESA). The work laid by the staff at work at Ottawa establishes a strong foundation for our students as they transition through each grade level.

Moccasin Elementary School had strong growth on the MSTEP. There was year-to-year achievement and improvement on the MSTEP in both reading and math for both the 3rd and 4th-grade classes participating in the assessment. This achievement was a collective effort of all staff, students, and parents of Moccasin. The team has been consistent with their work around data and Professional Learning Communities.

Buchanan Middle School staff and students participated in a number of service projects throughout the school year. The school understands and values service through volunteerism and giving back. Students donated money for the Bucks for a Buck drive to give to the Ronald McDonald House at the Beacon Hospital in South Bend, IN. The Holiday Donation Drive gave students and staff the opportunity to collect a variety of items including gift cards which were donated to Redbud Area Ministries. Students and staff also participated in Rake a Difference Day where students raked leaves for local residents. The students and staff at the middle school truly learn by doing.

Buchanan High School had a full counseling staff this year. In addition to the two counselors and an administrative assistant, the district partnered with Michigan Gateway Foundation to hire a College Advisor. This team is building a strong system to help our students make the best career choice as they leave high school. One of the systems put in place is the scholarship presentation which outlines all scholarships available to seniors. In addition to the scholarship presentation, the guidance website gives ease of access for students to schedule appointments, make changes to their schedules, and ask for help. The high school staff has done an outstanding job of providing the necessary support for students as they leave high school and start their next journey.

With the resources we have available, our staff and students are doing phenomenal work. They are making our schools great! We have high-quality and passionate teachers, we engage our parents and community to be involved, we have a strong curriculum, provide student clubs and athletics, and create an environment that is healthy and safe. We have great teachers and staff, we have great students, we have great families and we have a great community. Thank you for another great year and we look forward to a great 2023-2024 school year.

CARRIE BRUNSTING **BUSINESS OFFICE**

The District Business Office has had a busy year. We continue to strive to provide exceptional service to all stakeholders.

There is a lot to be proud of:

- Implemented many State and Federal Budgets while maintaining compliance
- Navigated major financial software version update
- Changed audit services to local vendor
- Changed banking to include two local credit unions
- Reviewed and improved processes and procedures
- Maintained fund balance board requirements
- Explored and applied for the Grow Your Own grants for teacher development
- Awarded the Michigan State Police School Resource Officer Grant

Thank you all for your support and collaboration. We look forward to the coming year.





MARK KURLAND

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS



Instruction

Moccasin Elementary School was considered a "Reward" school while receiving a grade "A" on its report card. Buchanan High School and Buchanan Middle School both received "B" status on their report cards. Congratulations on all of their efforts as it is a team effort!

The K-12 ELA Departments have either purchased or worked on pilots throughout the school year. Ottawa Elementary purchased GEODES for their teachers while Moccasin Elementary purchased the Wonders Curriculum to enhance reading. Buchanan High School purchased ELA materials including novels and online subscriptions while Buchanan Middle School is working through two different pilots of materials and will make a decision on moving forward by the end of the year. Ottawa and Moccasin both have continued their work with Mark Tompkins in the area of reading as well as Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS).

The K-12 Math Departments have been working through a review of various curriculums. K-5 is still in the process of reviewing materials that will continue into the 2023-24 school year. 6-12 has decided on a pilot of REVEAL Math by McGraw Hill and will decide at the end of the 2023-24, based on data how well it supports our students. Buchanan High School continues to work with Matt Townsley, from Solution Tree in the area of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) specifically, in the area of data-driven assessments along with looking at SAT Data with support from our Berrien RESA Consultant, Amanda Veldman.

Operations

Maintenance and custodial services fall under the Operations Department. Due to staff shortages during the 2022-23 school year, Buchanan in-house custodians have been working side by side with custodians from Enviro-Clean, a third-party company. This has proven to be a give and take as both groups have shown a willingness to lend a hand in making sure our schools are kept clean. We appreciate all of their efforts.

The Maintenance Department has been very busy and worked through two major emergency issues at Buchanan High School this year. In the fall, a drinking fountain at Buchanan High School broke flooding the hallway and two classrooms. Staff was able to get things fixed and ready for the start of school year. During the Christmas Holiday, due to the extremely cold weather several pipes froze and then burst and water flooded six offices, and affected six classrooms. Staff worked overtime to set up temporary offices and classrooms were reset prior to the beginning of the second semester. We are still working with the insurance company to get things fixed and furniture replaced. This should be completed by the end of the summer. Thanks to Brian Pruett-Principal, and the high school staff for being very supportive of all of the efforts to get staff and students back into their classrooms.

Moccasin Elementary School, Buchanan Middle School and Buchanan High School all required major boiler work and are still in need of new boilers. This summer Ottawa Elementary, will complete a heating and air quality system upgrade.



BECKY KALTENBACH

FOOD SERVICE



This school year was more back to normal, as far as food service goes. With Federal pandemic programs ending, we were unable to offer free meals to all students, so that was an adjustment for both our staff and parents. However, we continued to introduce new items including Breakfast Uncrustables and Apple Bosco Sticks at breakfast and lasagna rollups, pizza crunchers, and nacho-crust fish sticks at lunch. We also brought back some items that had been suspended during the pandemic such as the Asian Noodle Bowl. We did a few "Try it Tuesdays" for our youngest students, which led to adding Sugar Snap Peas to our elementary menus.

The Food Service Staff works hard every day to offer food that is well presented, appetizing, and nutritious. We invite you to join your child for lunch someday to see what it's all about!

NATE WILL **TRANSPORTATION**

The 2022-23 school year has been a good year for Transportation. We started the year off and continued strong with a full staff along with a substitute driver. Many districts in our area as well as across the country are not this fortunate. We continue to welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a driver to reach out to us for more information.

We hired two new bus drivers before the school year started, Ms. Valerie Phillips and Ms. Rose Riggins. Both had driven here previously and were excited to return. Ms. Valerie and Ms. Rose both have grandkids that attend Buchanan Community Schools.

We will again be requiring parents to sign up for transportation services for next year via the BusQuest App/Website. Please be sure that the office of the school your child(ren) attends has your email address correct. The transportation department will email the link in mid-July. The BusQuest app also allows you to track the bus and get notifications when it is close to your child(ren)s bus stop.

For more information and to stay up to date, visit the Transportation icon on our district website as well as follow us on Facebook, Buchanan Community Schools Transportation.

Have a safe and fun summer!

PHIL PLACE **TECHNOLOGY**

The Information Technologies Department at Buchanan Communities 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.

New Classroom Document Cameras

Classrooms throughout the District received new document cameras. These higher resolution cameras help students to better visualize and engage with what is being discussed. They also make it possible for teachers to record instruction for use for future classes or to make available to students needing extra assistance.

Upgraded Security Camera System

Over the summer, BHS received a major network cabling upgrade which was phase 1 in a three part project to upgrade the security cameras in that building. This winter, the upgraded Network Video Recorder (NVR) was purchased and brought online to complete phase 2. This new technology has already allowed us to bring four additional cameras online and will support replacement cameras as we work to replace aging CCTV cameras with new IP based units. We are exploring grants to help fund phase 3 which is a total camera replacement.

Upgraded Internet Filtering

This year, we completed the migration of all District equipment to our new cloud based Internet filtering solution. This upgrade allows for students to have focused and relevant access to the Internet while at school, with slightly more relaxed but still safe Internet while off campus. All student assigned equipment is filtered regardless of where it is.



**BUCHANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS THANKS YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**