



NEWS & VIEWS

February 2012 • Winter Edition

www.bedford.k12.mi.us

Phone 734.850.6000

Beginning at Bedford - All Day Kindergarten For All!



Bedford Public Schools is proud to announce that we will be offering All Day Kindergarten for every student for the 2012-2013 school year at each of our elementary schools. With the changes in the funding formula the state of Michigan

is using, it becomes more fiscally prudent to switch from offering half days to full days.

Previously, the all day option was limited to those selected through a lottery due to the limited number of spaces in those classes. With the elimination of that lottery, parents now know, with certainty, the schedule their kindergarten students will be following the moment they are registered.

This switch to full day kindergarten becomes an exciting opportunity to expand the educational offerings for our kindergarten students. Our teachers are excited about using the extra time to have more hands-on instruction and activities. This makes the learning fun and engaging for the students. When the students are having fun with what they are learning, they discover that they enjoy school and a life-time love of learning is established.

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Non Homestead Millage is Up for Renewal

This year, a very important election will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012: the Non-Homestead Renewal.

What is the Non-Homestead Renewal?

In 1994, Bedford voters approved an 18 mill tax rate on non-homestead property (per the State statute and Proposal A). It has been approved by Bedford voters every 5 years since, and is again up for renewal this Spring. In order to continue it, the Board of Education *must* place the 18 mill renewal levy on the ballot.

Passage will continue to allow the school district to levy up to, but not more than, the legal maximum rate of 18 mills on "non-homestead" property.

Non-homestead property **does not** include your personal residence; therefore the amount of property taxes that a homeowner pays will not be affected by the passage (or non-passage) of this renewal levy.

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KINDERGARTEN SNEAK PEEK!

You & your child are invited to a special Kindergarten "Sneak Peek" night at *all* the elementary schools, on

**Tuesday, February 21
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Meet your principals & teachers! You can pick up registration forms; ask questions; register your child right then, or drop off completed registration forms! Don't miss this great opportunity!



Documents Required for Kindergarten Registration

You must have the following documents to properly register:

- Official Certified Birth Certificate (copies or hospital records are not valid)
- Proof of Family Relationship (if applicable) -- Custody Papers or Guardianship Papers from the court if child is not living with both parents
- All Parents/Guardians must provide Proof of Residency : (3 Items):
 1. Valid Michigan Driver's License (with Bedford address)
 2. Proof of home ownership or rental/lease agreement
 3. One (1) additional proof of residency with the same address, such as:
 - ◆ a utility bill - this includes current gas, electric, telephone, or water bill (no cell phone bills accepted)
 - ◆ a tax bill
 - ◆ homeowner's insurance policy / renter's insurance policy
- 4. Immunization Records
- 5. Hearing and Vision Screening before August 30, 2012. This can be obtained from your family physician. The Monroe Co. Health Department offers hearing and vision screenings. Testing will be available by appointment - call 734-240-7855



Superintendent's Corner



Welcome to the Winter Issue of News & Views!

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 is an important date. Please mark this date on your calendar and remember to exercise your voting privilege by participating in the May 8 school election. Although elections for Board Members have been moved to the November election date on even number years, renewal of school levies are still held on the May school election date. Please see the enclosed insert for information about this year's non-homestead levy renewal request.

We are proud to announce that our kindergarten program will now be offered to every student beginning next school year. If you have an upcoming kindergarten student or know of somebody that does, please read the information included in this issue of News & Views and pass the news along!

Someone once said: *A life without challenge would be like going to school without lessons to learn. Challenges come not to depress or get you down, but to master and to grow and to unfold your abilities.* Despite the challenges of a telephone system being struck by lightning right before school started, a water main break that flooded Temperance Road Elementary, a myriad of new Michigan legislative changes that

have challenged us in many ways, and the lack of adequate funding from the State of Michigan, we continue to be focused on our mission. Bedford Public Schools is committed to providing comprehensive educational opportunities that develop productive and responsible citizens in a changing world. The coming months will be challenging, as difficult decisions must be made. Despite that, we continue to pull together as a community, with many wonderful, positive results happening every day. I encourage you to stop by our buildings at any time, and please visit our booth at the BBA Trade Fair on March 17-18

I assure you, we will continue to provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

I also would like to urge you to contact our State legislators regarding the lack of support and diminished funding which is being allocated to all Michigan public school districts, including *yours*— Bedford Public Schools. Only by strength in numbers can we possibly hope to change this trend.

Sincerely,

Ted Magrum, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Superintendent of Education

Ted Magrum

Bedford Board of Education

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Non-Homestead (continued from Pg 1)

The renewal levy will appear on the ballot as two propositions. Proposition A and B. Proposition A will allow the school district to continue collecting 18 mills on non-homestead property for the next five years. Proposition B, a one mill five-year "protection" levy, will protect the school district from a decrease in the 18 mills, ONLY IF the non-homestead taxable property values increase more than the inflation rate. It will **not increase** the millage above 18 mills.

Full ballot language is on the attached insert. You can also access information by visiting our web site: www.bedford.k12.mi.us

If you have any questions or would like further information on this important millage, please contact Dr. Ted Magrum, Superintendent, at 734-850-6001.

Visit Us at BBA Trade Fair !

Bedford Public Schools has a lot to offer! Find out more - visit us at our Trade Fair Booth, co-hosted by our District's PTA & PTO organizations. We'll be in the High School's New Gym, Booths 441/442.

The Bedford Business Association has set this year's Trade Fair for the dates of:

March 17 (Saturday) 10 AM to 5 PM
March 18 (Sunday) NOON to 5 PM

at the Senior High School, 8285 Jackman Road, Temperance.

Our special "Kindergarten Round-Up" booth will be located in "B" Hallway on Saturday only. And, don't forget to visit Bedford's Community Education booth, #440, located right "across the hallway" from us.

Kindergarten Registration (Continued)

Our kindergarten program is the foundation of a child's educational career. Here they learn the building blocks which will provide the solid base that all the other grades will add onto. We want to share with you some of the many exciting aspects of our Kindergarten program:

- Highly qualified, dedicated and experienced teachers
- Individualized reading programs based on assessed reading level with small group instruction
- Art class with an art teacher, music class with a music teacher and physical education class with a physical education teacher
- Checking out books from Media Center
- Computer Lab visits
- Technology in classrooms such as Smart Boards, interactive projectors and document cameras and computers for student use
- Support services Including RTI (Early Intervention)
- Cafeteria breakfast and lunch options
- Transportation to and from school
- Latchkey options
- Community Education
- Active PTA/PTO
- Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the Kindergarten teaching staff, a variety of support services, if needed, ensure that every student can learn and grow to the best of their abilities. They include:

- Health Room in each building with an aide and visiting District nurse.
- RTI (Response to Intervention) and Literacy Support
- Speech and Language Instruction
- Resource Room Instruction
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Student Support Services
- Occupational Therapy

The entire staff, at all of our schools, is available to make this a positive transition for your child. At any time, if you have any concerns or questions, give us a call so we can work together to ensure the best possible educational experience for your child.

Our sole purpose is continue the education, the social development, and healthy growth of your child while in our care to foster a love of life-long learning, respect for others, and ultimately, end with an adult prepared to take their place in the world. In the meantime, they will enjoy the nurturing attention of our dedicated and experienced staff as they teach them skills they will use throughout their life. And it all begins at Bedford!

How To Register

Registration packets are available at the **Bedford Public Schools Instruction & Student Services Office** in the Administration Building **and in the office of each of our elementary schools after February 1st. Evening appointments** (after 4:30 p.m.) at the Administration Building **much be scheduled** with Kendra Zink, Secretary, at 734-850-6028. You may also refer to the Bedford Public School District's Website at: <http://www.bedford.k12.mi.us/registration.html>.

In order to register for kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before December 1, of the enrollment school year. The district will continue to offer half-day sections of the Young Fives program for children with birthdays from August 1st to December 1st of the enrollment year and who are qualified based on Gesell test results.

Families are encouraged to register their children by March 1, 2012. Having the new kindergarten students registered earlier allows staffing arrangements to be made well before the start of the school year. The teachers themselves then have more time for their classroom preparations and are ready to welcome all their students on the first day of school.

An incentive prize drawing will be offered to those whose completed registrations are turned in by March 1st. Prizes were still being collected at the time this issue of the News & Views went to press, but the Grand Prize will be an iPad with a selection of Kindergarten readiness apps and ebooks, among other things donated by the Parent Teacher groups and Athletic Department. More details will be available soon!



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Dial "734" then:

Administration

Front Desk
850-6000

Instruction & Student Services
850-6128

Elementary Schools

Douglas Rd.
850-6700

Jackman Rd.
850-6600

Monroe Rd.
850-6800

Temperance Rd.
850-6500

Jr. High
850-6200

High School
850-6100

Fabulous 4's
850-6859

Transportation Dept.
850-6070



DISTRICT CALENDAR

February

2/20.....President's Day (No School)

March

3/6.....MME Grade 11 (Grades 9, 10,12 No School)

3/7 & 3/8.....MME days 2 & 3 for Grade 11
4 hr. Delay Start for Grades 9, 10, & 12

3/15.....1/2 Day Classes,
No AM Kindergarten

3/15.....End of Trimester 2

April

4/6.....Good Friday (No School)

4/9 -4/13.....Spring Break (No School)

May

5/28.....Memorial Day (No School)

June

6/3.....High School Graduation

Note: Any "Inclement Weather / Act of God" make up days will be added to the end of the school year in June, as needed.

For the most UP TO DATE information, visit our home page at www.bedford.k12.mi.us and click the Calendar button. Once you arrive at the What's Happening eSiteTrak Calendar, click the Search tab at the top of the page and enter your search criteria.

Transportation Safety Reminders

Attention All Drivers! We would like to remind you of some important facts, which are mandated by law for the safety of Michigan students.

- ◆ The center lane in front of the Senior High School (on Jackman Rd. heading South) is a **no travel lane**. This means that **no one may use this lane, when heading South after dismissal, to pass vehicles or buses** waiting at the light at Dean & Jackman. Drivers have been seen violating the law, by driving up the center lane trying to get to the intersection for a left turn.
- ◆ Students must be at their bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives. They should be standing at their stop as the bus is approaching so they can be seen from 200 feet by the driver who is approaching that stop. Many students are waiting in vehicles for the bus to arrive at the stop before they exit their vehicle. Please remember, *you must be standing at the stop to be seen*.
- ◆ Drivers, be aware that when you approach a school bus with the **OVERHEAD yellow flashers on** – you need to **slow down**, because this means the bus will be **activating the red lights**. **Once the red lights are activated, drivers must stop!** The State of Michigan (House Bill 6233) stipulates heavy fines for drivers who violate this law, and also states that moving violations include the area within 20 feet of the bus **that has stopped and is displaying flashing red lights**.
- ◆ Cars dropping students off in the **morning** at the High School are **not permitted to use the "South" Bus Depot Entrance - at any time**. Please avoid the front entrance to the High School and use the back of the High School (Dean Road) entrance. The Depot area is only for bus traffic in the mornings.

Bedford Public Schools Mission

"Bedford Public Schools is committed to providing comprehensive educational opportunities that develop productive and responsible citizens in a changing world."



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