

Brown County Schools EAGLE EYE

World Class Opportunities. Small School Relationships. Lifelong Impact.

Exclusive Interview with
Josh Bowlds

Behind the scenes with
BCS new Athletic
Director

A peek back at BCS
2025 Graduation!

**TIGER
PROUD**

Helmsburg Elementary
setting the tone for 2025
2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
Canoeing, Horseback
riding, and HOT temps!

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MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT EMILY CALLAHAN

“The heart of our work is simple: preparing students not just for graduation day, but for the *Monday morning after*.”

WORLD CLASS OPPORTUNITIES. SMALL SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS. LIFELONG IMPACT.

As we launch into this school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible work happening across Brown County Schools. Our classrooms are alive with curiosity, our extracurricular programs are thriving, and our campuses continue to be places where students are seen, challenged, and celebrated.

This year is about building momentum. You'll see it in:

- Student enterprises like Eagle Manufacturing and Eaglet, where students learn to lead, create, and solve real-world problems.
- Innovative programs such as TEDx Brown County Schools, which puts our students' voices on a global stage.
- Athletics and the arts, where our students are excelling thanks to strong programs, dedicated staff, and supportive families.
- Academic and career pathways that ensure every student is prepared not just for graduation, but for the Monday morning after.

Brown County Schools is a place where big vision meets personal connection. Together, we are creating opportunities that rival any in the state while keeping the small-school relationships that make us unique.

Thank you for walking alongside us. Your support fuels our ability to dream big for our students and to deliver on our promise: world-class opportunities, small school relationships, and a lifelong impact.

With gratitude,
Emily Callahan

Superintendent, Brown County Schools





soar.





LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

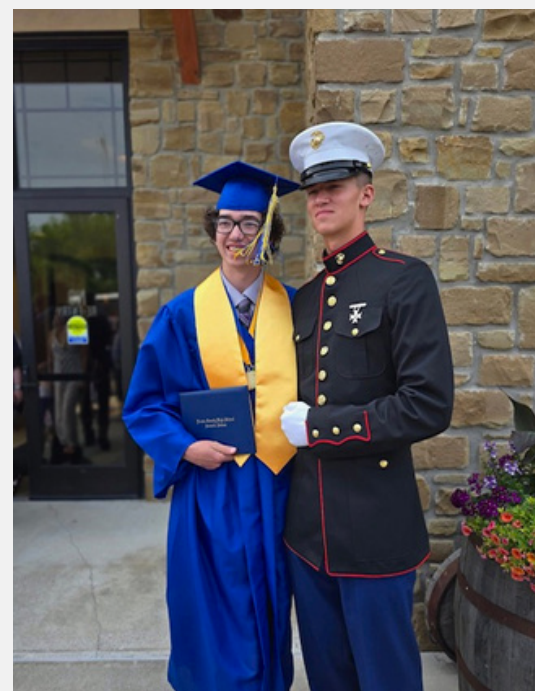
After the Caps Fell: A Morning-After Glimpse at the Class of 2025

Graduation took place at the Brown County Music Center, an elegant and memorable venue that's become a cherished site for marking major milestones. Graduating at the Music Center has become part of a meaningful tradition—students don their caps and gowns, fill the auditorium with applause and emotion, and take that final symbolic walk across the stage. It's a moment of unity, reflection, and anticipation for what's next.

The student speakers offered heartfelt reflections that captured the essence of the class—expressing gratitude toward mentors, celebrating shared memories, and releasing lofty hopes for the future. Their voices probably resonated with pride, nostalgia, and the earnest promise of the next chapter.

It is no longer enough to simply walk across the stage and receive a diploma. Our responsibility as a school district is to ensure every student has a plan and the skills to step confidently into that Monday — whether that means enrollment in higher education, employment in a career pathway, or enlistment in service to our country. That Monday morning should not be filled with uncertainty; it should be filled with purpose. At Brown County Schools, we are building systems and experiences so that every graduate can articulate not just what they have learned, but who they are, what they value, and where they are headed. The diploma is not the finish line. It is a launching pad. Our work is to prepare students not just for graduation day, but for the meaningful Mondays that follow.

NOMADIC | 24



BEHIND THE SCENES:

JOSH BOWLDS

BCS ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR



This year marks an exciting new chapter for Brown County Schools athletics as we welcome our new Athletic Director, Josh Bowlds. From the sidelines to the weight room, athletics plays a vital role in shaping leadership, teamwork, and school pride for students across grades 6–12. In this feature, we invite you behind the scenes to see the work that often goes unnoticed — the planning, the vision, and the people dedicated to making our programs thrive. You'll also get to know Josh, his passion for student success, and his plans to build on the proud tradition of Eagle athletics while creating new opportunities for the future.

Behind the Scenes

The small town, small school atmosphere is something that I was ready to get back to. I grew up in a small town and went to a high school very similar to Brown County. The relationships you form in a small school setting are powerful and something I hope to leverage here. As for the AD role, this is my 4th year as an Athletic Director. I honestly couldn't see myself doing anything else. I love coming to work everyday and getting to provide opportunities for kids in areas that they are passionate about - their sports!

What excites you most about stepping into this position for BCS?

The potential here is exponential. The people, the facilities, the community support, it all can come together to make Brown County Athletics even better. The community cares about athletics and is hungry to invest in its future. Both of those things will help us reach success.

Many people see the games, but not the preparation. What's something "behind the scenes" that you think our community would be surprised to learn about athletics?

The hours of preparation are intense. Every event takes preparation from officials, to logistics, to event workers, to concessions. Times that by multiple events a week or even in the same day and it adds up. However, in the same breath, one thing I enjoy about my job is how different every day can be. I can come into the office in the morning with a plan of action, then something will come up in the middle of the day that needs immediate attention. You learn to prioritize what needs to be done and manage your time efficiently.

How do you balance supporting both middle school and high school athletic programs?

For me, it's working to ensure equity in both programs. We want both programs to be successful, have what they need, and be able to provide the best opportunities they can for kids. We want to provide those world class opportunities in both buildings and align our mission across the entire department.

What's a typical day in your role look like during a busy sports season?

As aforementioned, every day is a little different. On a typical busy event day, I will spend my mornings in the office, working to confirm details for events, prepare materials, work on budget requests, meet with student-athletes and coaches, etc. I like to spend my lunch in the cafeteria with students. In the afternoon, I transition to event mode and begin setting up for events and ensuring everything is ready for a smooth evening. My evenings consist of attending and supervising events.





What's New and What's Coming

Are there any new programs, opportunities, or partnerships in Brown County athletics that you're excited about?

Two of the newest things in our department so far this year is the addition of our new social media pages and the development of a Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT). We are trying to boost engagement and communication practices, to ensure everyone knows what's going on in our department. It is just another way that we can promote and highlight positivity. Our SALT group will work to help define what we want BC Athletics to look like moving forward. We are empowering student-athletes to have a voice in our department, in their programs, and to advocate for the change they want to see happen.

How are you working with coaches to strengthen feeder programs and develop athletes from the ground up?

We have begun the conversations with coaches and our athletic ambassador group about the importance of aligning our mission with feeder programs and establishing a strong feeder system. So far, we have several great ideas about how we can get more involved in our elementary schools, as well as partnering with Parks and Rec to ensure our students have the opportunities they need to be successful moving forward. This includes the addition of camps and clinics, and exploring new or redesigned sport offerings at the youth and middle school level.

What are your priorities for aligning athletics with academics and student well-being?

We are an education-based athletics program. There is a reason the word student comes before athlete in student-athlete. We understand that our mission is simply not to just produce successful athletes, but successful young people, who will learn life lessons through school sports.

What facilities or resources do you see as most important for the future of our programs?

Our facilities have good bones and we have good space. As with any facility, updates are needed as years go by, and in a world where athletics seem to have a priority in some school districts, enhanced facilities help enhance the image of the school district. A veteran AD once told me, "Athletics and athletic facilities are the front porch to your school. If you can't sell the porch, you won't sell the house." Keep that in mind, Brown County Schools is investing in athletic facility improvements and looking at all facilities to develop a plan to modernize and update our spaces. Overall, we want to be branded appropriately and for our student-athletes to feel proud while playing in our facilities.





TIGER pride

1st Nine Weeks
Tenacity - Keep
Going Like a Tiger

2nd Nine Weeks
Kindness & Gratitude -
Tigers Have Big
Hearts

3rd Nine Weeks
Responsibility & Integrity
- Tigers Do What's
Right

4th Nine Weeks
Respect & Empathy -
Tigers Treat Everyone
With Respect

At Helmsburg Elementary, Tiger Pride is more than just a motto—it's the heartbeat of everything we are doing this year. We have decided to build a community around five core values: Tenacity, Integrity, Gratitude, Empathy, and Resilience (TIGER). These values aren't just words on a poster; they are guiding principles that shape how we learn, grow, and care for one another every single day.

This year, we are excited to tie these values directly into our competency based learning approach. By aligning Tiger Pride with academic and social-emotional learning, we're ensuring that every student not only masters content at their own pace, but also develops the character and confidence needed for lifelong success. To bring these values to life, each nine weeks of the school year is dedicated to a different theme.

**MRS. KELLI
BRUNER**

Principal, Helmsburg Elementary

The staff and students have really rallied around our school wide theme. Coming together as a family community tied around central themes has proven, thus far to be very rewarding and we look forward to the rest of the year as TIGERS!

1st grade:

Conner: "It means that you keep going and you never stop."

Willow: "It means keep going until I can do it! I had to work really hard at cutting on the lines. I persevered."

PROUD.

BOLD.

TIGERS.

5th grade:

Charlibelle: "It means you keep going in the hardest times and if you are about to give up and keep going. When I was in Mrs. Rund's class in 4th grade, we had a writing competition and I thought it wouldn't be really good but Mrs. Rund pushed me and I made the finals."

Kindergarten:

Miles: That means that you gotta keep going by not giving up!

Lexi: You have to work harder.

Savannah: You have to work harder and keep trying.

Brenda Ely, Grade 3 Teacher: We have woven perseverance into everything we've done since the beginning of the year. It has especially come into play during our STEM activities, where challenges often require patience and determination. Perseverance is not an easy lesson or skill to learn, but its benefits are invaluable—in both school and life.

Natalie VanZuiden, Art Teacher: First grade students worked on drawing Tigers. They had to look at a model and replicate it. It was very hard. We talked about perseverance and how trying really hard things will help them grow. They did an excellent job and we called Mrs. Bruner down to the Art room to see their drawings and talk about how we persevered through the lesson. They were so excited to show off what they had accomplished and to tell her that it was hard but they worked through it and persevered!





PATHWAYS TO TEACHING

Meet Brown County's new early childhood education apprentices! These two high school students are part of a growing statewide work-based learning program, known as the Early Childhood Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program. This is a federally registered apprenticeship that allows students to gain paid experience working in the Early Education Center while earning college credit through Ivy Tech. All of their work also counts towards the requirements to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, giving students a valuable leg up as they prepare for their future teaching careers.



By Megan Connelly

Early Steps, Big Impact: Apprenticeship Update

At Brown County Schools, we believe the best way to prepare tomorrow's educators is to start today. Our Early Education Apprenticeship program gives students the opportunity to learn side-by-side with experienced teachers in our preschool and early learning classrooms.

Apprenticeships allow students to:

- Earn while they learn – gaining valuable hands-on experience in real classrooms.
- Build professional skills – from child development and classroom management to communication and leadership.
- Explore career pathways – helping them decide if early childhood education is the right fit for their future.

Through this program, we are not only supporting our youngest learners but also growing our own future workforce of highly trained, passionate educators who already have deep connections to our community.



LEANNE HASH BCHS 11TH GRADE

Why did you apply for this apprenticeship?

"I want to become a teacher, so I want to get a head start now on seeing how the kids grow."

What are your plans for after high school?

"I'm kind of undecided, but I know I want to go to college for teaching. I'm thinking either elementary or middle school."

What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from the early childhood classes so far?

"I've learned that it's important to be able to adapt easily because all of the kids in the preschool room are at different levels. Some can count to twenty while some can only count to five. I need to be able to adapt to their speed."

What do you hope to learn during this apprenticeship?

"I'm hoping to learn how students grow individually. I want to look at one student and see how they adapt throughout the day, as well as how their mood changes and how they learn."

What do you think makes a good teacher?

"A good teacher is positive towards the kids. If you have a bad attitude, they aren't going to want to participate or learn from you."



AUBREE DENTON BCHS 12TH GRADE

Why did you apply for this apprenticeship?

"I applied because I want to be a teacher in the future. I want to teach toddlers or preschool, but I may go for all of elementary. The oldest age I would want to teach is fifth grade."

What are your plans for after high school?

"4-year college. I want to play volleyball in college, and I want to go for elementary and early childhood education."

What is the most valuable lesson you've learned from the early childhood classes so far?

"I've learned that sometimes you have to be patient with the kids, especially toddlers, because they may not listen to you the first time."

What do you hope to learn during this apprenticeship?

"I'm learning how to be the only one in the classroom. When the teacher leaves to go do something else, I've been left alone. I was nervous at first, but I'm getting better at it."

What do you think makes a good teacher?

"Being able to connect with students and having a good relationship with them."



ADVENTURE AT HAPPY HOLLOW CAMP

FRIENDSHIPS >

THE SPIRIT OF CAMP

Brown County Middle School students started the 2025-26 school year, as they have for the last 4 school years, with an unforgettable adventure at Happy Hollow Camp in southern Brown County. Each grade level had the opportunity to experience the outdoors and bond as classmates. Between bugs, sweat, and heat, campers experienced the full reality of outdoor adventure. Yet, the fun and silliness of camp life—splashing in the water, cheering friends on at the archery range, or sharing lunch together—made it all worthwhile.

"Everything we did we were able to do with a friend. It was fun to cheer on our classmates with things like the rock wall and archery range. Some kids would not have done these activities if no one was there to give them the courage to accomplish it!" – Remington Minor - 7th Grade

Happy Hollow Camp provided more than just activities. It gave Brown County students a place to step outside their comfort zones, discover hidden strengths, and form lasting memories. What better way to launch a new school year than by braving challenges, bonding as classmates, and celebrating the joy of trying something new?



UNITY >

BUILDING BONDS

For 6th graders, camp was especially meaningful. Coming from multiple elementary schools, many didn't know their group members at the start. Groups were intentionally mixed, encouraging new friendships and teamwork. As they traveled from station to station, students supported one another through laughter, nerves, and triumphs. This was such an important first step in building a strong middle school community. *"Exploring around camp, being outdoors and creating new long-lasting friendships made going to camp extraordinary."* - Rune Baldwin - 6th Grade



DISCOVERY>

ADVENTURE AND CHALLENGE

From soaring across a holler on the zap Line, to horseback riding, rock wall climbing, archery, swimming, boating, and fishing, students were immersed in hands-on activities that tested their courage and built confidence. Campers also faced team challenges, hiked trails, and spent plenty of time walking. Undoubtedly, they went home with tired legs, messy clothes, and big smiles. *"Ohh I flipped my canoe twice! Make sure you have a person in the middle.....or plan to get wet!"* - Zayn Sizemore - 8th Grade

Happy Hollow's "Choose Your Challenge" rule encouraged students to take safe risks, push themselves to try something new, and overcome fears—whether of heights, water, or the unknown. No one was forced to participate in an activity, but nearly everyone found a way to challenge themselves.

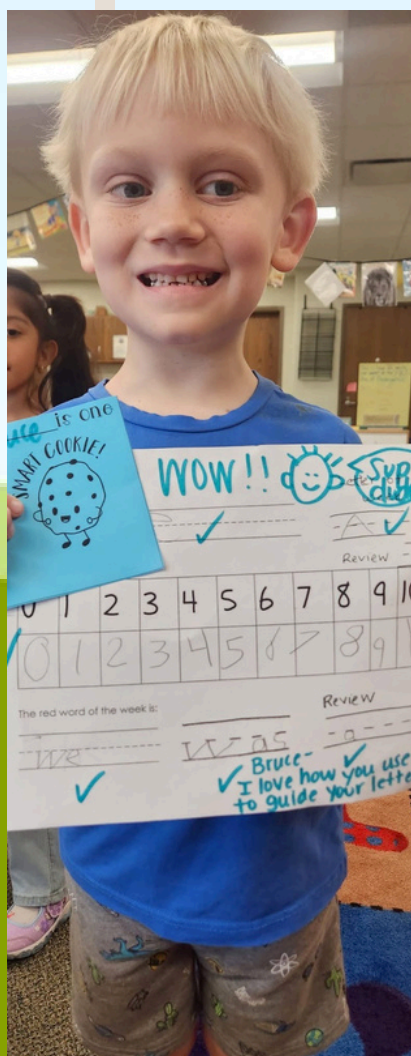
I did the rock climbing wall! It was pretty tough and it made me scared, but I DID IT! – Haven Callahan - 7th Grade

Watching classmates cheer one another on and celebrating moments of pride—like conquering a fear of heights or stepping onto a horse for the first time—was a highlight of the week.

BROWN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADVENTURE AT HAPPY HOLLOW CAMP







Brown County Schools Academic Calendar

2025 to 2026

Aug 2025						
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31						

Sep 2025						
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30						

Dec 2025						
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Jan 2026						
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Feb 2026						
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Mar 2026						
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Apr 2026						
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May 2026						
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Jun 2026						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

Important dates:

8/6 – First Day of School; 12/19 – End of Sem 1; 1/6 – Start of Sem 2; 5/27 – Last Day of School; 5/30 – Graduation

NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS

9/1 – Labor Day; 10/13 - 10/17 – Fall Break; 10/20 – P/T Conf.; 11/4 – Staff PD Day; 11/26 – 11/28 – Thanksgiving Break; 12/22 – 1/5 – Winter Break; 2/16 – STAFF PD Day; 3/16 – 3/20 – Spring Break; 5/5 – Staff PD Day; 5/25 – Memorial Day

MAKE-UP DAYS

1/19, 5/28, 5/29

TEACHER WORKDAYS

8/4; 8/5; 10/20 (P/T Conferences); 11/4; 1/5 (HALF DAY); 2/16; 5/5; 5/28 (HALF DAY)

SEM 1 – 87 Days

SEM 2 – 93 Days

QTR.1 – 8/6 – 10/10 (47 Days)

QTR.3 – 1/6 – 3/13 (47 Days)

QTR. 2 – 10/21 – 12/19 (42 Days)

QTR. 4 – 3/23 – 5/27 (46 Days)

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS **ADMINISTRATION**



Emily Callahan
Superintendent



Deborah Harman
Director of Student
Services and Support



Megan Connelly
Director of CRC and
Career Connected
Learning



Josh Bowlds
BCS Athletic
Director



Holly Gordon
Corporation Nurse



David Phelps
Director of
Technology



Jim Jackson
Director of
Maintenance



Michelle Hatchett
Director of
Transportation



Kelli Bruner
Helmsburg Elementary
Principal



Shane Killinger
Sprunica Elementary
Principal



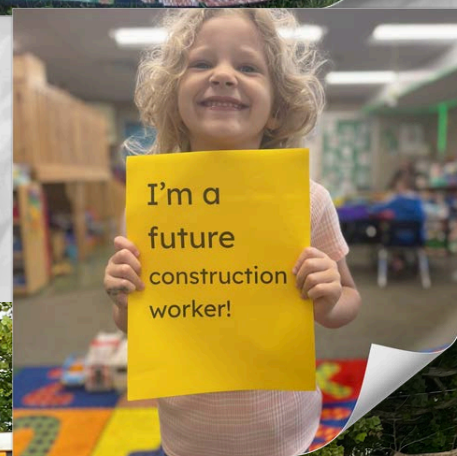
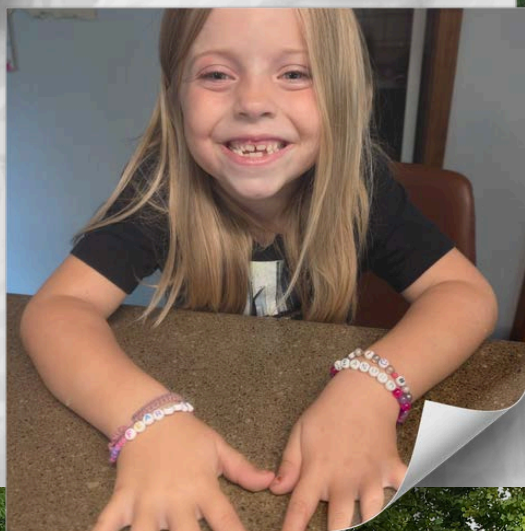
Greg Pagnard
Van Buren Elementary
Principal



Gavin Steele
BCMS Principal



Steve Sherohman
BCHS Principal



MAY 16, 2026

TEDx
Brown County Schools

BLUEPRINTS
+ BREAKTHROUGHS



Every bold idea starts with a blueprint—
a vision sketched in the margins,
mapped on whiteboards,
or imagined in moments of quiet curiosity.
But blueprints alone don't change the world.
It takes courage, experimentation,
and perseverance to turn those plans
into breakthroughs.

