

**Leading with
purpose.**

BCHS PROMOTES SARAH ROBERTS

WSES
IS BACK

**BROWN
COUNTY
SCHOOLS**



EAGLE EYE

**WINTER
2026**

@Brown
County
Schools

Center Stage:
**ARSENIC &
OLD LACE**



**Holiday
collages**

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

**A SNEEK PEAK:
BCHS: RESTROOM RENOVATIONS**

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Breakthroughs

BCHS BATHROOM
REMODEL



VETERAN'S
DAY
CEREMONY

MEET THE NEW BCHS PRINCIPAL

A familiar face within our community



Brown County Schools

Winter 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

One of the most energizing parts of my work continues to be our Superintendent's Student Advisory Teams. These student leaders bring insight, honesty, and creativity to the table as we explore what is working well and where we can grow. From feedback on school experiences to ideas for improving communication, culture, and opportunities across the district, their voices matter—and they are shaping real decisions. Their willingness to lead, listen, and collaborate reflects exactly the kind of graduates we hope to develop in Brown County Schools.



We have also taken intentional steps this year to strengthen our systems of support and safety across the district. The creation of a Director of Safety and Operations, along with the addition of an extra school nurse and a career coach, represents a proactive investment in our people and our future. These roles allow us to move from reactive problem-solving to thoughtful planning—improving safety, health services, facilities oversight, and post-secondary readiness for students. This work ensures our staff can focus on teaching and learning, while students receive the support they need to thrive.

Momentum is also building as we work toward this year's TEDx Brown County Schools event with the theme Blueprints & Breakthroughs. This theme captures the heart of what we believe in—intentional design paired with courageous innovation. As students, educators, and community members prepare to share ideas worth spreading, we are reminded that meaningful change happens when vision meets action. TEDx continues to be a powerful platform for student voice, creativity, and global connection rooted right here in our small, rural community.



Finally, you will notice a sneak peek in this issue highlighting the renovations to the high school restrooms. While facilities work may not always grab headlines, these improvements matter. They reflect our commitment to maintaining safe, functional, and welcoming spaces for students and staff. I invite you to take a closer look at the article in this issue to see how thoughtful upgrades—both big and small—continue to support pride in our schools and the daily experience of our students.

EMILY CALLAHAN

A Message from our new BCHS Principal Mrs. Sarah Roberts

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Principal of Brown County High School. Although this role is new, the BCHS community is certainly not new to me, and that's what makes this opportunity so meaningful.

For many years, I've had the privilege of serving our students and staff—as a former elementary teacher in the district, a long-time coach in our community, an assistant principal here at the high school, and more recently, as interim principal. Each of these experiences has shaped how I lead, how I serve, and how deeply I value this school.

Stepping into the principalship feels both familiar and fresh. I know our hallways, our traditions, and our incredible students—but this role also brings a renewed responsibility to listen, support, and guide. I plan to lead with heart, honesty, and a commitment to doing what's best for kids. I am excited to build upon the strong foundation already in place while continuing to elevate the culture, achievement, and pride that make BCHS so special.

Brown County is home in every sense of the word. I graduated from BCHS in 2001, and now my husband and I are grateful to raise our two children right here in the district. This community has given so much to me throughout my life, and I am proud and humbled to serve it in return.

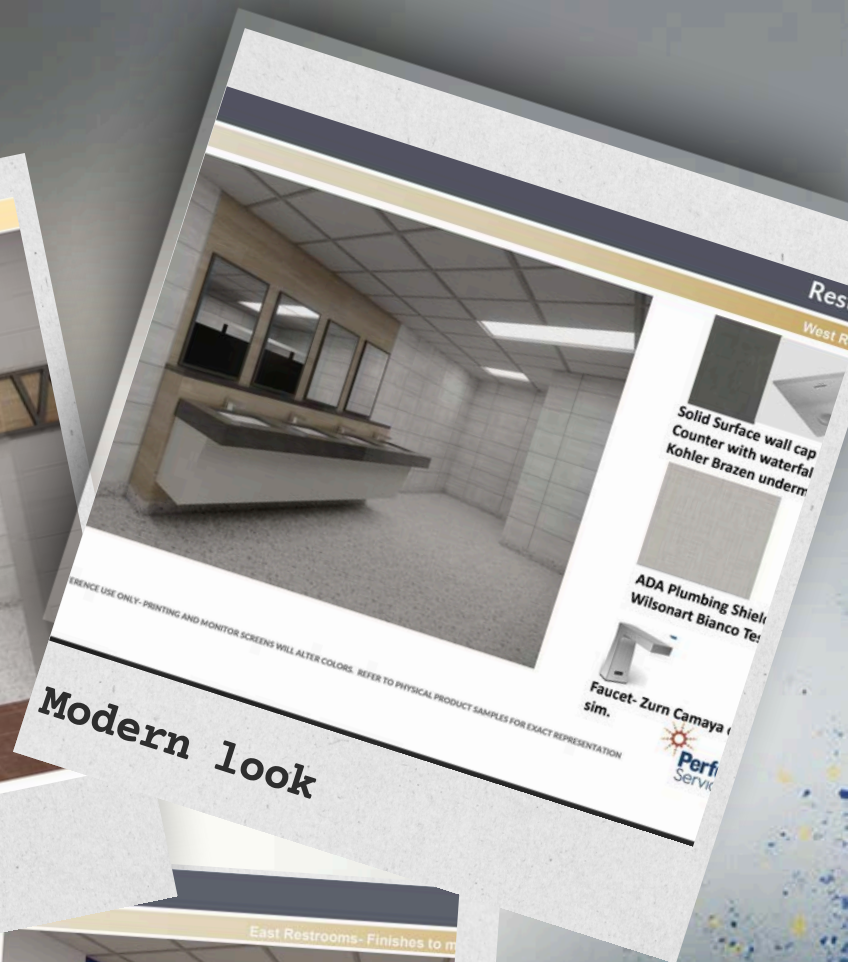
To our families—thank you for trusting me with your students every day. I look forward to partnering with you, celebrating successes, tackling challenges, and ensuring that BCHS continues to be a place where every student feels seen, supported, and capable of achieving great things.

I'm excited for what's ahead, and I'm grateful to continue this journey with all of you.



WITH EAGLE PRIDE,
SARAH ROBERTS
PRINCIPAL, BROWN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL





High School Renovations

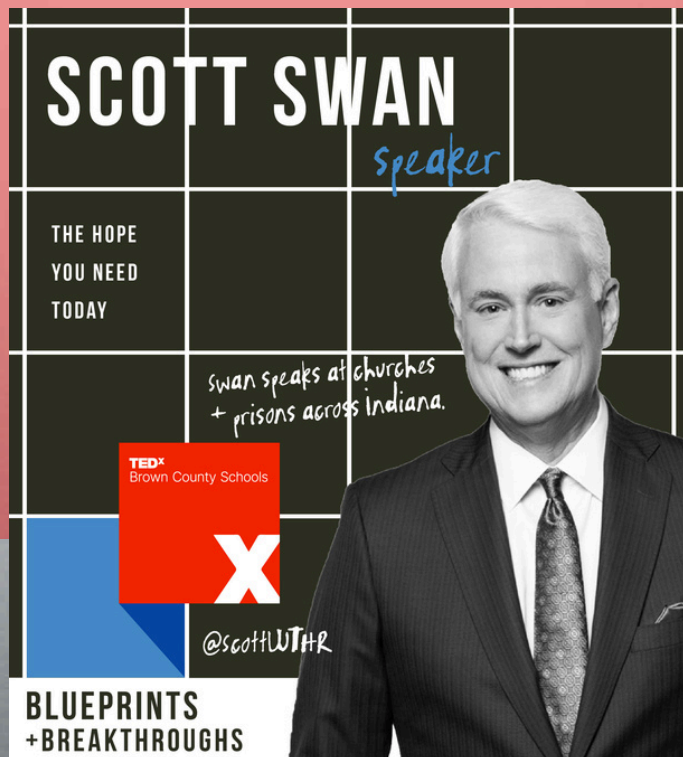
Renovations are officially underway at the high school, and we're excited to share a preview of what's coming next. The men's and women's restrooms in the Commons and 100 Hallway are being fully refreshed with a focus on accessibility, durability, and modern design. Updates include redesigned entrances and plumbing layouts to meet ADA requirements, brand-new plumbing fixtures, sleek undermount sinks with battery-operated automatic faucets, and upgraded mirrors and partitions. Floors are being replaced with durable epoxy flooring and base, walls will feature new ceramic tile, and ceilings are getting a clean, updated look as well. While restrooms may seem like a small detail, these renovations make a big impact—creating cleaner, more welcoming spaces that reflect pride in our school and improve the daily experience for students, staff, and visitors alike.

👉 Designing What's Next for TEDx Brown County Schools

Now entering its third annual event, TEDx Brown County Schools has grown into a powerful platform for ideas, inspiration, and student voice—bringing global conversations to the heart of our rural community. Each year, the event challenges audiences to think differently, ask better questions, and leave with ideas worth carrying forward.

The 2026 theme, Blueprints & Breakthroughs, centers on the intentional design of our lives, our systems, and our communities—while recognizing the moments of courage, insight, and disruption that move us forward. Together, these talks explore how purposeful planning and bold breakthroughs intersect to create lasting impact.

This year's event features a dynamic lineup of speakers from across industries and lived experiences, including youth speakers from Brown County Schools who are stepping onto a global stage to share their stories and ideas. TEDx Brown County Schools remains one of the only rural school districts in the state to scale a TEDx event in this way—amplifying both student and community voices.



Scott Swan

A longtime journalist, storyteller, and trusted voice across Indiana, Scott Swan brings decades of experience amplifying stories that matter. His work highlights the power of hope, resilience, and human connection—reminding audiences that meaningful change often begins with listening and empathy.

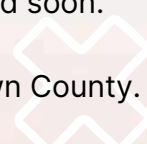


Dr. Traci Sweet, Psy.D.

A psychologist, speaker, and author, Dr. Traci Sweet explores the science behind decision-making, influence, and behavior. Her talk challenges audiences to examine why we listen to bad advice—and how greater self-awareness can lead to better choices in both our personal and professional lives.

TEDx Brown County Schools: Blueprints & Breakthroughs is more than an event—it is a reflection of our district's commitment to world-class opportunities, student leadership, and lifelong impact. Additional speakers, including student presenters, will be announced soon.

Ideas worth spreading—designed here in Brown County.



TEDx

Brown County Schools



BLUEPRINTS + BREAKTHROUGHS



Brown County Music Center

05-16-2026

student Voice

AT THE HEART OF TEDx BROWN
COUNTY SCHOOLS

While adult speakers help frame the conversation, the heart of TEDx Brown County Schools has always been—and will remain—our students. This year, 10-12 student speakers will take the stage, sharing ideas shaped by courage, curiosity, and lived experience. Students enrolled in TED-Ed have been working all year—developing ideas, refining messages, and practicing the art of storytelling. In April, these students will have the opportunity to audition for a place on the TEDx stage, earning the chance to share their ideas with a global audience. Adult speakers complement the program, but student voice anchors the event—reflecting our belief that powerful ideas can come from anyone, at any age.



athletics recap



The fall semester was an exciting time for Brown County Athletics, with several updates aimed at strengthening how we support and celebrate our student-athletes. One change was the revitalization of the Brown County Athletics website (www.browncountyathletics.com). The redesigned site offers a more modern look, improved navigation, and up-to-date schedules, scores, and announcements for all Eagle athletic programs. This fall also marked the launch of new and refreshed social media accounts for Brown County Schools Athletics, including X, Facebook, and Instagram. These platforms allow us to share game results, team achievements, photos, and special moments in real time. By expanding our online presence, we're able to better showcase the hard work of our athletes and keep the Brown County community informed and engaged. Families, students, and community members can now stay connected to Brown County Athletics more easily than ever.

Another major change this semester was Brown County Schools' transition to a new athletic conference. Starting with the 2026-2027 school year, Brown County will transition away from the Western Indiana Conference into the Mid-Hoosier Conference. Moving conferences brings new competitive opportunities, while helping our teams continue to grow and challenge themselves. We believe this change will not only cut down on travel distances, but also improve the competitiveness of all of our programs.

Overall, the fall semester reflected positive momentum for Brown County Athletics. Brown County's athletic programs are set up for continued success. I look forward to continuing to work with our coaches, student-athletes, parents, ambassadors, and greater Brown County community to enhance and improve the athletic experience for the Eagles. Together, we can continue to make a difference and chase excellence in all we do.

Go Eagles!

Veteran's Day 2025



Veterans along with our community joined us to celebrate the service, sacrifice, and commitment our veterans have made.



**Senator Eric Koch
addressing the Brown
County Community**

Brown County Schools invited veterans and their families for Volants and a social hour before the ceremony on November 11th, 2025. After catching up with old friends and new friends alike a ceremony was held in the Larry C. Banks Memorial Gymnasium. Following the ceremony Veterans and their families were then invited to stay and eat a complimentary lunch provided by the Brown County High School Food service staff. The camaraderie and engagement was truly something special to witness.

The VFW hosts 2 annual nationwide essay contests for students and the top 3 winners are awarded a monetary award at both the high school and the middle school level at our local Veteran's Day ceremony. The Voice of Democracy is an audio-essay scholarship for students grades 9-12. The Patriot's Pen is a nationwide written essay where students are encouraged to express their knowledge on American history and write an essay expressing their views on the patriotic theme provided for the essay for grades 6-8.

BCMS Patriot's Pen Recipients:

1st: Kadence Heykoop
2nd: Lincoln Adams
3rd: Everly Rosebrock

BCHS Voice of Democracy Recipients:

1st: Alayna Jacobus
2nd: Genevieve Laguna
3rd: Ava Kinnett



BC HEALTH SERVICES

Wellness in Action

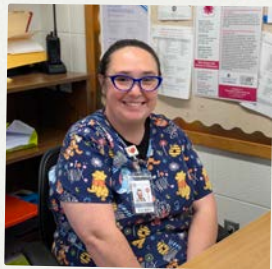
Rebecca Haupu - BCHS

-What is one thing you want students and families to know about the Health Assistant's role? I want them to know I'm here for anything, even if it is just to stop and say hi, and to put a smile on their faces. To the families of students, I would like them to know I treat them as if they were my own family and my passion is helping and caring.

-What is one way families and students can help support a healthy school environment? Make sure students get enough sleep at night.

-What is one health or wellness tip you often share with students? One tip I share is "have you been staying hydrated?"

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? I love spending time with family, playing sports, and helping at all my church events.



Ashley Kinnett - BCMS

-What inspired you to become a Health Assistant at Brown County Schools? I was inspired to become a health assistant at Brown County Schools because I enjoy supporting students' health and well-being and helping create a safe, caring environment where they can focus on learning.

-What is your favorite part of working with students? My favorite part of working with students is being able to support them, make them feel cared for, and help them have a positive and safe experience at school.

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? I enjoy spending time with family and friends, staying active, and taking time to relax and recharge.



Melissa Tincher - HES

-What do you enjoy most about working in a school setting? Aside from getting to know the students, I enjoy working with an amazing group of dedicated educators. It's a beautiful thing.

-What is your favorite part of working with students? Gems like, "I bumped where my nose used to be," as a description of "what happened" when a student needed an ice pack for a minor injury.

-What is one way families and students can help support a healthy school environment? Adhering to guidelines for when a student needs to stay home and being proactive about communicating health issues.

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? I love reading, creating in the kitchen, and hiking.



BC HEALTH SERVICES

Wellness in Action

Mallory Underwood – VBES

-What inspired you to become a Health Assistant at Brown County Schools? I love working with and taking care of kids. It also gives a good sense of community.

-What do you enjoy most about working in a school setting? A smaller school setting, like VanBuren, allows for better one on one experiences with each student.

-What is one thing you want students and families to know about the Health Assistant's role? My top priority is always what is in the best interests of the students.

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? Gardening, Reading, Painting, and Fishing

Emily Jackson – SES

-What is your favorite part of working with students? I love to hear their funny stories!

-What is one health or wellness tip you often share with students? WASH YOUR HANDS!!

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? Being with my family, gardening and camping



Holly Gordon – BCS Corp. Nurse

-What inspired you to become the Corporation Nurse for BCS? I love working alongside educators and staff to help create a safe, healthy environment where students can be the best versions of themselves.

-What do you enjoy most about working in a school setting? Every day offers a different environment and a new opportunity to learn from the students.

-What is one health or wellness tip you share with students? Drink more water, eat healthy food, talk it out, and exercise often.

-Outside of school, what are a few things you enjoy doing? Running & reading.

-What is one way families and students can help support a healthy school environment? Stay home when sick, wash your hands, and be kind to others. Always let us know how we can best support your child to be at their healthiest while at school.



Community CARE

Our Health Offices provide a wide range of services that support the well-being of students, families, and the broader community.

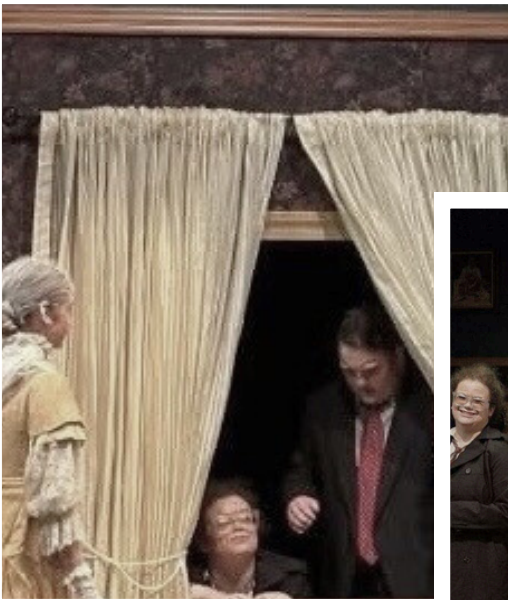
These services include first aid and management of acute illnesses or injuries that occur during the school day, as well as ongoing care for students with chronic health conditions such as asthma or diabetes. We also promote preventive care through health referrals, immunization compliance, and health education. In collaboration with school staff and community partners, we help address physical, emotional, and mental health concerns that may impact learning. Overall, the Health Offices at Brown County Schools play a vital role in creating a safe, healthy learning environment and strengthening connections between schools, families, and the community.







Arsenic & Old Lace



This fall, our students brought creativity and humor to the stage with a standout production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Centered around two seemingly sweet aunts, Martha and Abby, the play delivered a delightfully dark comedy that kept audiences laughing and guessing. The cast's timing, character development, and confidence shined, leaving their nephews—and the audience—with far more questions than answers. Productions like this highlight the incredible talent of our students and the dedication of our arts educators who continue to create meaningful, memorable experiences beyond the classroom.



THE CAST

Our production of Arsenic and Old Lace holds special meaning for me, as it marks my final play in high school. While I was proud to be part of the cast, this show also gave me the opportunity to take on a larger role behind the scenes, allowing me to grow not only as a performer but as a collaborator and leader. Most importantly, this experience strengthened my relationships with the cast and crew, making long rehearsals turn into lasting friendships. Looking back, I'm incredibly grateful for the people, lessons, and memories that this play gave me.

Dereck Middleton

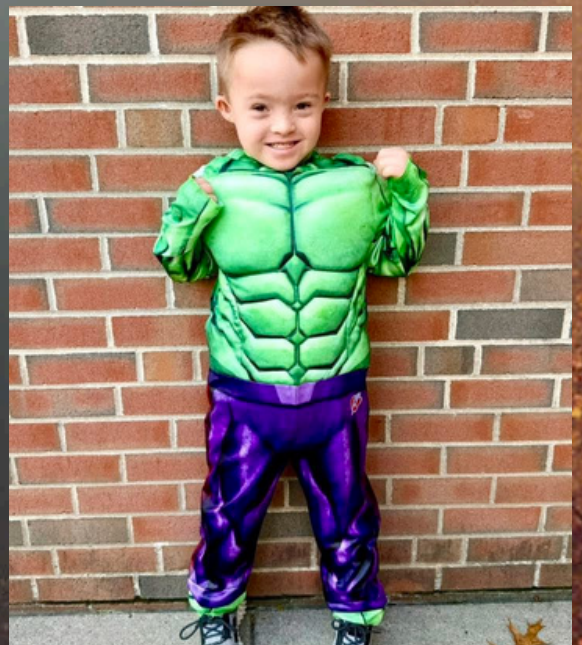
This most recent fall, Brown County High School put on a production of Arsenic and Old Lace, and what a production it was. A show filled with laughs, mishaps, and triumph, it really showcased what Brown County High School has an abundance of: students that care. From long rehearsals, to heavy set pieces and grueling makeup, the cast and crew of this show stepped up and made it the absolute best that it could be. Every single student involved put their best foot forward, and approached this show with an open mind, and a willingness to try something new. I say this all with bias, dear reader, seeing as I was the director, but I am truly so proud of these kids. It marked a new beginning in the theatre department, and we were able to pull new kids in, and new techniques, and really push the boundaries of what we are capable of doing when it comes to productions here. Half of the cast had to learn to age themselves, or give themselves fake scars, everyone had to really lock in to work together as a team. We had new friends join us, both on stage and backstage, and the efforts of the team shone through brilliantly. A breathtaking set, a hilarious cast, and lots of great memories along the way. We can't wait to see what happens next for the Brown County High School Theatre Department.

Dania Hunter

BROWN COUNTY HALLOWEEN



IN COSTUME





SPRUNICA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WSES



YOUR LOCAL NEWS AUTHORITY!

WSES IS BACK:

Student Voices Shine on the Sprunica Elementary Newscast

A beloved tradition has returned to Sprunica Elementary School – and it's stronger than ever.

When Abby Magner was a fifth grader at Sprunica Elementary, she was part of a student-led news crew that aired daily updates and stories for the school community. The original station, created and run by Mr. Lepore, became a meaningful opportunity for students to build confidence, communication skills, and teamwork. That chapter came to a close in 2013 when Mr. Lepore began teaching at the newly opened Brown County Intermediate School, and the news station at Sprunica dissolved.

More than a decade later, that same opportunity has been revived – this time by Mrs. Magner, now a STEM teacher at Sprunica Elementary. Inspired by her own experience as a student, Mrs. Magner brought the news station back this year to give today's students a platform to learn, grow, and share their voices.



Subscribe @ <https://www.youtube.com/@sprunicastemwses>



press pass:

"Getting the opportunity to interview people. It's really cool to get to know kids you didn't know. It's also really fun to interview your friends."
— Bennett Wagler

"Getting to work with people I don't usually get to work with and know. I usually stick to my close friends and this gets me out of my comfort zone."
— Mollie Finely



mic moments:

"Interviewing Mr. Bowlds, because I'm a sports newscaster and it's cool to hear him talk about sports."
— Ryan Hatchett

"Episode 4. That's the first time I was on the news and interviewed my favorite person, Bruce, who has been my friend since kindergarten."
— Hartley Fishburn



concept

What started years ago as a student opportunity has come full circle. Thanks to Mrs. Magner's vision and the courage of these young journalists, Sprunica Elementary's news station is once again amplifying student voices — and inspiring the next generation to step confidently into the spotlight.



ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Icy roads and school cancellations made for some strategic juggling of the auditorium, but the show must go on!





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



Sarah Roberts
BCHS Principal

Brown County Schools Academic Calendar

2025 to 2026

Aug 2025						
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Feb 2026						
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Mar 2026						
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Apr 2026						
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Jun 2026						
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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)



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