

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS

EAGLE EYE

SPRING 2026

THE FUTURE OF STEM

*VAN BUREN ELEMENTARY JOINS
HELMSBURG AND SPRUNICA IN
SEARCH FOR STEM CERTIFICATION*

JOINING THE TEAM

MEET BCHS ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

DREW FOSTER

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SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE EAGLE EYE MAGAZINE



Parent Survey Launch – In Partnership with School Perceptions

In the coming days, families across Brown County Schools will receive an invitation to participate in a districtwide parent survey administered by School Perceptions. This is the same independent organization that conducted our community engagement survey during the referendum process. Their work provided valuable insight that helped guide communication, clarify priorities, and better understand community perspectives.

We are once again partnering with School Perceptions because of their expertise in gathering meaningful, actionable feedback in an anonymous and research-based format.

Purpose of the Survey

The goal of this parent survey is to:

- Gather feedback on your family's experience within Brown County Schools
- Better understand strengths and areas for growth across academics, communication, safety, and overall school climate
- Inform our 2026–2029 strategic planning priorities
- Ensure parent voice is reflected in future district decisions

Your feedback matters. This survey is one of the most direct ways to help shape the future direction of our schools.

Confidentiality

The survey is:

- Administered by an outside organization
- Anonymous
- Reported in aggregate form only

Individual responses are not shared with district or school administrators. We receive summary data to help identify trends and themes.

Timeline

- Survey Opens: March 30, 2026
- Survey Closes: April 17, 2026
- Results Shared: May 2026

Families will receive a direct link via email and ParentSquare. Reminder messages will be sent throughout the survey window to encourage broad participation. Our goal is strong participation from every school and grade level. The more voices we hear, the clearer our path forward becomes.

Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to share your perspective. Your partnership is essential to ensuring Brown County Schools continues to provide world-class opportunities within small school relationships.

With gratitude,

Emily Callahan

Superintendent, Brown County Schools



03

MEET YOUR NEW AP: DREW FOSTER

FOSTER'S

FAVES

What's your favorite color? Green

What's your favorite restaurant or meal? Steak

What's your favorite sweet treat? Take 5

What's your favorite movie? Tommy Boy

What's your favorite downtime activity? My family loves being outside and traveling to state parks or spending time with family and friends.

What's your favorite sport/team? It is hard for me to choose a favorite sport, but I am going to go with football. I'm a big Colts fan.

What's your favorite place you've visited? Peru, South America

Bonus Question: What word do you hope students/staff use to describe you? Trustworthy

I am blessed and honored to introduce myself as your new Assistant Principal at Brown County High School. Brown County is a special place for both myself and my family and I am excited for the opportunity to work with the students and families here.

I come to BCHS after teaching and coaching in Columbus, Indiana for the past eight years. The experiences I have gained in those roles have heavily shaped my outlook for working with students. I aim to meet our students where they are and coach them through meeting the expectations we have for them while also helping them achieve the expectations they have for themselves.

In my short time here so far, the students and staff have shown me that Brown County High School is a great place to be. I am excited for my transition from teaching into administration and I look forward to working with our students, staff, and families to contribute to the success of BCHS.





VBES IS WORKING TO OBTAIN STEM CERTIFICATION FROM STATE

INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND
MATHEMATICS HELP OUR STUDENTS
WITH EVERYDAY LEARNING



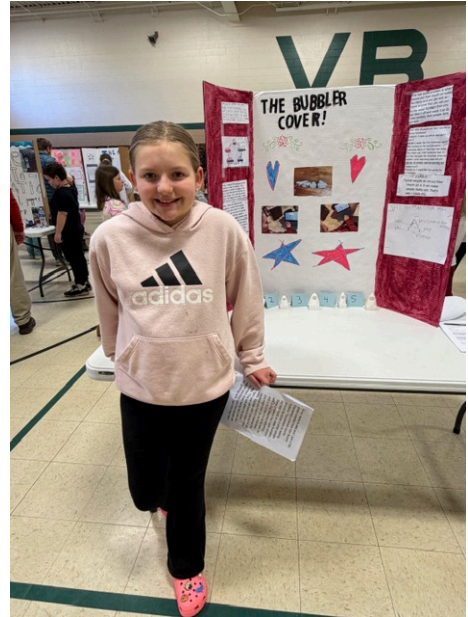
05

Van Buren Elementary is proud to be actively working toward state STEM certification, a process that reflects the school's commitment to providing meaningful, real-world learning experiences for students. Over the past several years, teachers have worked diligently to integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into daily instruction. As state guidelines have evolved, the school has continued adapting and improving its approach, viewing the certification process as an opportunity for growth rather than simply a checklist. Through this work, STEM has become an important part of learning in every classroom. A key part of Van Buren Elementary's dedication to integrating STEM throughout the school is its dedicated STEM team, composed of teachers from multiple grade levels, the STEM class, special education, and Principal Pagnard. Mr. Pagnard works closely with Mr. Brown, who serves as the team chair, to plan and support STEM initiatives across the school. Teachers regularly collaborate through common planning time and professional development to strengthen STEM instruction. Teachers also work closely with Mr. Brown for ideas, feedback, and continued improvement, including peer and administrative walkthroughs of STEM lessons. This teamwork ensures that STEM learning remains strong, intentional, and meaningful for all students.

Students at Van Buren Elementary benefit greatly from this collaborative effort. Through hands-on projects, problem-solving activities, and real-world connections, they are exposed to a wide range of learning experiences that help prepare them for future success. The school also partners with members of the community to enhance these opportunities. Guest speakers regularly visit to share about their careers and community partners support projects such as the school garden, helping provide both expertise and resources. These partnerships allow students to see how STEM learning connects directly to the world around them.

The state STEM certification process includes four levels: Investigating, Developing, Emerging, and Innovating. Schools work through each level by submitting evidence and demonstrating growth over time. Beginning this year, the state STEM Certification Team will also conduct annual site visits to provide feedback, highlight strengths, and suggest areas for improvement. These visits will help schools track progress and continue moving forward. Van Buren Elementary is proud of the progress that has been made and remains committed to continued growth, collaboration, and innovation to ensure students receive a high-quality STEM education.

STEM: TRANSFORMING STUDENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH ENGAGEMENT



Innovation in Action: Van Buren Elementary's Journey to STEM Certification

At Van Buren Elementary, learning isn't just about textbooks—it's about solving real-world problems. The school is currently in the midst of the rigorous Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) STEM Certification process, a journey that reflects a deep commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

A Culture of Collaboration

This initiative is driven by a dedicated STEM team by utilizing common planning time and peer walkthroughs. The staff ensures that STEM isn't just a "checklist" item, but a fundamental part of every classroom. "Our classrooms are buzzing with curiosity, teamwork, and innovation," says Principal Pagnard. "It's amazing to watch students explore, build, test, and discover new ideas while finding different ways to solve problems."

Higher Standards, Deeper Learning

In October 2025, the IDOE updated its certification standards. The state has moved beyond simple participation, now requiring schools to demonstrate how STEM integration fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. Van Buren has embraced this shift, focusing on the measurable growth and skill-building behind every hands-on activity.

Real-World Solutions: The Invention Convention

The success of this approach was on full display at the school's third annual Invention Convention. Students were tasked with identifying a problem and engineering a functional solution. This year, Van Buren is proud to send four students to the state competition, including:

- Gunner Sumpter: Winner of this year's convention for "David Clippers." Inspired by his uncle who has one arm, Gunner engineered a device that allows for independent nail clipping. "I feel like I will do well because my invention will help people," Gunner shared.
- Ellie Spiece: Creator of the "Bubbler Cover." Using 3D printing technology, Ellie designed a guard for school drinking fountains to prevent the spread of germs. "I'm excited about going to state because I like to present," she said.
- Casen Sipes with his invention: Saving Tires Matters – This is a magnetic device that goes on a vehicle that picks up nails, screws, and sharp objects as you drive down the road and prevents those objects getting in a tire. This keeps tires from going flat.
- Brooklyn Crossley with her invention: Fidget & Fashion.co – This is a fashionable bracelet with an alternate purpose. Instead of charms the bracelet has miniature fidgets on it. This is to help students who need fidgets (such as students with ADHD) to be more discreet and not to feel singled out due to their fidget needs.

BUILDING THE FUTURE: A LOOK INSIDE THE BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM



CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM EXPANDED TO BCMS

From repairing essential campus facilities to crafting handmade items for the community, the construction students at Brown County High School and Brown County Middle School have been busy putting their skills to work this year. Under the direction of teacher Lucas Howard, students across multiple grade levels are gaining hands-on experience through projects that directly benefit their schools and their neighbors.

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO?

8th Grade: Mastering the Essentials:

Our 8th-grade students are currently focused on drywall repair within the school's makerspace. This project follows a series of successful campus improvements, including:

- Safety Upgrades: Installing handrails between the middle school and high school.
- Infrastructure: Building the stairs and landing outside the Food Service Building.
- Aesthetics: Repainting the football benches.

1st Year Students: Crafting for a Cause:

The first-year high school students recently completed a large batch of handmade birdhouses, which were a major focus at the end of last semester.

- Community Impact: The class made and hung birdhouses at Eagle Park, Helmsburg Elementary, and Sprunica Elementary School late last fall.
- Now for Sale: We currently have a large inventory of birdhouses available for purchase to the public. All proceeds go directly toward funding the materials for our upcoming class projects.

BUILDING UPGRADES ON CAMPUS



2nd Year Students: Advanced Planning and Infrastructure

Our second-year students are tackling more complex logistical and structural challenges.

- Current Project: The group is currently developing plans and pricing for a new cover over the Facilities Department's salt storage area.
- Recently Completed: The students successfully rebuilt the stairway connecting the Maintenance Building and the Transportation Offices.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Coming Soon: Students began constructing picnic tables, which will be available for sale to the community this spring. The class is starting with the construction of 10 tables, and they welcome any preorders if you would like to reach out and commit to the purchase of a handcrafted solid wood picnic table built by our very own students.



SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

If you are interested in purchasing a birdhouse for this spring or would like to inquire about our upcoming picnic tables for the price of \$250, please contact teacher, Lucas Howard, via email at lhoward@browncountyschools.com.

Your support helps provide the resources necessary for these students to continue building their professional trade skills.

INTERNSHIPS: WORK EXPERIENCE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY



Mentor, Joe McGlothlin, pictured with intern, Quentin Bell, posing next to a custom spiral staircase being built for a local home.

As senior Quentin Bell finishes out his senior year, he's already taking huge steps towards his future. Earlier this semester, Quentin accepted a position at The Beamery, located right in Helmsburg. The Beamery specializes in timber design and construction. They take customers' ideas from vision to reality, offering architectural design, timber fabrication, and construction services. Their speciality is turning full-sized logs into usable timber, fit for the construction of houses, pavilions, and other buildings. In addition to custom homes, they've worked on commercial projects across the state and the country such as the pavilion at Marian University and the giraffe enclosure at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

QUENTIN BELL

SEEING THE PROJECT THROUGH: FROM START TO FINISH

THE BEAMERY

Quentin started this internship in January as a way to explore a career field of interest before graduation. With the high school's new block schedule, interested students are able to spend the full day every Wednesday going out to an internship site. Rather than reporting to his school on Wednesdays, Quentin gets to spend the full day at the workplace learning valuable career skills alongside experienced carpenters and architects. Since starting, he's learned to accurately measure timber beams, as well as sand and stain to fit the needs of upcoming projects. As the internship progresses, he'll learn additional carpentry skills such as how to cut beams to the specifications required and how to interpret and follow blueprints. While all of Quentin's work to date has been completed at their workshop located in Helmsburg, The Beamery also has several build sites across the region where they're actively constructing timber frames and other projects. His mentor hopes to bring Quentin to a build site one day soon, so that he might see how his work preparing the timber fits ultimately contributes to the success of the final project.



Quentin Bell measures and cuts some wood for a project that the Beamery is working on.

MORE THAN CARPENTRY

Outside of small repair projects with his father, Quentin did not have carpentry experience prior to starting this internship. "I wanted to do this (internship) because my parents really encouraged me to try it out," shared Quentin. "I didn't really know what to expect, but I am very happy I did it." Thanks to his mentor, Joe McGlothlin, and the rest of The Beamery staff, Quentin is fast at work learning the skills that he needs to be successful on the job site. In addition to learning technical carpentry-specific skills at The Beamery, Quentin is also learning the importance of employability skills like time management, responsibility, and communication through lessons at the high school – skills that he'll carry with him regardless of his future career. When asked about his plans for after high school, Quentin said that he's currently considering HVAC repair work. "We, at Brown County Schools, wish all the best to Quentin in his future endeavors, and are excited to see how much more he grows while still in this internship!", said Megan Connelly, Director of the Career Resource Center and Work-Based Learning Coordinator for BCS.

**EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS**

MORE THAN *TURF* IT'S OPPORTUNITY



For years, our athletic field has faced a challenge we simply could not ignore — flooding. Located within the floodway, the field has repeatedly experienced water issues that disrupt seasons, damage infrastructure, and limit opportunity for our students and community. Now that challenge is becoming an opportunity. Brown County Schools is moving forward with a transformative project that will permanently remove the field from the floodway by shifting its location and raising it more than four feet above its current elevation. This strategic redesign allows us to address the flooding issue once and for all — not temporarily, but permanently.

Solving the Problem the Right Way

This project is not a quick fix. It is a long-term investment in stability, safety, and sustainability. By elevating the field and relocating it out of the floodway, we are:

- Eliminating recurring water damage
- Protecting taxpayer investment
- Ensuring seasons are not interrupted
- Creating a dependable space for students year-round

This is about doing it right — and doing it for good.

FROM FLOODWAY TO FOUNDATION: A FIELD BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

A 50-YEAR TRACK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Surrounding the field will be a new post-tension track system designed for durability and performance. The track will carry a 50-year warranty, reinforcing our commitment to long-term quality and responsible stewardship.

This isn't just about aesthetics. It's about building infrastructure that will serve multiple generations of Brown County students.

ONE FIELD. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

The redesigned space creates a true multi-use complex that will serve:

- Football
- Soccer (relocated to the main campus field)
- Track & Field
- Marching Band
- Physical Education classes
- Community events and celebrations

By moving soccer to the main campus, we centralize activity, maximize scheduling flexibility, and create a unified athletic and student activity hub.

And beyond athletics? The possibilities expand.

This field becomes a space for:

- Youth programs
- Community gatherings
- Performances
- Wellness initiatives
- School-wide events



At its core, this project reflects who we are as a district.

We believe in:

- Providing world-class opportunities
- Removing barriers to participation
- Thinking long-term
- Solving problems fully — not temporarily

By addressing flooding permanently and designing for versatility, we are creating a space where students can compete, perform, learn, and gather without disruption.

The turf project is not simply about athletics.

It is about access.

It is about durability.

It is about future-focused planning.

And most importantly, it is about creating a foundation — quite literally — for generations of Eagles to come.

The ground beneath our feet is changing.

And so is what is possible.

INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY LEADERS INVEST IN OUR STUDENT ATHLETES:

BCMS SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL ADDED TO THE PROGRAM



It's hard to believe that the winter sports season has come to an end! With the changing of seasons, comes time for reflection and excitement. Spring sports are getting underway and we are looking forward to a great spring season ahead!

This spring, we will be offering two new programs at the middle school level, as MS Baseball and MS Softball were both officially approved by our school board in February. The addition of these programs is a valuable step in the right direction for developing stronger feeder programs and ultimately stronger varsity programs, while also expanding our spring athletic opportunities at the middle school level. The push for these programs came largely out of the work we have been doing with our Athletic Ambassador group. This collaborative group of administrators, coaches, and community members have been coming together to gather and share feedback and look for ways to improve our athletic department. This group met in February to begin drafting a 5-year athletic department strategic plan. Out of these discussions, we began to highlight our biggest areas for improvement and expansion, while also identifying challenges and needed resources. I am thankful to this group for their commitment to making Brown County Athletics improved!



SPRING SPORTS CALENDAR



SOFTBALL

- | | |
|---|--|
| H April 1st Scottsburg @5:30pm | H April 30 th Mooreseville Christian @5:30pm |
| A April 2 nd Morristown @5:30pm | A May 2 nd North Decatur @12pm |
| A April 4 th New Washington @11am | H May 5 th West Vigo @6:30pm |
| A April 7 th Eastern Greene @5:30pm | A May 6 th South Putnam @6pm |
| H April 8 th Mitchell @5:30pm | A May 8 th Southwestern (Hanover) @5:30pm |
| H April 10 th Waldron @5:30pm | A May 13 th Northview @6pm |
| A April 11 th Switzerland Co. @11am | A May 15 th Greenwood Christian Academy @5:30pm |
| A April 14 th Eminence @6pm | H May 16 th South Ripley @11am |
| H April 15 th Owen Valley @5:30pm | A May 19 th Cloverdale @5:30pm |
| A April 17 th Austin @5:30pm | H May 20 th Hauser @5:30pm |
| H April 18 th White River Valley @11am | A May 21 st Trinity Lutheran @5:30pm |
| A April 20 th South Decatur @5:30pm | A May 25 th IHSAA Sectional |
| A April 21 st Edgewood @5:30pm | A June 6 th IHSAA Semi-State |
| A April 23 rd Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter @5:30pm | |
| H April 28 th Southwestern (Shelbyville) @5:30pm | |
| H April 29 th Sullivan @6pm | |

BOY'S GOLF

- | | |
|--|---|
| H April 7 th North Decatur & South Decatur @ 5pm | H May 6 th Mitchell @5pm |
| H April 9 th Hauser @4:30pm | A May 12 th Hauser & JAC-Cen Del @4:30pm |
| A April 11 th Martinsville @1pm | A May 13 th Mooresville Christian Academy & Indian Creek @4:30pm |
| A April 14 th Martinsville & Indian Creek @ 4:30pm | A May 16 th WIC Meet |
| A April 18 th Edgewood Invite @9am | A May 19 th Greenwood Christian Academy @5pm |
| A April 20 th Brownstown Central @ 5pm | H May 21 st Eastern Greene @4:30pm |
| H April 27 th Edinburgh & Waldron @ 4:30pm | A May 23 rd New Castle Invite @1pm |
| H April 30 th West Washington & Southwestern (Shelbyville) @5pm | H June 2 nd Indy Genesis, Trinity Lutheran, Morristown @1pm |

GIRL'S TENNIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| A April 2 nd Bedford @5pm | H April 23 rd Morristown @5:30pm |
| H April 4 th Trinity Lutheran @12pm | A April 24 th South Putnam @5:30pm |
| A April 6 th Waldron @5:30pm | A April 27 th Seymour @5:30pm |
| A April 7 th Bloomington south @5:30pm | A April 28 th Terre Haute @6pm |
| H April 10 th Columbus East @ 4:30pm | H April 30 th Owen Valley @5pm |
| H April 11 th Steve Makurat Invitational @ 12pm | A May 4 th Sullivan @5:30pm |
| H April 13 th Southwestern (Shelbyville) @ 5pm | A May 7 th Northview @6pm |
| A April 15 th Edinburgh @5pm | H May 12 th Greenwood Christian @5pm |
| H April 16 th Edgewood @4:30pm | A May 13 th West Vigo @5:30pm |
| H April 20 th Brownstown @5pm | A May 20 th IHSAA Sectionals |
| A April 21 st Martinsville @5:30pm | A May 21 st IHSAA Sectionals |

TRACK & FIELD

- | |
|--|
| A April 7 th Bedford North Lawrence & Bloomington South @5:30pm |
| A April 11 th Columbus North Invite @10am |
| A April 14 th Columbus North & Seymour @5:30pm |
| A April 21 st Bloomington South @5:30pm |
| A April 30 th Edgewood & Indian Creek @5:30pm |
| A May 5 th Columbus East @ 5pm |
| A May 7 th Owen Valley (Quad A) @ 5:30pm |
| A May 14 th WIC MEet @5:30pm |
| A May 21 st IHSAA Sectional |
| A May 28 th IHSAA Regionals |

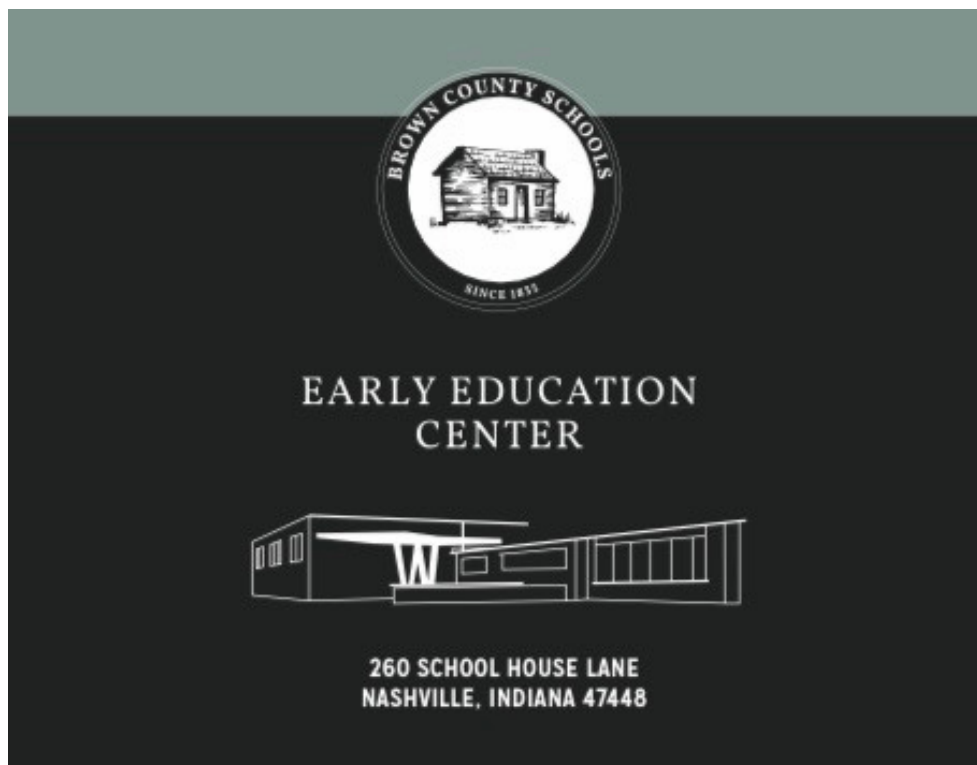
BASEBALL

- | | |
|---|---|
| H April 1 st Rock Creek @5:30pm | H April 29 th Sullivan @6pm |
| A April 2 nd Edinburgh @5pm | H April 30 th Columbus Christian Academy @5:30pm |
| A April 4 th Round Robin @10am | A May 2 nd Clarksville @10am |
| A April 7 th Morristown @5:30pm | H May 5 th West Vigo @ 6:30pm |
| H April 8 th Eastern Greene @5:30pm | A May 6 th South Putnam @6pm |
| H April 10 th Greenwood Christian @5:30pm | A May 8 th Monrovia @5:30pm |
| A April 14 th Eminence @6pm | H May 12 th Waldron @5:30pm |
| H April 15 th Owen Valley @5:30pm | A May 13 th Northview @5:30pm |
| A April 17 th Austin @ 5:30pm | A May 15 th North Daviess @5:30pm |
| H April 18 th White River Valley @11am | H May 16 th South Ripley @11am |
| A April 20 th Bloomfield @5:30pm | A May 19 th Cloverdale @ 5:30pm |
| A April 21 st Edgewood @5:30pm | H May 21 st Indy Genesis @5:30pm |
| A April 23 rd South Decatur @5:30pm | A May 23 rd Hauser @10am |
| H April 28 th Southwestern (Shelbyville) @5:30pm | A May 27 th IHSAA Sectional |

MORATORIUM DATES:
JUNE 12, 19, 26, & JULY 10
JUNE 27 - JULY 6

A MORATORIUM IS A MANDATORY DESIGNATED BREAK, WHICH MEANS THERE WILL NOT BE ANY EVENTS OR PRACTICES DURING THIS TIME.

EXPANSION AT EEC



BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR LITTLEST EAGLES

Brown County Schools Expands Infant and Toddler Care to Meet Community Need

Since 2016, Brown County Schools has been on a mission to provide high-quality early education across its three elementary schools. Today, approximately 100 families rely on these programs, which are recognized by Indiana's Paths to Quality system for their inclusive, intentional preparation for kindergarten.

In August 2023, the district reached a new milestone by opening the Brown County Schools Early Education Center (EEC) in Nashville. As the only state-licensed childcare center in the county, the EEC initially served thirty children. However, the demand for even younger care remained high, sparking a vision for what comes next.



Turning Vision into Reality

The spring of 2024 marked a turning point. Responding to the urgent community need for infant care, the district pursued several high-stakes funding opportunities. By May, their efforts were rewarded with a staggering \$825,000 in support, comprised of:

- An Early Years Initiative Grant from Early Learning Indiana.
- A READI 2.0 Grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.
- A generous \$75,000 donation from the Brown County Community Foundation.

Following an 18-month wait for funding to finalize, hammers began swinging in January 2026.

A Modern Space for Early Growth

The ongoing renovations at 260 School House Lane are transforming the facility into a comprehensive hub for early development. The redesign includes:

- Dedicated infant and young toddler rooms.
- A specialized health room for children birth to age five.
- A flex room for gross motor activities, specialized therapies, and family engagement.
- Practical upgrades like a new laundry suite, two food prep areas, and an ADA-compliant toilet room.
- Updated casework for the High School Early Childhood Education classroom.

Once the dust settles, a \$20,000 Smithville Charitable Foundation grant will ensure the center is stocked with high-quality toys, supplies, and required licensure materials.

Growing the Team

With more space comes the need for more heart. To maintain required ratios and high standards, the district will soon be looking for "the best of the best" to join the faculty. Prospective educators holding a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education should keep a close watch for upcoming job postings.

Dreaming Big

By September 2026, the EEC is projected to reach its full capacity, serving a total of 48 young children, including eight infants and twenty toddlers. This expansion represents more than just new walls; it is a vital investment in the families of Brown County. Here's to dreaming big for our littlest Eagles!

NURTURING THE FUTURE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

EARLY ED FOR ALL

Early childhood education is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Brown County children, their families, and our community. We believe world class opportunities, small school relationships, and lifelong impact begins with *early education for ALL*.

BROWN COUNTY CHILDREN

deserve great early education opportunities

Did you know that 85% of brain growth happens before age 5? Less than 40% of low-income children in Indiana are enrolled in high-quality early education programs.

BROWN COUNTY FAMILIES

deserve access to excellent care

Too many caregivers cannot afford or cannot find quality care in their communities, preventing them from entering the workforce and pursuing higher education.

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY

needs early education for all

Brown County leaders, employers and workers know that without great early education, our community is missing out on essential economic opportunities.

INVESTMENT



BUILDING CAPACITY, EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

THE POWER OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT



At Brown County Schools, we believe that when we invest in our people and our facilities, we invest directly in student success. This year, we are proud to highlight three new district-level positions designed to strengthen the systems, supports, and relationships that surround every child. From enhancing safety and operations, to expanding career-connected learning, to prioritizing student health and well-being, these roles represent a proactive commitment to building a stronger foundation for our schools. By thoughtfully investing in leadership, infrastructure, and student support services, we are ensuring that our students and staff have the safe, innovative, and responsive environment they deserve — today and into the future.

My passion for career coaching began while teaching design students as a graduate assistant at Indiana University, where I discovered not only a love for teaching but also a calling to connect students with real-world opportunities beyond the classroom. Over the past 20 years in education, administration, and community advocacy, I've seen how powerful partnerships between schools and employers can be in helping students confidently step into meaningful work. I hope students feel supported and understood, especially during the uncertainty that often comes with career exploration and know they have someone walking alongside them as they discover their strengths and interests. Whether I'm helping high school students build resumes and explore postsecondary pathways or encouraging younger students to recognize and name their gifts, my goal is empowerment. I want families to know that career readiness is woven into the school experience through coaching, employer partnerships, job shadowing, and real-world learning. My hope is that every student graduates with self-awareness, confidence, and clear options for their future.

GAVIN STEELE

What drew me to the Director of Safety and Operations role is simple: I love this district and I care deeply about the daily experience our students and staff have. I've always been curious about the small details that shape how a school feels and whether our systems are supporting learning instead of creating stress. I'm energized by the behind-the-scenes problem solving, planning, coordinating, fixing, improving, and preparing, because when safety and operations are strong, schools run smoothly, people feel confident, and students benefit. More than anything, I hope students feel safe, loved, and cared for every day they walk through our doors. I try to make that personal, too. I tell students that I love them every day. I want them to hear that message consistently, because you never know what a student is carrying when they come to school. Safety isn't just about locks and procedures; it's about creating an environment where students can relax enough to learn, be themselves, and feel like they belong. For families, I hope they understand that much of this work happens in the background—safety planning, security, emergency preparedness, transportation, facilities, and systems that keep school running calmly and consistently. My commitment is to be proactive, communicate clearly, and continually strengthen the foundation around our students so every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn.



KIM PRENDERGAST

I was drawn to the District Nurse role because I truly care about our children and want to help ensure they are safe, healthy, and happy so they are ready to learn each day. Health is foundational to everything we do in schools, and I believe that when students feel physically well and emotionally supported, they can fully engage in their learning. I hope students feel cared for and know they have someone looking out for them, someone who sees them, listens to them, and reminds them that they matter, because they absolutely do. Beyond treating bumps and fevers, my role is about advocacy, prevention, and partnership. I want families to know that I am committed to strong communication and collaboration with parents, teachers, and staff to make sure each child has what they need to thrive.



BLUEPRINTS + BREAKTHROUGHS
05.16.2026



*ideas worth building
and ideas worth
breaking through*

TEDx Brown County Schools: Blueprints & Breakthroughs

Built by students. Powered by bold ideas. Designed to challenge what school—and the future—can be.

 Eventbrite / May 16

**RESERVE
TODAY**

Free tickets are available now! Join us at the iconic Brown County Music Center in Nashville, Indiana, and experience the ideas, stories, and inspiration live on the big stage. The first 300 guests through the doors will receive an exclusive swag bag – so come early and be part of the excitement from the very beginning. This is your chance to experience something extraordinary right here in Brown County. Save your seat and we'll see you at the Music Center!



BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025 TO 2026

Aug 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Oct 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Feb 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

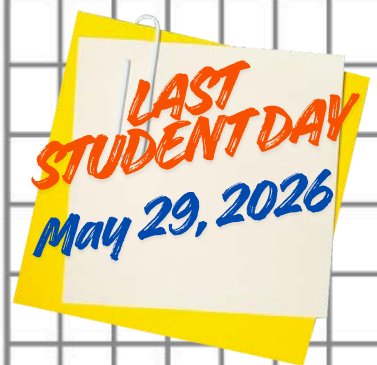
Mar 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Apr 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jun 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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

LAST STUDENT DAY IS MAY 29TH, 2026

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)

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION



Emily Callahan
Superintendent



Deborah Harman
Director of Student
Services and Support



Megan Connelly
Director of CRC and
Career Connected
Learning



Carol Brown
District Career Coach



Josh Bowlds
BCS Athletic
Director



Holly Gordon
Director of Health
Services



David Phelps
Director of
Technology



Gavin Steele
Director of Safety
and Operations



Jim Jackson
Director of
Maintenance



Michelle Hatchett
Director of
Transportation



Morgan Young
District
Communications



Megan Smith
Corporation
Treasurer



Kelli Bruner
Helmsburg Elementary
Principal



Shane Killinger
Sprunica Elementary
Principal



Greg Pagnard
Van Buren Elementary
Principal



Gavin Steele
BCMS Principal



Thor Davis
BCMS Dean of Students



Sarah Roberts
BCHS Principal



Drew Foster
BCHS Assistant Principal



A wide-angle photograph of a TEDx stage. The stage is illuminated with a vibrant red light, creating a warm and energetic atmosphere. A large, flowing red curtain serves as the backdrop. In the center of the stage, the words "TEDx Brown County Schools" are displayed in large, bold letters. The "TEDx" part is in a bright red color, while "Brown County Schools" is in white. Below the text, there are several pieces of equipment on the stage, including two laptops on stands, a central monitor, and two large black speakers. The foreground shows rows of dark, empty seats, suggesting an audience is present but not visible. The ceiling is dark with visible stage lighting rigs and spotlights.

TEDx Brown County Schools

SPRING 2026