

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. DiStefano, Superintendent

Greetings BDFam! As we continue our mission to guide students and empower their futures for success beyond the classroom, this edition of the Unifier focuses on the gratitude and significance of career and community partnerships that support our schools. These partnerships not only add value and critical support to the educational services in our community, they provide invaluable opportunities for students to explore career pathways, gain hands-on experience, and connect with mentors who inspire and guide them. When businesses, organizations, and community leaders invest in our students, they are not only shaping individual futures but also strengthening our community as a whole.

Whether through internships and apprenticeships, job shadowing, guest speaking, donations, or collaborative projects, the learning experiences and resources help students see the relevance of their education and develop the skills needed for success. They also strengthen the bond and connection that communities and schools must maintain on behalf of children. By working together, we are fostering a generation of problem-solvers, innovators, and leaders who will prove to be positive and productive citizens in our society. Your involvement, support, and willingness to share your time and expertise make a significant difference.

We deeply appreciate the role our families, community members, and business partners play in this collective effort. It truly takes a village to empower our students, and we are grateful for your partnership. Thank you for your continued commitment to our schools and the students that we serve. As you will see in this edition, our partnerships mean a great deal and make an even greater difference. If you have any questions or ideas about enhancing our partnerships or programs, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Go Beavers!

## SCHOOL OF THE MONTH - APRIL

### WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board Coffee Chat

**Thursday, April 3** ~ 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Drop-in for some casual conversation with members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Mark DiStefano



Wilson Elementary School Student Council created a kindness bulletin board and made cheer baskets for staff.

## BOARD MEETING RECAP

At the March Board of Education meeting the board approved the following items:

- College Credit Course Requests
- Donation Acceptance
- Fine Arts Month Proclamation
- Appointment of Board of Canvassers for April 2025 Election

Monthly Board Business Meetings can be viewed LIVE on the district YouTube channel (Beaver Dam Unified School District). In addition to LIVE access, you may also view previously recorded meetings and other district events on our YouTube channel.

## MONTHLY DISTRICT STRATEGIC ACTION (DSA)

District Strategic Actions (DSAs) are developed annually to address holistic district needs that support objectives of the Strategic Plan. DSAs include a direct correlation between actions and a strategic metric impact/target. DSAs support School Success Plans and extend districtwide.

*DSA: Partner with secondary students and other stakeholders (local law enforcement and emergency personnel) to strengthen safety measures by leveraging their own personal expertise and experiences.*

This connects to our 5-Year objectives by assessing necessity, condition, and use of district properties to determine and enact a sustainable plan.

For more information about the District's Strategic Plan, please visit <http://bit.ly/2Rqv5x0>.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### BUSINESS SERVICES

*Mr. Cashman, Director of Business Services*

School business and community partnerships are strategic collaborations between schools, businesses, and local organizations designed to enhance educational opportunities and support community development. These partnerships bridge the gap between education and real-world experiences, fostering success for students, schools, businesses, and the broader community.

The Beaver Dam Unified School District has established several successful partnerships that provide significant benefits to students and the community, including:

1. **Beaver Dam Police Department - School Resource Officers (SROs):** This partnership enables the presence of three full-time School Resource Officers in the district during the school year, promoting a safe and supportive learning environment for students.
2. **Work-Based Learning Programs:** Through internships, apprenticeships, and school-to-work initiatives, students gain valuable hands-on experience while earning academic credits. These programs prepare students for future careers by integrating real-world learning with classroom instruction.
3. **Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) Collaboration:** The partnership between MPTC and Beaver Dam High School provides students with exceptional opportunities through Dual Enrollment programs. Last year, Beaver Dam students collectively saved \$242,471 in tuition costs through Dual Credit courses. These programs not only reduce future educational expenses but also give students a competitive advantage in their college education.

By fostering these strategic partnerships, BDUSD continues to strengthen its commitment to student success, workforce readiness, and community engagement. These collaborations play a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for both students and the community.

### FACILITIES & SAFETY

*Mr. Marshall, Facilities & Safety Officer*

With the arrival of spring comes the increased potential for severe weather. Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week will take place from April 7-11, with a statewide tornado drill scheduled for April 10 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. In the event of severe weather on April 10, the drill will be rescheduled for April 11.

This is an important opportunity to review and practice tornado and severe weather sheltering plans. As part of the district's commitment to safety, each of our schools conducts tornado drills in accordance with established safety protocols.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

*Dr. White, Director of Human Resources*

Our district offers a wide variety of exciting career opportunities for those eager to make a difference in the lives of students and families. As one of the largest employers in the area, we're proud to have over 450 dedicated staff members across various roles. While our amazing teachers make up the majority of our professional staff, we also offer numerous opportunities for support staff, including clerical, custodial, maintenance, teaching assistants, drivers, coaches/advisors, and more. Explore our current openings at <https://bit.ly/36fpil9>. Hiring picks up quickly in the spring, so please watch for vacancies and opportunities as they become available.

### STUDENT SERVICES

*Ms. Sponholz, Director of Student Services*

We are excited to announce the upcoming Amazing Race to Employment event on Friday, April 25th! This interactive experience blends the excitement of an Amazing Race-style challenge with real-world job readiness skills, providing students with an engaging way to explore career opportunities within our community.

During the event, students will visit local businesses, introduce themselves to employers, ask questions, request job applications or business cards, and learn more about different industries. This hands-on experience is designed to help students build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and gain a better understanding of the workforce.

Through partnerships with area businesses, we aim to provide students with meaningful connections and insights into their future career paths. If you have any questions, please contact Lyndsey Webster, Program Support Teacher, at (920) 885-7313 ext. 2026 or [websterl@bdusd.org](mailto:websterl@bdusd.org).

We look forward to seeing our students take on this exciting challenge!

### TEACHING & LEARNING

*Mr. Meyer, Director of Teaching and Learning*

The Beaver Dam Unified School District takes pride in our work with students and deeply appreciates our community partners who help make this possible. The Beaver Dam Unified School District takes pride in our work with students and deeply appreciates our



community partners who help make this possible. These partnerships enhance our school-to-career pathways, foster innovative learning opportunities, and provide vital support for students in need. Here are just a few examples of how these collaborations enrich learning in our district:

- **Local businesses** offer apprenticeships for high school students through our Youth Apprenticeship programs.
- **Volunteers** participate in our Partners Are Learning (PAL) program, providing one-on-one tutoring and mentorship for students who need extra support.
- **The Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation and the BDUSD Education Fund** award grants to teachers for implementing innovative and specialized learning opportunities.
- **The Beaver Dam Chamber** organizes annual events that introduce students to a variety of career pathways.

We are grateful for these and many other partnerships that positively impact our students and community!



These Wilson Wildcat VIPs were recognized for their strong dedication and effort on their I-Ready diagnostic.

## SHOUT OUTS

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

April is Occupational Therapy Month. We are grateful for our caring and compassionate therapists Alissa Ehlert, Olivia Dziedzic, and Christine Magin.

### PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION DAY

Paraprofessional Appreciation Day is April 3. We are fortunate to have an amazing group of dedicated teacher assistants and tutors who support our students and teachers.

### SCHOOL LIBRARIAN APPRECIATION DAY

School Librarian Appreciation Day is April 4. **THANK YOU** to our awesome School Librarians Jen Vinz (HS/MS), Grace Furlong (HS), Terri Wood (MS), Jenny Pufahl (JE), Roxie Miller (LI), Jaclyn Wolter (PV), Beth Nill (WA), and Kristi Rolko (WI).

## NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WEEK

April 7-11 is National Assistant Principal Week. A huge SHOUT OUT to our remarkable Associate Principals John Casper (HS), Ryan Gerber (HS), Abby Schmitt (MS), Katelyn Dwyer (PV), and Celina Alvin (JE). We also want to recognize our awesome Dean of Students Jami Dugan (MS), Brock Linde (MS), and Holly Steiner (HS).

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK

April 20-26 is National Volunteer Recognition Week. We appreciate our many volunteers who generously give their time and talents to make a difference in so many lives.

## NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

National Administrative Professionals Day is April 23. We have an outstanding group of Administrative Assistants who do so much to help students, families, and staff.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Families who would like their child(ren) to attend BDUSD but live in another school district, may apply for open enrollment. Open enrollment allows parents to apply for their child(ren) to attend school in a school district other than the one in which they live. Students in grades 4K-12, and who are Wisconsin residents, may participate. Students in 4K and early childhood may participate only if their resident district has a similar program and the child qualifies to participate in that program.

The Open Enrollment application period for the 2025-26 School Year is February 3 - April 30, 2025. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm on April 30, 2025. Late applications cannot be accepted. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://bit.ly/3QzZDMv>.

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

June 9-July 24  
(no classes June 30-July 4)



More  
Summer  
School  
Info

Registration information will be available late March. Please visit <https://bit.ly/33IOGmQ> for more info.

We are hiring Summer School Teachers and Teacher Assistants. Please apply on WECAN at <https://wecan.waspa.org/>. Contact Katelyn Dwyer, Summer School Coordinator at (920)885-7380 x6002 or [dwyerk@bdusd.org](mailto:dwyerk@bdusd.org) with any questions.

## BILINGUAL FAMILY SERVICES

Betsy Ramsdale serves as the district's Bilingual Family Liaison. For more info, contact her at (920)885-7300 x1410 or [ramsdaleb@bdusd.org](mailto:ramsdaleb@bdusd.org) or visit the district's ELL Resources website at <https://bit.ly/4hUfrp7>.

### Calendar of Events

Visit [bdusd.org](https://bdusd.org) for the most current listing of events and activities

- April 3
- 8:00 am: School of the Month Coffee Chat (Wilson Elementary School)
  - 6:00 pm: Middle School Fine Arts Night (*Middle School Auditorium*)
- April 3-5
- 7:30 pm: High School Spring Play (*HS Auditorium*)
- April 6
- 2:00 pm: High School Spring Play (*HS Auditorium*)
- April 14
- 6:30 pm: Monthly Board of Education Meeting (*Educational Service Center*)
- April 15
- 7:30 pm: High School Band Concert (*HS Auditorium*)
- April 18
- No School (Easter Break)
- April 22
- 9:30 am-2:00 pm: Career Expo (*HS Fieldhouse*)
  - 7:30 pm: District Jazz Festival (*HS Auditorium*)
- April 24
- 7:00 pm: Grade 6 Band/Orchestra Concert (*MS Auditorium*)
- April 28
- 4:00 pm-7:30 pm: High School & Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
  - 5:30 pm: Board of Education Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting (*Educational Service Center*)
  - 6:30 pm: Board of Education Operations Committee Meeting (*Educational Service Center*)
  - 6:30 pm: Grade 5 Band/Orchestra Concert (*HS Auditorium*)

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Click [here](#) to check out Community Flyers. There are flyers for community activities and events such as youth athletic groups, dance programs, BD Library events, and much more!



District

Jazz Festival

April 22 - 7:30 pm

BDHS Auditorium

### RESOURCES Visit [bdusd.org](https://bdusd.org) for a full list of resources

#### FAMILY

- [Central Wisconsin Community Action Council](#)
- [Church Health Services](#)
- [Clothes for Kids](#)
- [Dodge County Food Pantry](#)
- [PAVE](#)
- [St. Vincent de Paul Society](#)

#### MENTAL HEALTH

- [Affiliated Counseling Center LLC](#)
- [Alarus Healthcare LLC](#)
- [Church Health Services](#)
- [Dodge County Human Services and Health Dept.](#)
- [SSM Health Behavioral Health Services](#)

#### REFERENDUM UPDATES

For the latest updates on referendum projects visit <https://bit.ly/46MbIpo>.

Beaver Dam High School Drama Presents



Tickets available at Fox Brother's Piggly Wiggly or at the door.

\$9 Adults  
\$5 Students 13 and up

By Stephen Greg

April 3, 4, 5 at 7:30  
April 6 at 2:00

Beaver Dam High School Auditorium

TEACHER OF THE MONTH


WINNER RECEIVES \$300 FOR THEIR CLASSROOM

Nominate a local teacher to become the Teacher of the Month! Email or mail nominations:

**Tom Heffron**  
[bdtoyman@gmail.com](mailto:bdtoyman@gmail.com)  
112 Washington St.  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

**Allyssa Gilmore**  
[agilmore@americanbankbd.com](mailto:agilmore@americanbankbd.com)  
American National Bank Marketing Dept.  
115 Front St  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

SPONSORED BY: BDACF Heffron Family Fund & American Bank



BEAVER DAM  
Area Community  
FOUNDATION

**BDACF EDUCATION FUND**  
Please consider supporting BDUSD staff and students by providing a gift to the Beaver Dam Unified School District Education Fund through the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation. For more info visit <https://bit.ly/49LWffj>.