



a monthly electronic bulletin board with news, salutes and more

Becoming one of the best in the nation
Beatrice Public Schools'
Strategic Plan
 Monthly Update

One aspect of the Strategic Plan is to “ensure effective communication in order to unite all members of our partnership in achieving our mission and objective.”

Each month the Beat will select one strategy along with a specific result and focus on one Action Step that has been completed.

Strategy III: We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.

Specific Result: We will provide technology equipment and sufficient staff to enhance 21st century learning.



An important skill when writing a research paper is to learn how to cite sources. As a Google school students are able to use an add-on to help them cite sources correctly.

At the middle and high schools the media specialists play an important role in keeping both students and staff current with technology.

Karen Dittbrenner teaches Ross Hoggland and Jodi Fakler's eighth grade language arts students how to use Google Add-ons to properly cite their sources used in their upcoming research paper.

Long named Employee of the Month

Jody Long is the January employee of the month.

Mrs. Long is a para-educator in Mrs. Hamilton's Geometry class and Mr. Ankrom's Integrated Algebra 2B class. She is a strong part of our classrooms and the learning process.

If a student is absent, she takes it upon herself to get the work the student needs for their study hall class. Most of the students in both classes have IEPs, and Mrs. Long is always aware of the accommodations needed for each student. She also takes notes for every new lesson and utilizes these notes to catch up a student who might have missed the lesson. Because we realize math is sometimes a more abstract concept, she also uses the notes to help familiarize herself with the material.

Not only does Mrs. Long provide academic support for the students in the classroom, she is also a great resource to ensure the classroom atmosphere stays positive. Jody takes care of discipline problems before they become an issue that disrupts the learning in the classroom. There are times while we are teaching a lesson when she will quietly talk to the student to redirect their behavior before we even see the problem.

Jody goes above and beyond what is expected of her in the classroom. She takes initiative to organize, plan, and assist all students.

Para-educator Jody Long listens to Erin Hamilton explain the math lesson so she can work with students once the assignment is given.



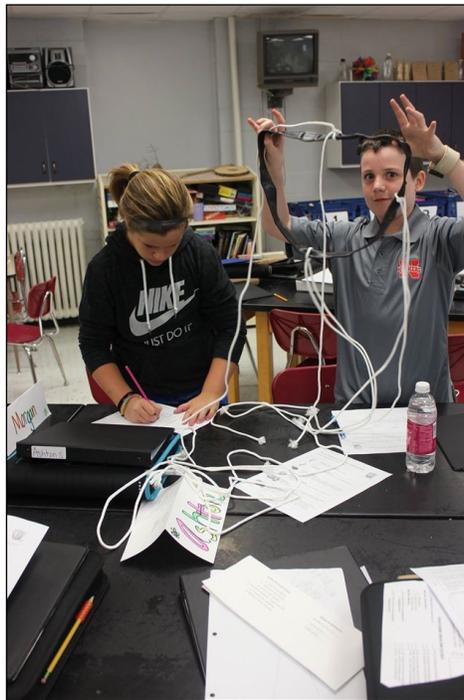
Taking a Close Look

Take a **closer** look!

High Ability Learners Students develop interests while at **BPS**

Students identified as high ability learners are offered several opportunities during the school year to explore their interests. Students have had experiences creating and coding with their Ozobots to help them travel from one area to another utilizing multiple codes. Students have found this more challenging than it looks.

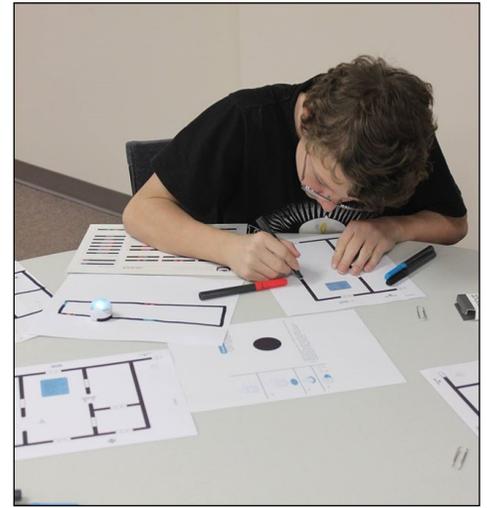
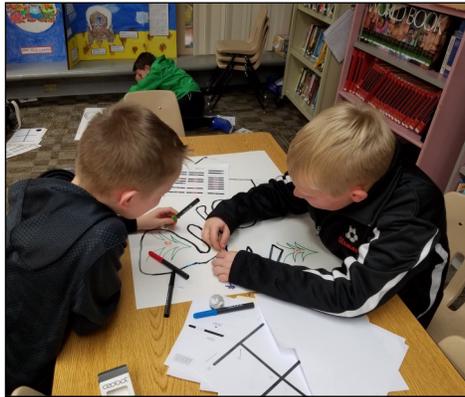
(clockwise) Student participate in STEM activities in 6th grade science; 5th grade students are studying the Ozobot codes as they help their Ozobot venture from one area to another; 7th grade students receive instructions from Missy Timmerman about coding; a 5th grade student watches his Ozobot follow the code he has created..



Taking a Close Look

Beatrice
Public Schools

Take a closer look!



In the middle and right-hand pictures—students code their Ozobots during the after-school enrichment time on Monday afternoons or during PLC time; bottom and top left-hand pictures—4th and 5th grade enrichment students visited the SAC museum where they became engineers and built a lunar lander which would hopefully survive the impact of "landing on the moon." Success with this project meant their "marshmallow astronauts" would not fly out of their lander. They also constructed rockets that were launched and reached the ceiling of the museum.

Stake Your Claim

They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and now are among the best in the nation

Baker builds power plants in China



'My first two college degrees were from Southeast Community College in welding and then in Nondestructive testing. I took 3 years of welding at BHS and felt it truly helped me when I went off to SECC for their welding and metallurgy degree. At the time BHS had a truly state of the art vocational arts program. I also have to give credit to Beatrice and the surrounding area. Living and working in the area helped me to develop a strong work ethic that helped me continue on to receive an Engineering degree and succeed in the work force.'

'Mike Baker, class of 1979

Mike Baker is a Project Manager for Black & Veatch, a global engineering, consulting, construction, and operations company specializing in infrastructure development in energy, water, telecommunications, management consulting, federal, and environmental markets. Baker lives in Beijing, China and is in charge of the engineering, design, procurement, and construction of two 1,000 MW coal fired power plants being built about seven hours' drive outside of Jakarta, Indonesia, for a Japanese energy com-

pany.

A Project Manager is responsible for all commercial / contract negotiations with the owner of a project. "It is lots of fun wheeling and dealing with the Japanese in Tokyo," said Baker.

He also oversees the engineering. His company is responsible for designing the power plant, overseeing all procurements of materials for construction and also is responsible for the construction of the power plant.

The Project manager oversees all com-



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars

Mike Baker, class of 1979

mercial and technical aspects of the project. "As the project Manager I am responsible for the profit and loss of the project and the safe and timely delivery of the completed power plant. Clearly one man cannot do it all. There is an excellent team of 250 highly knowledgeable and skilled people working on the project with me," said Baker.



Project manager Mike Baker at a Black & Veatch construction project.

Board approves 2017-18, 2018-19 school calendars

Jody Long was named the January Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Board members Lisa Pieper and Jon Zimmerman were reelected president and vice-president respectively. Superintendent Pat Nauroth was reappointed as secretary and Business Manager John Brazell was reappointed as treasurer.

Committee assignments were also reorganized.

Marriah Buss was recognized for being selected to the All-State volleyball team and Cameron Jurgens was recognized for his selection to the All-State football team.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said the annual retreat is set for Tuesday, January 17, 2017, from 5 to 8 p.m. He also thanked Teresa Smith for her years of service to the district and said she would be missed as a part of the administrative team. Smith recently announced her retirement at the end of the school year.

He also talked about all the volunteer he saw working at the wrestling meet over the weekend and noted the importance of volunteers, both in the classroom and with activities.

Student Update

Student Board member Natalie Doering said vocal music teacher Laura Bigley is introducing music to Cedar and Lincoln students for their spring concerts. Doering also said all elementary schools would be MAP testing during the month of January

and report cards will go home on Feb. 11.

Middle school has enrichment activities during ninth period, most are offered weekly, but Hunter's Safety is currently being offered and they meet three times a week. Boys' basketball is the only activity currently at the middle school.

The speech season has started and the first meet is Saturday at Raymond Central. Students selected for the Doane Honor Choir were performing that evening and she said the show choir is preparing for its first competition on Feb. 3.

Audit Report

Ryan Bruns from Dana Cole presented highlights from the recent audit report. He said the audit showed there were no inaccuracies. Other items pointed out by Bruns included; a net change of approximately \$520,00, a cash balance of approximately \$16 million, verification of bank balances and that all fund balances are positive.

Action Agenda

The board discussed the calendar including significant changes made include; an additional day of professional development at the beginning of the school year, moving Parent/Teacher conferences back a week, giving students two weeks off for winter break, removing spring break in March, and adding an additional day to Easter break. A question was raised about high school finals so the item was tabled and will be reconsidered at the February meeting.

The board approved designating Nauroth as the district's Federal Grant Representative and John Brazell as the Financial Representative.

Approval was also given to the Superintendent's evaluation.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Smith introduced Colton Mattson, fifth grade teacher at Cedar, and two of his students, Emma Engelman and Colton Herfel. They shared information about the food drive their class organized. Colton said they encouraged students to donate by giving speeches and making it a competition between the classes. He said the class learned that if they work together they can accomplish big things as they help those in need. Smith said the project showcased a wonderful collaboration by staff, students and community.

Next Meeting

The next committee of the whole meeting will be Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Central Administration Building. The next Board of Education meeting will be on March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars

Doris Martin

Lisa Pieper, President

Nancy Sedlacek

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, Vice-President

Pat Nauroth, Superintendent

Board of Education

Feb. 23, 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 13, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting



Stacey Edeal (left) is recognized as the 2016 Special Education Para of the Year by Beth Cordry-Hookstra, special education director. Stacey goes above and beyond her para duties all day, every day. Stacey not only teaches lessons, she also puts in the extra work to ensure the lessons are well prepared. She pushes the students and holds them to very high standards. Stacey follows through with tasks and responsibilities. Her love for all of the students she works with is evident.