



# Butler Area School District

110 Campus Lane, Butler, Pa. 16001



*Broad Street Elementary School ...A National Blue Ribbon School*

***District Overview:*** Butler Area School District is located in southwestern Pennsylvania, 42 miles north of Pittsburgh, in Butler County. The district's 150 square miles is home to eleven elementary buildings (grades kindergarten through 6), one junior high school (grades 7 and 8), one intermediate high school (grades 9 and 10), and one senior high school (grades 11 and 12). Broad Street Elementary School and Center Township Elementary School are both nationally recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools. Additionally, the Butler County Vocational Technical School is located on the grounds of the Butler Senior High School, which provides students with immediate access to vocational programs. Commanding the status of the 25th largest school district of the 501 school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the district supports a student population of approximately 7,900. Servicing our children is a staff of nearly 925 employees, comprised of approximately 592 professional educators, 200 support staff, 80 part-time support staff, and 35 administrators. A committed school board, dedicated parents, and thousands of volunteers complete the district's educational support system.



Intermediate High Media Center



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**Initiatives and Distinctions:** Professional staff, community, school board, and students work together to support numerous initiatives. It is a tribute to its commitment to education that the district has made advancements on so many fronts. Highlights of these accomplishments include:



- ❑ Satisfied the 15 academic goals and the 6 priority goals outlined in the district's 6-year strategic plan and established goals for the district's 2002-2007 plan. Implemented new 6-year eStrategic plan for 2008 – 2014.
- ❑ Class size reduction initiatives to reduce class size and intensify reading instruction for all children in grades K-3.
- ❑ Safety and Security Plan that is recognized statewide as a prototype plan.
- ❑ Staff development, financial support, and programming to implement conflict resolution and anti-bullying programs at all grade levels.
- ❑ Creation of the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation to fund and support Creative Teaching mini-grants, award twenty \$1000 annual scholarships to graduating seniors, and a wide range of school improvement projects, and support other district initiatives.

- ❑ Professional staff opportunities to participate annually in nearly 200 professional development workshops as part of the professional development program supported by the district.
- ❑ District budget of nearly \$88,013,000 needed to operate one of the largest school districts in the state.
- ❑ Received a Maintenance of High Standards Award and several incentive awards from the State of Pennsylvania for maintaining exceptionally high scores or significant improvement in reading and mathematics on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).
- ❑ Yearly SAT scores above both the state and national averages.
- ❑ Middle State Accreditation for all secondary programs.
- ❑ Received competitive grant funding in excess of \$ 3,500,000 to support technological initiatives including the current Classrooms For The Future project that provides wireless laptops, electronic whiteboards, and video projectors in 88 classrooms.

**Academic Programs:** The Butler Area School District, through the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee, Middle States Planning Team, Curriculum Council, Gifted Advisory Committee, and School Board Education Committee reviews curriculum and programming recommendations to ensure that the district's academic initiatives reflect research, state and national standards, best practices, and community expectations. On a seven-year cycle, each curriculum is evaluated, new strategies and topics reviewed, written curriculum updated, and appropriate materials and professional development put into place to support these endeavors.

Highlights of these programs include:

- ❑ Rich and varied curricular offerings to meet the needs of all students including gifted learners, special needs students and ESL students.
- ❑ Thirteen Advanced Placement courses, articulation agreements with 6 major colleges, and opportunities to participate in an on-site College in the High School Program.
- ❑ Infusion of instructional technology at all schools that supports the teaching and learning goals of the district.
- ❑ Five foreign language offerings at the secondary level, which extend beyond the norm including offerings in Latin and Japanese.
- ❑ Summer reading academies held at elementary buildings designed to “jump start” first grade students who are “at risk” readers .
- ❑ Title I programs that emphasize early intervention through intensified instruction.
- ❑ A four-year College Technical Preparatory program for students in grades 9-12 that includes programming in the fields of Allied Health Technologies, Broadcast Communications, Business Management and Finance, Child Development, Engineering Technologies, and Information Technology.



**Facilities and Resources:** The district is completing the final phase of a multi-year renovation plan that included facility renovations and enhancements to all eleven elementary buildings and three secondary buildings. Integral to these renovations was the need to obtain and maintain technology systems that continue to grow with the programs and the needs of the students. Moreover, the district's Strategic Plan identifies technology as one of the five action plan areas. Accomplishments that fulfill these expectations include: Developing a comprehensive technology plan to support the district's present and future educational

*needs, which was an important and essential step in the evolution of the district's instructional program. The district's planning and implementation efforts in this area have resulted in establishing one of the largest integrated wide area telecommunication networks in Western Pennsylvania. Local Area Networks (LAN's) in every building, connected to the district's Wide Area Network (WAN), provide resources that include internet and e-mail access to labs and classrooms throughout the district. A telephone network of over 950 phones with voice mail and a web-based parent communication portal enhance school to home communication. The district's technology plan focuses not only on computers, but also on emerging technology applications such as video production, interactive whiteboards, interfacing scientific probes, graphing calculators, robotics and wireless technologies which have been integrated into the instructional programs. The District's charge to properly prepare its students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills necessitates a commitment to use technology to the best of our ability, to enhance the delivery of instruction, and to train our students to use technology for work and daily living.*

**Co-curricular Offerings:** *The following interscholastic sports and activities are available to secondary students:*

*Baseball (Boys), Basketball (Boys and Girls), Cheerleaders, Cross Country (Boys & Girls), Football (Boys), Golf (Boys and Girls), Rifle (Coed), Soccer (Boys and Girls), Softball (Girls), Swimming (Boys & Girls), Tennis (Boys & Girls), Track (Boys & Girls), Indoor Track (Boys & Girls), Volleyball (Boys & Girls), Wrestling (Boys), Lacrosse (Boys and Girls), Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Chorus, Strolling Strings, Academic Decathlon, Jr. Acad. of Science, National Honor Society, Jr. National Honor Society, Student Council, Sequinettes, Aquaettes Synchronized Swim, All-School Play, School Musical, Yearbook, and School Newspaper. In addition to these opportunities, each elementary and secondary building offers its own diverse co-curricular program of clubs and activities based on the needs and interests of its students. Examples of these include ecology club, homework hour, story hour, elementary chorus, elementary band, intramural sports, and more.*

