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 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association
 [Award of Honor in 1998]

Honorable Mention 2000, 2001, & 2003
 National School Public Relations
 Association
 Publications and Electronic Media Contests

TIGER PRINTS

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD ISSUE

www.tigerweb.org OR www.paayp.com

NEWSLETTER OF
BIG BEAVER FALLS AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
 1503 EIGHTH AVENUE
 BEAVER FALLS, PENNSYLVANIA 15010

“... COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE ...”

Volume XVII

Fall 2007-2008

Issue 54

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Ranked #3 of 100 in Western PA by PBT

BBF Meets All PSSA, NCLB Benchmarks

Not shown on the graphs below are two “Overall” PSSA scores that combine the performances of BBF students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. On PSSA Reading, 63% of our students were “Proficient” and “Advanced. On PSSA Mathematics, 70% were “Proficient” and “Advanced.”

Those scores provide us with a snapshot that tells us that 25% of our students scored above the NCLB Mathematics AYP of 45%, and 9% scored above the NCLB Reading AYP of 54%.

BBF ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGES

We were equally pleased that our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 scored above the Statewide average in PSSA Reading, while those in grades 3, 4, 6, and 11 scored above the Statewide average in PSSA Mathematics.

Improvement in PSSA Mathematics scores of our Juniors was effected by BFHS administration, faculty, and students who combined their efforts, determined to improve their PSSA Mathematics performance.

In the 2005-2006 PSSA, our BFHS Juniors had 41% score Proficient and Advanced in Mathematics. This time around, they not only raised that percentage to 55%, an increase of 14%; but they even surpassed the State PSSA Mathematics average by a percentage point.

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

Each June, the *Pittsburgh Business Times* recognizes the achievement of 100 schools in its “Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools.”

This year’s edition placed our District in the *Guide* and ranked us third among 100 schools with similar economic indicators.

The District has also been notified by Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, Secretary of Education, that **Big Beaver, Central Elementary, and Beaver Falls Middle School** have been awarded the **Pennsylvania Department of Education’s distinguished “Keystone Achievement Award”** in recognition of meeting **Adequate Yearly Progress** targets for two consecutive years.

I assure you that we shall continue to make every effort possible to encourage our students to push the limits of their unlimited potential and remain committed to our Mission: “... to providing an exemplary educational experience that is built on trust, embraces diversity, and fosters a strong foundation through rigorous and well-rounded educational programs.”

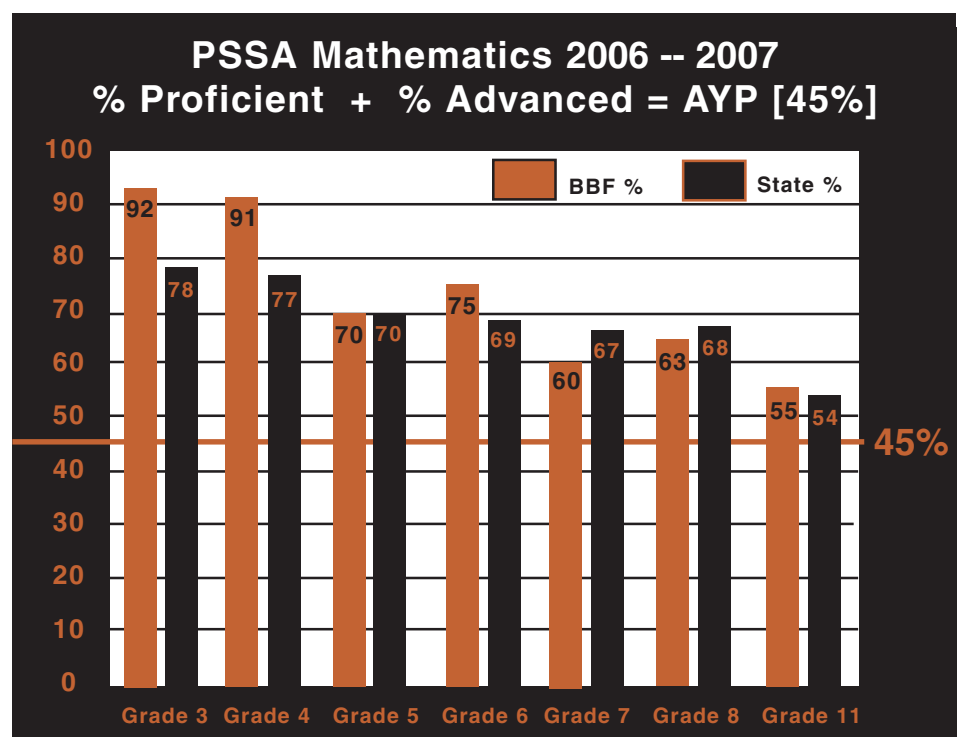
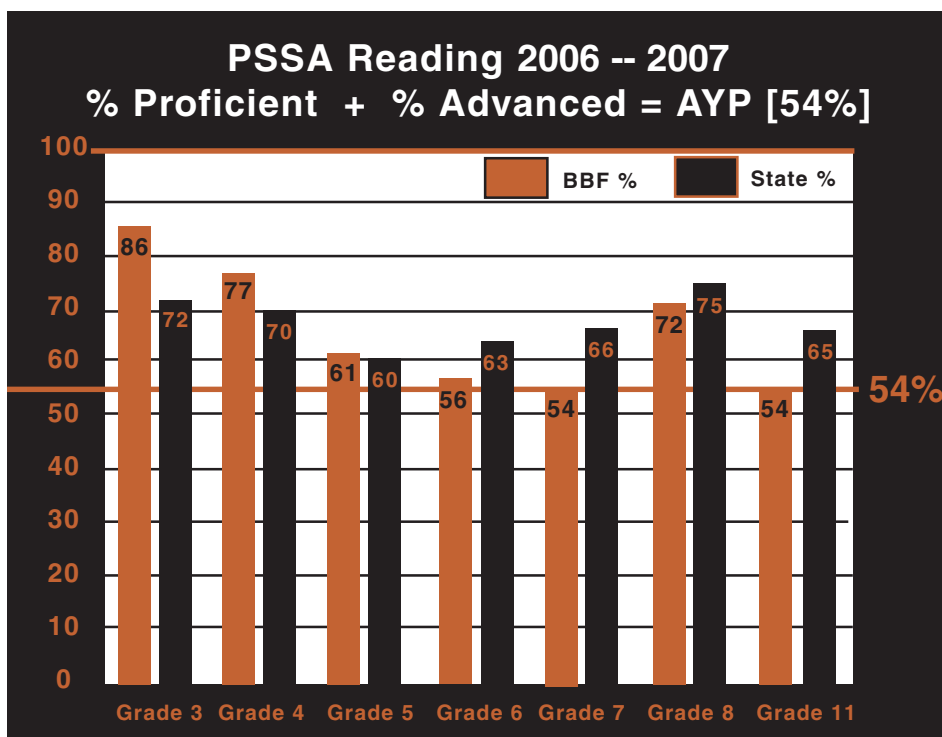
Yours in Tiger Education,

Donna M. Nugent, Ed. D.



To ACCESS BBF's REPORT CARD

- 1- Enter: <http://www.paayp.com/>
- 2- Choose: “Beaver” for county
- 3- Click: “Go”
- 4- Find: “Big Beaver Falls Area ...”
- 5- Click: “View NCLB Report Card”



3 Faculty, 1 Secretary Added to Retirees

15 Join Tiger Pride: 6 in Elementary, 4 in High School, 5 in Middle School

Fifteen new teachers have been added to the faculty of Big Beaver Falls Area School District for 2007-08; and since the summer issue of *Tiger Prints*, four faculty and staff submitted letters of intent to retire.

The retirees include: Business Office Secretary Ann Carol Mangerie, who retired in November, and three Middle School faculty who will retire at the end of this first semester:

Pam Balbach, Guidance Counselor
Debbie Dvorsak, Home/School/Community Liaison

Ed Yerage, Physical Education Teacher.

The 15 new faculty members include three each at Big Beaver and Central Elementary Schools, five at Middle School, and four at the High School.



Big Beaver Elementary's new faculty includes: [left to right] Jennifer Majors [First Grade]; Nathan Verba [Kindergarten]; and Carrie Holman [Kindergarten].



New faculty at Central Elementary this year are: Tia Marshall, Pre-Kindergarten [seated]; Rachel Lance, Kindergarten [left]; and Kelly Karczewski, Mathematics [right].

NEW AT BIG BEAVER ELEMENTARY

Carrie Holman, Kindergarten

Beaver Falls High School

Geneva College [B.S.]

Jennifer Majors, First Grade

Seneca Valley High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.]

Nathan Verba, Kindergarten

Seneca Valley High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.]

NEW AT CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

Kelly Karczewski, Mathematics

Blackhawk High School

Geneva College [B.S.]

Rachel Lance, Kindergarten

Western Beaver High School

Duquesne University [B.S.]

Tia Marshall, Pre-Kindergarten

Northwestern Lehigh High School

Carlow College [B.A.]

NEW AT BEAVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Josh Ginther, English & Humanities

Beaver Falls High School

University of Pittsburgh and

Geneva College [B.A.]

Alex Olshanski, Physical Education

Upper St. Clair High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.]

Dan Schmidt, Mathematics

Attica Central High School

Geneva College [B.S. in Engineering]

Slippery Rock State University [M.S. in Secondary Education]

Susan Swanson, School Nurse

Beaver Falls High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.N.]

NEW AT BEAVER FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

David Borroni, Mathematics

Beaver Falls High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.]

Rachel Graham, Music and Assistant

High School Band Director

Beaver Falls High School

Geneva College [B.A.]

Eva Matthews, English

North Hills High School

Robert Morris University [B.A. and M.S.]

Chris Posset, Social Studies

Beaver High School

Slippery Rock State University [B.S.]

Jollene Pratte, Apangea Mathematics

Blackhawk High School

Westminster College

Robert Morris University [B.S.]



New on the Middle School faculty this year are: [left to right, seated] Jollene Pratt [Apangea Mathematics], Rachel Graham [Music], and Eva Matthews [English]. Standing, left to right, are: David Borroni [Mathematics] and Chris Possett [Social Studies].



New High School faculty this year are: [left to right] Dan Schmidt [Mathematics], Alex Olshanski [Physical Education], and Josh Ginther [English and Humanities]. Missing from the picture is Susan Swanson [School Nurse at High School and Middle School].

**BBF KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION
FOR 2008 - 2009
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

AT BIG BEAVER AND

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTNERS

MUST BE 5

BY AUGUST 30, 2008

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

10:00 A.M. AT BIG BEAVER

6:30 P.M. AT CENTRAL



Central Elementary offers, for the first time this year, a pre-kindergarten class, underwritten through a PDE Grant. Mrs. Tia Marshall is the teacher.

BF Middle School students watched Pittsburgh Meteorologist Dennis Bowman create a tornado [below] during their "Science of Weather" program.



Incentives, Calculators in Plans

ExxonMobil Grant Enriches Big Beaver Math, Science

Principal Valarie Williams reports that Big Beaver Elementary has received from Exxon Mobil an Educational Alliance Grant to improve student performance in mathematics and science.

The \$500 grant, presented by Tri-State Petroleum and Exxon Mobil through the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program, will be used for incentive and motivational activities in math and science.

Individual, class, and possibly school competitions in mathematics are planned, according to Angela Manno, District Title I Mathematics Coordinator.

The grant will facilitate science and invention projects to be displayed at Portfolio Night in the spring and provide incentives for "Battles of Facts" in science and math.

Principal Williams stated, "This Grant will complement our efforts to improve our student performance in PSSA mathematics and the forthcoming PSSA Science Test."



Big Beaver will use its ExxonMobil Grant to focus on science and mathematics. From left to right are Hunter Speelman, Nick Horvath, Austin LeFebvre, and Caitlin Wass. Behind them are Principal Valarie Williams and District Title I Mathematics Coordinator Angela Manno.

Board Adopts District Wellness Policy

The BBF School Board has adopted a District Wellness Policy, established a Wellness Committee to coordinate its implementation, and set forth guidelines.

Part of the District policy states: "The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. "To ensure their health and well-being

the District shall provide to all students:

- 1- A comprehensive nutrition education program.
- 2- Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutritional guidelines.
- 3- Physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity.
- 4- Curriculum and programs K-12 designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity.

Eligible for DAR Scholarships

Rose Selby Selected 2008 DAR Good Citizen



Rose Selby, BFHS Senior, has been named this year's recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award.

BFHS Guidance Counselor Leslie Gossett reported that Rose and other seniors were nominated by the High School faculty on the basis of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism.

The BFHS Class of 2008 then chose the Good Citizen Award winner by voting on the top four faculty nominees.

The three semifinalist nominees for the DAR Award were Aaron Couch, Joshua Laughlin, and Sarah Oliver.

In the photo, at left, Rose is with BFHS Guidance Counselor Gossett, who explained, "Rose will now represent our school in State, Divisional, and National competition for awards and scholarships.

'You Can Get There From Here' at BFHS

You Can Get There From Here features a showcase at the High School displaying photos of BFHS students who have been graduated and who then went on to graduate from a college or university.

Currently on display are students beginning with the Class of 2000. The BFHS Guidance Office is seeking 5 x 7 color photos and graduation details of others who might be added to the showcase [pictured below].

Principal Thomas Karczewski implemented the program to encourage underclassmen to see that "You Can Get There from Here."



BFHS Library Center Of Teen Read Week

The Library was the place to be during Teen Read Week at BFHS. Coordinated by Librarian Millie Arnett, the event had students and faculty reading to each other, with their classmates, or on their own.

A wall of readers reading was displayed on the Library inner window, and readers were eligible to enter contests with prizes as incentive to participate in the week-long event.



Has a teacher made a difference in your life?

BBF is participating again in the Teacher Excellence Center's "Teacher Recognition Program" which will honor 107 top teachers in southwestern Pennsylvania.

On November 1, nominations forms were made available in all BBF schools, OR you can nominate your favorite teacher at www.teacherpa.com Deadline is December 31, 2007

Identifies Needs, Provides Individualized Instruction

District Offers Variety of Educational Support for All Students

The Big Beaver Falls Area School District offers a full continuum of special education programs and services to all students eligible for such services.

Special education programs and services are available for eligible children from three years of age to school entry age and may be requested by contacting either the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit at 724-774-7800 OR Mrs. Jane Bovalino, BBF Assistant to the Superintendent, at 724-843-3420, extension 1213.

Services for eligible students of school entry age through 21 years of age may also be requested by contacting Mrs. Bovalino.

Special Education programs available include services for eligible students who are identified as:

- Mentally Retarded
- Learning Disabled
- Autistic/Pervasive Developmental Disorder
- Visually impaired
- Hearing impaired
- Mentally Gifted
- Multi-handicapped
- Neurologically Impaired
- Physically Impaired
- Seriously Emotionally Disturbed
- Speech and Language Impaired

The Big Beaver Falls Area School District conducts ongoing identification activities to de-

termine if students are in need of special education services.

The Big Beaver Falls Area School District operates the following special support programs for eligible students:

- Learning Support
- Emotional Support
- Gifted Support
- Life Skills Support
- Autistic Support
- Speech and Language Impaired

If qualified, preschool age children may obtain support services. On behalf of the Big Beaver Falls Area School District, the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit provides the following support services for eligible children of preschool age:

- Developmentally Delayed [Preschool and Kindergarten only]
- Speech/Language Support
- Visually/Hearing Impaired Support
- Emotional Support
- Life Skills Support
- Physical Support
- Autistic Support
- Multi-Handicapped Support

In addition, the Beaver County Head Start operates classes in the Big Beaver Falls Area School District. For more information about this program, residents may contact either Mrs. Bovalino or the Head Start Office at 724-375-2300.

The Big Beaver Falls Area School District has an ongoing screening process to identify students in need of special support services and specially designed instruction. The screening is conducted in each building [elementary, middle, and high school] beginning in May of each year with kindergarten screening and continuing in September with review of all group achievement and ability test results. Individual screening as needed takes place throughout the remainder of the school year.

Parents or guardians may request their child be screened or evaluated for special education services. Requests for screening or evaluation

should be made in writing to Mrs. Sharon Milovich, BBF School District Psychologist.

All information collected as part of an individual student referral or evaluation is treated in a confidential manner and does not become a part of the student's permanent record file. A written policy regarding confidentiality of student records is available for review by contacting the building counselor, the building principal, or Mrs. Bovalino.

Printed information regarding available special education services and programs and parents' rights as they pertain to special education is also available in the office of each building principal.

For answers to specific questions about special education services, the screening or evaluation process, or any other information, please dial 724-843-3420, extension 1213.

Early Intervention

The goal of early intervention is to prevent or improve the effects of the child's disability before entry into school. These services may be delivered in a classroom setting, at home, or a combination of both. The duration of the program, in terms of hours per week, varies according to the individual need of the child and his/her family.

Early Intervention Programs are provided for children of ages three to five years. The need for early intervention services must be in one of the following areas:

- Physical
- Sensory
- Cognitive
- Language and Speech
- Social-emotional
- Self-help

Services must be provided by qualified personnel. The Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit provides early intervention for the children in the Big Beaver Falls Area School District.

Surrogate Parents

The School District has the responsibility of developing a surrogate parent program for school-age handicapped children residing in the Big Beaver Falls Area School District.

The District must provide a surrogate parent for any handicapped student who is either a ward of the State or whose parent or guardian is unknown or unavailable. The surrogate parent acts in place of the parent in matters concerning the student's educational programs and/or services. The role of the surrogate parent is voluntary, and training is provided regarding the surrogate parent's responsibilities.

Homeless Children

McKinney Homeless Act Public Law 103-382, Subtitle B Education for Homeless children and Youth, Sec. 722 [d] [2]

The main goal of the Children's Initiative is "to provide activities and services for such homeless children, including preschool-aged children and homeless youth, that enable these children to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school, or, if appropriate, preschool programs."

Guidelines from U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Education for Homeless Children and Youth State Plan has this homeless definition: Children living with parent in a domestic violence shelter; individuals and/or families living with relatives or friends due to lack of housing; runaway children and children and youth who have been abandoned or forced out of their home by parents or other caretakers; children or migrant families who lack adequate housing; and school-age unwed mothers or expectant mothers living in houses for unwed mothers, if they have no other available living accommodations.

Big Beaver Falls Area School District

School Directors

- Ron Miller, President
- Gene Marx, Vice President
- Isabelle Gill, Treasurer
- Terri McCutcheon, Secretary
- Todd Allen
- Richard Attisano
- Allen Bozic
- Cynthia Cook
- John Ginand
- Andrews & Price, LLP, Solicitors

Administration

- Donna Nugent Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
- Jane Bovalino Ed.D.
Assistant to the Superintendent
- Thomas Karczewski
High School Principal
- Brad Diamond
Assistant High School Principal
- Thomas House II
Middle School Principal
- Mary Beth Leeman
Assistant Middle School Principal
- Linda Edel
Central Elementary School Principal
- Valarie Williams
Big Beaver Elementary School Principal
- Joan Smith
Business Manager
- Robert Pelaia
Director of Physical Plant
- Rodney Bobin
Technology Director

In accordance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504, Big Beaver Falls Area School District is an equal opportunity educational entity committed to ensuring a learning and/or working environment free of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices.

Applies to All Students and District Employees

BBF Reaffirms Compliance with Title IX Rights

In compliance with the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Big Beaver Falls Area School District has provided the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, with documentation which affirms its policy of ensuring that all pupils, support employees, professional employees, and administrative employees should enjoy a learning and/or working environment free from all forms of discrimination, including sexual harassment.

According to Mrs. Jane Bovalino, BBF Assistant to the Superintendent, the District's statement of nondiscrimination, as well as its Title IX Grievance Procedure for dealing with "Complaints of Sex Discrimination," has been accepted by the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Office.

The BBF Grievance Procedure involves the following steps:

1- Any student, employee, or visitor who feels he/she is a victim of sexual harassment should contact the Superintendent of Schools as soon as possible after the incident occurs. If the incident is reported to an intermediary party, that intermediary party must immediately contact the superintendent.

Within three days of the initial report, the complainant must submit a written, signed statement describing the incident and complaint.

2- The Superintendent will then notify the person named as the perpetrator of alleged sexual harassment, provide the basis of the

complaint, and request a written response to the allegations within seven days.

3- The Superintendent will carry out a thorough factual investigation, including interviews with all those with relevant information, particularly the complainant and the person accused.

4- With the District solicitor's counsel, the Superintendent will draft a confidential summary of the complaint to the Board of School Directors and recommend a course of action for their consideration. The complainant and the person[s] charged with sexual harassment will be notified

by the Superintendent of the Board's decision.

5- If it is determined that sexual harassment has occurred, disciplinary action appropriate to the offense will be taken.

6- Reporting a sexual harassment incident after 10 days of its occurrence or failing to submit a written complaint within three days of a verbal report will seriously impair the District's ability to deal with the incident successfully.

The full text of the District's Title IX Compliance documents are available in the Superintendent's Office at 1503 Eighth Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.

FITNESS CENTER OPEN TO PUBLIC

The High School's high-tech Fitness Center is open to the public Monday through Thursday, from 2:45 to 7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6 to 7 a.m.

Cost to use the extensive array of fitness equipment is only \$20 per

month.

The Center is also open on Saturday from 10 a. m. to noon.

The Water Aerobics program is not available this year.

Anyone with interest in or questions about the Fitness Center should contact:

Josh Maruca at
724-843-3420, Ex. 1781