

You're Invited to the Berkshire Local Schools Grand Opening on August 9th

By John Stoddard, Superintendent, Berkshire Local Schools



Outside the New School



1-2 Grade Castle

Well, we're at the finish line with the construction of our new \$51 million school project. I'd like to personally invite you to join us for our ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 9, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the North parking lot of our new school in front of the high school and middle school entrance.

Over a decade in the making, this was a huge undertaking, and we couldn't be more excited to share the new campus with you.

An old African proverb states, "it takes a village to raise a child," and that's so true in our community. We've had so many people and organizations help us get to where we are today.

I want to thank our Board of Education, Beth McCaffery (our Treasurer), all of our voters who approved the bond issue, and our PRIME Committee members who put in countless hours of work to make this dream a reality.

When I was selected as Superintendent, I was both humbled and honored, but I also knew we had a lot of work to do together. This week marks not only the completion of the campus but also a new beginning, which I believe will change education in our district.

As educators and parents, we now have a new path forward, which I believe will positively impact future generations of students for years to come.



State-of-the-Art Auditorium



Middle School Pirate Ship



3-4 Grade Treehouse

allows our students to earn a living wage, have access to quality health care benefits, and the opportunity for advancement in their chosen field. Our goal is to offer many different paths for our students to achieve the American Dream, as we recognize that there is no "one-way" for them to pursue this.

We're very excited to share our additional learning tracks, including the ability for students to enroll in more College Credit Plus courses, both in our new facility and outside our new facility. This provides a faster route to earning college credits while still in high school. As a result, our high school students have the opportunity to achieve the equivalent of an Associate's Degree while still in high school, reducing the financial burden of college for our families.

As stated before, the path to success comes in many different shapes and sizes. That's why we have introduced a new healthcare path (in partnership with Kent State University and University Hospitals), so students can also enroll in classes to prepare for medical jobs including, but not limited to, nursing.

Our new diesel mechanics (medium to heavy truck technician) offerings, in partnership with Auburn Career Center, provide a direct path to high-wage trade jobs. Our students still have access to the many opportunities offered by joining the Auburn Career Center on their campus as well.

Our new campus also includes a new athletic facility, due in part to a \$2x million donation from Great Lakes Cheese, one of the country's premier manufacturers and packagers of cheese, as well as donations from many other generous donors.

"Our concept for a school is truly unique. We're bringing everyone together in one new campus building"

The concept behind our maker spaces and Innovation Labs[®] ties in perfectly with our project-based learning approach. We want our learners to understand how the ideas we teach work instead of just memorizing and repeating facts. It's a far more integrated, comprehensive approach to bringing multiple disciplines into play, much like the real-world works.

It also helps to develop the skills that today's employers want, such as problem-solving, collaboration, presentation skills, and thinking of ways to create innovative solutions to current and future problems.

Our other crucial partners include the Geauga Growth Partnership, the KeyBank Foundation, Envision Education, PBL Works, the Auburn Career Center, Kent State University, and the Ohio Facilities and Construction Commission. We couldn't have completed this massive project without their support.

Ultimately, what I'm most impressed with is how everyone came together for the common good of educating our next generation of students. This collaboration is a shining example of what we can do together. In the end, this will help us achieve our mission of maximizing our students' potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

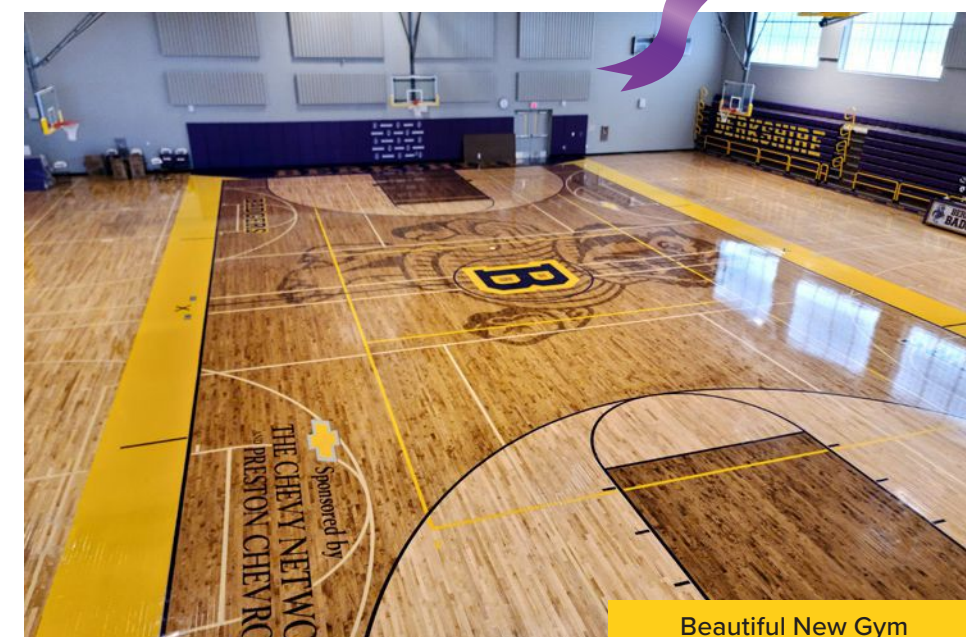
I hope to see you on the evening of August 9th.

With gratitude,

John Stoddard
Superintendent
Berkshire
Local Schools



Kindergarten Log Cabin



Beautiful New Gym

"...these unique spaces help foster creativity while working perfectly with our project-based learning approach."

Our concept for a school is truly unique. We're bringing everyone together in one new campus building, with three distinct wings for Pre-K/elementary, middle school, and high school, a large central cafeteria common

area, a new state-of-the-art auditorium, and multiple gyms. Through our partnership with Kent State University, we have a 99-year lease to create a seamless educational path, whether that means going to college, learning a trade, joining the military, or starting a new business. As a result of this project, our students will have more opportunities to pursue the American Dream. We have defined the American Dream as leading to a career which