



BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Q&A: What to know about the Capital Project

On Monday, November 10, district residents will vote to approve a \$5.142 million capital project to replace the roofs of the elementary and secondary schools. In the northeast, the expected lifespan of a roof, considering local weather conditions, typically ranges from 15 to 20 years.

Currently, our elementary and secondary roofs are well beyond their extended lifespan of 30 years.

Why is the district choosing this project for the school community?

Over the past several years, our facilities team has worked diligently to extend the life of the roof. Unfortunately, it is no longer financially sensible to continue to patch the roof and repair damage caused by outside elements. A complete renovation is required to improve infrastructure and building integrity. In addition, structural concerns with the roof were identified by architects completing a Building Conditions Survey. This survey is completed, by regulation, every five to ten years. Information gathered from that survey highlighted an immediate need to address this issue.

Will the capital project receive state aid?

Yes, this capital project will receive state aid upon completion. The district will receive over 79% in building aid, which will help alleviate the financial impact on the community. If approved by voters, construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, with completion expected by September 2026. The district is selecting this timetable for the project to ensure competitive bids in the best financial interest of our community.

What benefits does this project offer our community?

At BKW, we have strengthened resources for all students, from creating a learning campus focused on Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities to improved learning spaces and a campus that engages students from our youngest students to graduating seniors. As our campus grows with opportunities, so does the responsibility to ensure our investments stay safe and sound while delivering the educational experiences we've come to learn and enjoy. This capital project will enable the school district to keep our resources protected for years to come.

How can we continue to stay updated?

We encourage our community to stay up-to-date on capital project details through our social media channels, weekly Superintendent Updates (Parent Square), and by visiting our capital project web page that's highlighted at the top of our homepage (www.bkwschools.org).



Everyone loves to learn at BKW! From reading books and writing to being creative in the classroom, the learning never stops!

CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE

As a reminder, the capital project vote will take place on **Monday, November 10**, in the elementary cafeteria.

Voting hours will run from **7 a.m. to 9 p.m.**



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BKW winter weather schedules and procedures

As we approach the winter months, we'd like to share important information on school delays, cancellations, and additional items related to inclement weather. As always, student health and safety remain top priorities in our district.

The superintendent may choose to close school or delay for inclement weather, hazardous road conditions, or other scenarios. The district's one-hour and two-hour delay procedures are as follows:

If it appears that students cannot be transported safely to school at the usual time in the morning, but that the weather will allow a safe afternoon dismissal, the district may institute a one- or two-hour delay to the start of the school day. When there is a one-hour delay, the bus will arrive one hour later than the usual pickup time. So, if the normal morning pickup time for your student(s) is 7:15 a.m., the bus will arrive one hour after that time at 8:15 a.m. The same principle applies to a two-hour delay.

On mornings when the weather is inclement and road conditions are poor, families will be notified between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. if:

- School is running on a **1-hour delay**
- School is running on a **2-hour delay** (*delayed decision on closing by 7 a.m.*)
- **Schools are closed**

Unless otherwise announced, if the district is closed, all events hosted in the buildings would also be canceled for the day.

Please note that weather-related announcements are made on local TV stations, on our website, and through ParentSquare. Please ensure that your contact information is updated within our system and that you are receiving Parent Square communications from the district.

As a reminder, school districts across New York State must be in session for a minimum of 180 days. As a district, it is imperative that we satisfy this requirement and receive 100% of our state funding to support everything we provide to our students.

BKW students gaining experience as school board members

Each year, high school students approach their future pathways in various ways. From Career and Technical Education programs, internships with locally owned businesses, career fairs, AP courses and more - our students are taking unique journeys to learn more about employment opportunities, careers, and leadership positions.

Recently, the New York State Education Department and the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) held an in-person event that highlighted the importance of student empowerment in education, specifically serving on school boards.

"We are thankful to have students who are engaged and willing to learn how our Board of Education works in the best interest of our students and the community," shared Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Kane. "This opportunity showcases their ability to lend clarity for our board members and allows them to participate at a leadership level within our school community. We are excited to hear their voice in representation of our student body."

This year, BKW students Charlotte Elble (Junior) and Emma Detlefsen (Senior) were joined by their fellow colleagues, both virtually and in person, to understand how their impact will be felt as leaders within their respective Board of Education. Students were introduced to remarks from Board of Regents Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr., New York State Education Department Commissioner Betty A. Rosa, and NYSSBA's Jay Worona. Each speaker addressed the importance of the student voice in today's educational environment and public school statewide initiatives.



BKW Secondary School students Charlotte Elble and Emma Detlefsen (seen right) recently attended an in-person event hosted by the New York State Education Department and the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) on the importance of student empowerment in education, specifically serving on school boards.



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hitting all the right keys!

BKW senior and piano aficionado Philip Latham is bringing his love for music to the district and beyond. Philip started his interest in playing music in the fifth grade. At 11 years old, he began to teach himself the piano. To play the piano requires dedication, composure, and devoted practice sessions to improve your craft. Since then, he's become a multi-instrumentalist player having introduced guitar, bass guitar, and taking on vocals for his band Rosegold. You can catch the band on Spotify. They are currently working on a seven-song album.

For the last three years, he has been participating in the Woodstock Rock Academy (think of School of Rock) in Woodstock, where he delivers live performances with students from around the region and performs live shows in Woodstock, Saugerties, and Hudson.

At BKW, Philip lends his musical talents to concerts and solo performances. We were lucky to sit down with Philip and ask him some questions in between gigs, recording, and schoolwork.

Why did you start to learn the piano?

It kind of just happened. My sister had an old keyboard, and I took it over once she went to college. I found myself playing away and then started following some YouTube videos and added formal lessons to what I had developed when teaching myself.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I want to go to school for environmental science at Rutgers University. I'm also definitely going to keep pursuing music and having it be a part of my life. Music is a sporadic industry, but it will play a role in my life.

What music influences you?

My favorite musician is Stevie Wonder. Everything he does makes me a fan. I also enjoy soul music, especially Marvin Gaye and Al Green.

How has BKW changed you?

My teachers have always encouraged me. Additionally, the district provided me with an outlet to show me what I could do musically. I really enjoy getting to play at the concerts for the community to showcase my interests.



AROUND CAMPUS

You never know what you'll run into on our campus. From fun and games to learning new things in the classroom, or just plain having a blast – the BKW experience is a special one!



2024-25

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

FALL 2025

BERNE – KNOX – WESTERLO

www.bkwschools.org



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

District adds AED for campus safety

The district recently received an Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) from Zoll Medical, through a partnership with Coro Medical | AED.US. This donation is part of a national year-long initiative to provide one free AED to school districts. AEDs play a central role in allowing qualified staff to increase the survival rate of individuals suffering from a sudden cardiac arrest. The donated AED was delivered by Zoll Medical Senior Channel Partner Manager and BKW parent Matthew Monroe.

This year, Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill into law, known as Desha's Law, that requires New York State public schools to implement cardiac emergency report plans to accompany their yearly school safety plans on school campuses. As a result of this law, all districts in New York State are required to have a comprehensive cardiac emergency plan in place by Dec. 21, 2025.

ParentSquare: Stay in touch with BKW

ParentSquare is the main communications system for the district to engage with our school community. Please monitor your mailbox for district communications and continue to keep updated on district and building news through Parent Square. If you're unaware of the Parent Square platform and do not currently have an account, please visit our district website and click the ParentSquare icon under the "Connect" section. Stay connected and be a part of the Bulldog conversation!



Stay connected!

At BKW, we're excited to showcase all the programs and services that allow our students to succeed in the classroom, on the stage or on the field! Stay up to date on the BKW conversation by visiting our Facebook and Instagram accounts and learn more about what's happening on our campus! 3-2-1, GO!



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