

Insight on Education

By Superintendent Nick Carter, Ed.D

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.."–*Nelson Mandela*

Schools serve as the heart and soul of our rural communities. Events like fall festivals, band concerts, and football games are opportunities for us to come together in unified support for one another. Providing a strong and positive educational environment for our Breckinridge County children is a priority in the community. In order to do that, we must continually invest in the facilities our students utilize. The Breckinridge County School District has invested heavily in facilities over the years. Renovation projects took place at Ben Johnson Elementary School in 2009, Custer Elementary School and the Breckinridge County Area Technology Center in 2012, and construction of a multipurpose indoor Athletic Facility in 2014. A new Irvington Elementary School opened in 2017, and the new Hardinsburg Elementary School welcomed students in 2019. Another renovation project took place at the Breckinridge County Area Technology Center in 2020, which provided additional opportunities for students to acquire career and technical education skills. Last summer, the school district updated lighting and water controls throughout the school district while replacing the heating and air system at Breckinridge County High School. Solar energy was installed at Irvington Elementary School and Hardinsburg Elementary School. A renovation project is in the process at Breckinridge County High School in an effort to upgrade sound systems, bathrooms, the auditorium, the library, the roof, and security. In addition, the school district is constructing an on campus athletic complex that will include baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, and practice soccer and football fields.

The School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) of Kentucky informed our school district on June 2, 2021, that an additional offer of assistance of almost \$14.7 million dollars had been authorized for the renovation of Breckinridge County Middle School. Our current middle school was constructed in 1965 and is in need of a renovation that includes roof, electrical, plumbing, and security updates. In addition, the school needs remodeling work completed to help enhance 21st century learning for students. The upgrades that will take place at the middle school will greatly benefit our Breckinridge County children for many years to

come. Every child has a right to attend school in the best facilities possible. The generosity and support of the Breckinridge County community is providing a better future for our children.

School closures during the COVID-19 Pandemic reinforced the importance and value of education in our lives. All of us in the Breckinridge County community have a better understanding of the importance of schools. Schools provide academic, social, and emotional support to our children daily. In addition, they help unite us as a local community in support of our children and their futures. The future of our great county is bright thanks in large part to the generous support of so many in Breckinridge County. Stay strong, Breckinridge!