

Buford Elementary

Yellow Jackets

Our demographics

School principal: Sandra Jones-Izzard **Years at school:** 18 **In district:** 31 **In education:** 31

Grades served: PreK – 5 **Enrollment:** 792 **Economic status:** 52% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 88.4% White, 8% African-American, 2% Hispanic, 1.6% Other

Number of teachers: 41 **Classified:** 13 **Administrators:** 2 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialists:** 1

Other: Nurse, Instructional Facilitator, AmeriCorps Tutors-3, Speech Therapist

Teachers with advanced degrees: 58% **Teacher attendance:** 95.6% **Student attendance:** 95.6%

Our mission

The mission of Buford Elementary School is as easy as **ABC**:

A – Achieve your goals.

B – Believe in yourself and your ability.

C – Challenge yourself to be the best that you can be.

Our facilities

Date main building was built: 2002 **Date of renovations:** N/A

Square feet: 100,000 **Number of computers:** 225 **Number of classrooms:** 46

Specialty areas: 2 computer labs, multipurpose room, LEAP Lab, self-contained class, broadcast room

Our school programs

- **Language Enrichment and Acceleration Program (LEAP)** – LEAP provides an early intervention, enrichment and acceleration program for kindergarten and first grade students. A certified Reading Recovery teacher, classroom teachers and trained instructional assistants assess students and provide leveled ability small group instruction.
- **Super Reader** – The program encourages students in all grade levels to read by providing incentives and special events each six weeks.
- **RIT Time** – Based on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores, students are divided according to RIT range and receive small group, intensive instruction. This extra help is designed to better prepare students for PACT.
- **School-within-a-School Discovery Program** – The Discovery Program provides instruction to a diverse population of students in a unique learning environment with special emphasis on academic innovation and flexibility while encouraging students to excel in one or more areas of intelligence and promoting professional development opportunities for educators.

- **SCORE (Stop Classwork Our School Is Reading Everywhere)** – This time is designated for school-wide self-selected reading.
- **Wee Read** – Through the Wee Read Program, we extend our focus on reading to include recently born siblings. A book is presented to the family of students with new siblings and also to babies of staff members.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Fifth Grade Chorus** – The chorus provides a wonderful opportunity for approximately 45-55 students. Since it is an auditioned group, the students are serious about working, learning, and performing to the best of their ability. The chorus performs several times during the year, including the county-wide choral festival.
- **WBES Morning News** – Morning news is broadcast live at the beginning of the school day each morning. The news is produced by students. Each grade level is designated a time in which they are responsible for the morning program. Math problem of the day, weather, lunch menu, and other school news are highlighted. This provides an opportunity to enhance students' communication skills.
- **Homework Center, Before- & After-school Programs** – These programs provide academic assistance Monday through Friday.

Our parents/parent support programs

- **SIC** – Through an active School Improvement Council (SIC), we are able to provide two family nights per grade level each year. SIC members help with the scheduling of the events and the preparation of the meals.
- **PTO** – The Parent Teacher Organization supports the school through at least two major fundraisers each year. In the fall, a traditional sale of items is held. Spring Fling is the second event and is open to the community. Both are widely supported by our families and area businesses.
- **Volunteer Program** – Throughout the year, Discovery parents volunteer 30 hours or more per family, a required component of the program.
- **Family Involvement** – Parents are given numerous opportunities to volunteer throughout the year during field trips, Super Reader events, Career Week and other special occasions.

Our school strengths

- **Language Enrichment and Acceleration Program (LEAP)**
- **Super Reader and Wee Read Programs**

- **Interactive electronic SMARTBoards** – Incorporated as an instructional tool.
- **Student Recognition** – Students are recognized for academics as well as for exhibiting good citizenship and character traits. Programs such as Principal’s Pals, Terrific Kids, Buford’s Best, and Honor Roll are examples of these student recognitions.
- **Service Learning Projects** – Students, with support of parents and the community, actively implement a number of outreach programs. Our students collect food for H.O.P.E., make cards for the elderly and veterans and raise funds for American Cancer Society and KLS Foundation.
- **Community Support** – PTO, School Improvement Council, parent volunteers, business partners are examples of our community support.

Our honors & awards

- Lancaster County School Board Trustees Awards
- Grants – A number of staff members have received the EIA grant, J. Marion Sims Foundation Teachers’ PET Grant and Learn and Serve Grant to implement programs and/or provide supplemental materials to enrich the curriculum activities in their classroom.
- 2005 Red Carpet Award
- Met AYP