

Buford Elementary

Yellow Jackets

Our demographics

School principal: Andrea Ribelin **Began at school:** 2012 **In district:** 2000 **In education:** 2000

Grades served: PreK – 5 **Enrollment:** 767 **Economic status:** 57.6% free & reduced lunch

Diversity: 87% White, 9% African-American, 2% Hispanic, 2% Other

Number of teachers: 39 **Classified:** 11 **Administrators:** 3 **Counselors:** 2 **Media specialist:** 1

Other: Nurse, Instructional Facilitator, Speech Therapist

Teachers with advanced degrees: 71% **Teacher attendance:** 96% **Student attendance:** 96.3%

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:** 233 **Number of classrooms:** 46

Specialty areas: 2 computer labs, multipurpose room, Math Lab, self-contained class, broadcast room, mobile iPadcast

Our school programs

- **Literacy Inclusion To Meet The Needs of Kids Every Day (LINKED)** – LINKED provides an early intervention, enrichment and acceleration program for all students. A certified Reading Recovery teacher, classroom teachers and trained instructional assistants assess students and provide leveled ability small group instruction in grades K-5.
- **Accelerated Reader** – The program encourages students in all grade levels to read by providing incentives and special events. Students read and then take a computerized assessment to ensure reading comprehension. AR promotes accountability and also prepares students for middle and high school, where AR is also used as an instructional tool.
- **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.
- **Math TIME (Targeted Instruction In Math Everyday)** – This is a math block where students receive math instruction based on MAP and PASS data as well as grade-level assessments.

- **Early Education Family Night Program** – Training session for incoming kindergarten parents to support parent education in the area of providing literacy-based and math activities at home, to acquaint parents and students with school programs and services, to provide information on transitioning to school and to explain involvement activities.

Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Fifth-Grade Chorus** – The chorus provides a wonderful opportunity for approximately 45-55 students. Since this 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 throughout our school at the beginning of each day. The news is produced by students using Apple technology. Guest students are chosen to share classroom highlights. Trivia, weather, lunch menu, and other school news are reported. This provides an opportunity to enhance students' communication skills.
- **Homework Center, Before- & After-school Programs** – These programs provide academic assistance Monday through Friday. Each session is designed to provide “prescriptive” instruction based on MAP, PASS and classroom assessments in writing, reading comprehension and math.

Our parents/parent support programs

- **SIC** – School Improvement Council (SIC) members help with the scheduling of events and the preparation of the meals for family nights.
- **PTO** – The Parent Teacher Organization supports the school through fundraisers each year. In the fall, a traditional sale of items is held. A Boosterthon Fun Run is held in January. This two-week character-building program raises money through sponsorships of laps run by individual students. Every child participates in the Fun Run regardless of money sponsored. This fundraiser is designed to build community and a sense of collaboration among all. Spring Fling at BES is bigger and better than ever! This family fun day incorporates business vendors, yummy food items and lots of mega inflatables for everyone to enjoy. BES is fortunate to have the support of 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, events, Career Week and other special occasions.

Our school strengths

- **Acceleration Reader Program**
- **Interactive electronic SMARTBoards** – Incorporated as an instructional tool.
- **Early Education Family Night Program** – Family night provided in the spring for incoming kindergarten families.
- **Student Recognition** – Students are recognized for academics as well as for exhibiting good citizenship and character traits. Programs such as Principal’s Pals, 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. and Jackie’s Place. Students make cards for the elderly and veterans and raise funds for American Cancer Society, KLS Foundation and Seth’s Hope.
- **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
- Designated as a Title 1 Reward School for Performance – among the highest performing Title 1 schools in a given year
- Recipient of the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Program for General Performance for 2011-12 and 2012-13
- An “A” rating on the 2012 Elementary and Secondary Education Act Federal Accountability Rating System
- Recipient of 45 iPad teacher PET grants from J. Marion Sims Foundation (2013-14 school year)
- Recipient of 30 iPad carts from LCSD (2013-14 school year)