

# 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:** 726      **Economic status:** 56% free & reduced lunch  
**Diversity:** 89% White, 6% African-American, 3% Hispanic, 2% Other  
**Number of teachers:** 40      **Classified:** 13      **Administrators:** 3      **Counselors:** 2      **Media specialist:** 1  
**Other:** Nurse, Instructional Facilitator, Speech Therapist, G/T  
**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 59%      **Teacher attendance:** 97%      **Student attendance:** 95%

## Our vision

We at Buford Elementary are a community of self-motivated, confident leaders who empower our stakeholders to the highest level of accountability. We accomplish this by modeling and living the 7 habits, establishing goals and acknowledging and celebrating our accomplishments.

## Our mission

Everybody counts, every moment matters.

## 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, 1:1 chromebooks for grades 1-5

## Our school programs

- **Leader in Me School** – Each member of our school family shares their leadership by living Stephen Covey’s 7 + 1 Habits, which include: Habit 1 – Be Proactive; Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind; Habit 3 – Put First Things First; Habit 4 – Think Win-Win; Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood; Habit 6 – Synergize; Habit 7 – Sharpen the Saw; Habit 8 – Find Your Voice and Help Others Find Theirs.
- **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.
- **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.
- **LLI (Leveled Literacy Instruction)** – This reading intervention provides students reading instruction on their readiness level.

- **SPIRE** – This research-based reading intervention provides explicit instruction in phonological awareness, word building, decoding, reading, spelling and dictation.

### Our co-curriculum, clubs, athletics

- **Leadership Positions** – Students have leadership positions in the classroom and apply for schoolwide leadership roles. Students are interviewed and hired for roles that support authentic leadership experience including school photographers, tutors, tour guides, gardeners and many more.
- **Leader in Me Clubs** – Each faculty member sponsors a club. Students choose their clubs based on their interests. Clubs include Trash to Treasure, STEM, puzzles, board games, wacky science, arts and crafts, fishing, yoga and many more. Our clubs provide students the opportunity to get to know another caring adult in our school family.
- **Fifth-Grade Chorus** – The chorus provides a wonderful opportunity for approximately 40 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 and our fifth-grade promotion ceremony.
- **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. Inspirational leadership stories, quotes, trivia, weather, lunch menu, and other school news are reported. This provides an opportunity to enhance students’ communication skills and support leadership.
- **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, SCREADY and classroom assessments in writing, reading comprehension and math.
- **Leader in Me Clubs** – Each faculty member sponsors a club. Students choose their club based on their interests. Clubs include trash to treasure, STEM, puzzles, board games, wacky science, arts and crafts, fishing, YOGA and many more. Our clubs provide students the opportunity to get to know another caring adult in our school family.
- **iLEAD**
- **Student Lighthouse Team**
- **Camp Spectacular** – Summer program that provides childcare as well as academic learning each day based on each child’s MAP scores in ELA 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 catalog sale 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, while supporting leadership. BES is fortunate to have the support of our families, our community churches and area businesses.
- **Family Involvement** – Parents are given numerous opportunities to volunteer throughout the year during field trips, school events and celebrations, Career Week and other special occasions.

### Our school strengths

- **Leader in Me**  
**Student *Habit* Recognition** – Students are recognized for academics as well as for exhibiting one or more of the seven habits.
- **Schoolwide W.I.G.s (Wildly Important Goals)**
- **Leadership Day** – A day that showcases student leadership in our building.
- **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 and care bags for the elderly for Lancaster County Council on Aging, make thank-you cards for veterans and raise money for the American Cancer Society and Seth’s Hope.
- **Community Support** – PTO, School Improvement Council, parent volunteers, community churches, business partners are examples of our community support.
- **Acceleration Reader Program**
- **1:1 Technology** – for grades 1-5
- **1:2 Technology** – for kindergarten

### 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
- **LIM School** 2017, 2018
- **Leader in Me** School
  - Habit 1 – Be Proactive
  - Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind
  - Habit 3 – Put First Things First
  - Habit 4 – Think Win-Win
  - Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood
  - Habit 6 – Synergize
  - Habit 7 – Sharpen the Saw
  - Habit 8 – Find Your Voice and Help Others Find Theirs
- **No Place for Hate** award – A self-directed program helping stakeholders take the lead on improving and maintaining school climate so all students can thrive.