

# Buford Elementary

Yellow Jackets

## Our demographics

**School principal:** Jill Nelson      **Began at school:** 2022      **In district:** 2009      **In education:** 2005  
**Grades served:** PreK – 5      **Enrollment:** 728      **Economic status:** 56% free & reduced lunch  
**Diversity:** 88% White, 6% African-American, 1% Hispanic, 5% Other  
**Number of teachers:** 40      **Classified:** 13      **Administrators:** 3      **Counselors:** 2      **Media specialist:** 1  
**Other:** Nurse, Speech Therapist, G/T, Reading Coach, Math/Instructional Technology Coach  
**Teachers with advanced degrees:** 63%      **Teacher attendance:** 97%      **Student attendance:** 96%

## 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:** computer lab, multipurpose room, math lab, STEAM lab, self-contained class, broadcast room, 1:1 chromebooks for all grades 1-5, counseling classroom

## Our school programs

- **Leader in Me Lighthouse 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. The LIM Lighthouse School title is awarded by Franklin Covey to honor the attainment of a well-rounded leadership model. Lighthouse Schools serve as models of leadership and mentors to other schools.
  - **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 school wide 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 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** – iLead is a leadership development program for our 4th and 5th grade students. The purpose of iLead is to allow students to learn about leadership qualities, connect with their peers in a positive setting, and model leadership behaviors to other students. Community service, self-discipline, and integrity are key concepts the students learn while engaging in the iLead program. Throughout this program, students have the opportunity to complete service projects at school and at home. The goal of iLead is to encourage leadership development in all students and create a positive culture at school, home, and in our community.
- **Leadership, Lunch and Learn** – Students share virtually with their parents how they are growing as leaders and learners.
- **Student Lighthouse Team**
- **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 out 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, motivational quotes, trivia, weather, and other school news are reported. This provides an opportunity to enhance students’ communication skills and support leadership.
- **Homework Center, After-school Programs** – These programs provide academic assistance Monday through Friday. Each session is designed to provide “prescriptive” instruction based on MAP, CASE, SCREADY 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.
- **Parent Lighthouse Team** – Serves as our Parent Teacher Organization and supports the school through fundraisers each year. In the fall, a traditional catalog sale is held. A Boosterthon Fun Run is held in the spring. 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, Vehicle Day, Career Week and other special occasions.
- **Leader In Me Family Challenge** – Our Leader In Me Family Challenge is a program that integrates the Leader In Me Habits at home. The purpose of this challenge is to encourage time spent together, create a stronger family unit, and deepen the understanding of the 7+1 Habits. This program allows for our students, the experts on Leader In Me, to teach their families the Habits through 20 weekly activities they will complete together. The goal of the challenge is to provide meaningful learning experiences regarding the 7+1 Habits, as well as carving out 600 minutes for families to learn about each other on a deeper level.

### Our school strengths

- **Leader in Me Lighthouse School** – The Lighthouse Certification is a highly regarded standard set by Franklin Covey. The certification is evidence that schools have produced outstanding results in school and student outcomes, by implementing the process with fidelity and excellence.
- **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)** – Students set academic goals to work toward using the lead measures that work for them.
- **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** – Parent Lighthouse Team, School Improvement Council, parent volunteers, community churches, business partners are examples of our community support.

- **1:1 Technology** – for all students grades 4K-5<sup>th</sup> grades

### 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, 2019, 2020, 2021
  - **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
- **LIM Lighthouse** Award 2020
- **No Place for Hate** award 2020, 2021 – A self-directed program helping stakeholders take the lead on improving and maintaining school climate so all students can thrive. A focus on leadership and service learning is a part of our *No Place for Hate* focus.