

SPRING 2026



# Wildcat News

To educate all learners to reach their potential as productive citizens

## A Message From Our Superintendent, Mr. Lynn Halverson

First, and most importantly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Blair-Taylor Community for your continued support of the operational referendum. Your support allows the District to maintain valuable experiences and opportunities for our students, attract and retain high-quality staff, and provide both extensive academic and employability skill development opportunities across a variety of career pathways. It also means a great deal to our staff to know they have the unwavering support of their Community. Thank you—I am incredibly proud to be part of such a supportive and dedicated Community.

Our commitment moving forward remains the same: to maintain and enhance opportunities and experiences for our students. Over the years, it has been truly rewarding to watch our students grow academically, socially, and personally. Our students and families continue to represent Blair-Taylor in ways that make us all proud.

Finally, congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026. We are proud of all you have accomplished and encourage you to take pride in your time at Blair-Taylor. Please remember that you will always have a place here, and we look forward to seeing all that you achieve in the future. Best of luck with all of your future endeavors!

Sincerely,  
Lynn Halverson  
Superintendent

### WALL OF INSPIRATION

Blair-Taylor School District is accepting nominations for our Wall of Inspiration. This recognition honors individuals—past or present—who have made a meaningful impact through service, leadership, character, and contributions to others within the Blair-Taylor community.

#### Nomination Criteria:

- Nominees may be living or deceased
- Must be a past or present resident of the Blair-Taylor School District
- Do not need to be a graduate of Blair-Taylor School District
- All nominations must be submitted in writing (no verbal nominations accepted)
- Multiple nominations may be submitted
- Self-nominations are not permitted

Nomination forms are available in the elementary, middle/high school, and district offices, or may be completed through the online [Google Form](#).

# From the desk of Mrs. Lisowski



**Mrs. Beth Lisowski**  
MS/HS Principal  
lisowb@btsd.k12.wi.us

## **WRAPPING UP THE SCHOOL YEAR ON A POSITIVE NOTE**

As we move into the final weeks of the school year, it is a great time to reflect on all that has been accomplished throughout the year at Blair-Taylor Middle/High School. Spring is always a busy and exciting season, filled with important academic milestones, extracurricular events, celebrations, and opportunities for our students to shine. It is also a time to encourage everyone to finish strong and take pride in ending the year on a positive note.

We continue to remind our students that every day matters. Strong attendance, continued effort in the classroom, and a positive attitude are all important as we approach the end of the school year. Whether students are preparing for final projects, state assessments, spring activities, or graduation, we encourage them to stay focused and make the most of every opportunity.

As we look back on this school year, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Blair-Taylor community for the incredible support you provide our students, staff, and school. Our success is made possible through the strong partnership we share with our families and community members. Your encouragement, involvement, and pride in our school make a meaningful difference every day.

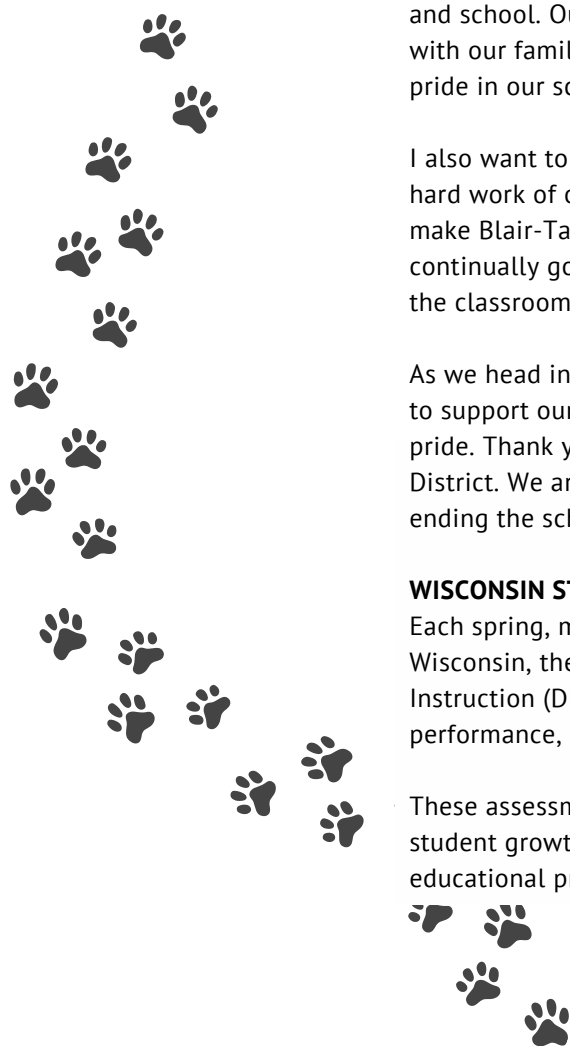
I also want to recognize and thank our outstanding staff. The dedication, care, and hard work of our teachers, support staff, coaches, advisors, and all employees help make Blair-Taylor a special place for students to learn and grow. Our staff continually goes above and beyond to support students both inside and outside of the classroom, and I am truly grateful for the commitment they show each day.

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, let's continue to work together to support our students, celebrate their accomplishments, and finish the year with pride. Thank you for being such an important part of the Blair-Taylor School District. We are proud of all that has been achieved this year and look forward to ending the school year strong.

## **WISCONSIN STATE EXAMS**

Each spring, many of our students participate in required state assessments. In Wisconsin, these assessments are mandated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and serve an important role in measuring student learning, school performance, and progress toward state academic standards.

These assessments provide valuable information that helps schools evaluate student growth, guide instructional practices, and make informed decisions about educational programs and resources.



Students in grades 6, 7, 8, and 10 will take the Wisconsin Forward Exam. This assessment is administered online and includes the following subject areas:

- **Grades 6–8:** English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- **Grade 8:** Science
- **Grades 8 and 10:** Social Studies

Freshmen and sophomores will take the PreACT Secure online assessment. This assessment is aligned with the ACT and the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. It measures student learning in:

- **English**
- **Reading**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**

Juniors will take the ACT with Writing, which includes:

- **English**
- **Reading**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Writing**



While the ACT is often associated with college admissions, it can also be used for scholarship opportunities, course placement, career readiness, and other postsecondary planning purposes. Because of this, it is important for all students to take the assessment seriously and do their very best, as the results may help support a variety of future opportunities.

### **STATE MANDATES AND COMPLIANCE**

State testing is not only an important tool for understanding student progress, but it is also required by both state and federal law. Wisconsin public schools are required to administer statewide assessments to all enrolled students in the designated grade levels as part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System. The information gathered helps schools measure student growth, identify areas of strength and need, and meet accountability requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). In addition, student participation is an important part of school and district accountability, which is why we encourage all students to be present, prepared, and to do their very best.

### **SUPPORTING STUDENTS BEYOND THE TEST**

While state assessments are important, they are only one measure of student learning and just one part of a student's overall educational journey. These tests provide useful information, but they do not define a child's abilities, potential, or future success.

We encourage students to approach testing with a positive mindset, do their best, get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school ready to focus. Small steps like being well-rested, arriving on time, and giving their best effort can make a big difference.

Most importantly, we want our students to know that effort matters. We are proud of the hard work, perseverance, and growth they demonstrate throughout the school year—not just on testing days. Our teachers and staff are committed to creating a calm, supportive environment and helping students feel confident and prepared.

Families also play an important role in making testing a positive experience. Your encouragement, reassurance, and support at home help students feel ready to succeed. Together, we can help our students approach these assessments with confidence and show what they know.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

We are excited to announce that the Blair-Taylor High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in the MS/HS gymnasium.

Graduation is a meaningful milestone and a time for our school community to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of the Class of 2026. This special day marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of many new opportunities for our seniors as they prepare for college, careers, military service, and other future pathways.

In addition, the Baccalaureate Service will be held on Sunday, May 17th at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Senior Awards Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. These events provide an opportunity to recognize the achievements, character, and contributions of our graduating seniors. All seniors and their families are warmly invited to attend as we honor this important stage in their journey.

We are incredibly proud of our seniors and all they have accomplished during their time at Blair-Taylor. We look forward to celebrating these milestone moments with our graduates, their families, and our school community.



# Upcoming District Events:

- April 17 Middle School Dance  
Kindergarten - Donuts with Dad
- April 22 Middle School / High School Parent Teacher Conferences  
Middle School STEAM Fair
- April 24 No School / Teacher Inservice
- April 25 Prom
- April 30 Elementary Student of the Month
- May 1 Elementary Agriculture Day
- May 2 State Solo & Ensemble
- May 4 Middle School / High School Choir Concert
- May 4-8 Educator Appreciation Week
- May 7 ELC Mom and Music Event
- May 11 Middle School / High School Band Concert
- May 17 Baccalaureate & Senior Award Night
- May 20 Senior Trip
- May 23 High School Graduation
- May 25 No School / Memorial Day
- May 29 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert
- June 2 Kindergarten Graduation
- June 3 Last Student Day

# From the desk of Mr. McCutchen

## EXCITING SUMMER SCHOOL OFFERINGS!

We are thrilled to announce that our Summer School Program will take place from **June 15–26, 2026!** Over 120 students in kindergarten through fifth grade have already registered, and we are excited to provide such a fun and enriching opportunity.

During these two weeks, students will participate in a wide variety of engaging activities, including daily art projects, outdoor games, cooking experiences, and math and reading enrichment. We are also bringing in local guest speakers to inspire our students, and each Friday will feature a field trip to exciting destinations like Perrot Park. This program is a wonderful way for students to stay active, connected, and learning throughout the summer!

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Each month, we proudly recognize 15–20 students as our *Students of the Month*. These students are selected for demonstrating the *Wildcat Way*—being safe, respectful, responsible, and honest throughout the school day.

In addition, students earn this recognition by embracing our *Word of the Month*. Throughout the year, we highlight important character traits during our daily announcements, such as empathy, joy, perseverance, gratitude, and a growth mindset. We are incredibly proud of our students and love celebrating their achievements!

## STAFF APPRECIATION

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring staff supporting our students each day. **Paraprofessional Appreciation Day** will be celebrated on **April 1**, and **Educator Appreciation Week** will take place **May 4–8**.

If you know a staff member who has made a difference, these are great opportunities to show your appreciation. Our school community is stronger because of the incredible people who serve our students!

## End of the School Year & Field Trips

It's hard to believe, but the end of the school year is quickly approaching! Spring is a great time to celebrate all the hard work our students have put in, and one of the best ways to do that is through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

We are excited for the upcoming field trips across grade levels:

- **Kindergarten** will visit a local farm
- **2nd Grade** will explore the Beaver Creek Reserve
- **3rd Grade** will enjoy their annual La Crosse Queen riverboat trip
- **4th Grade** will visit the Wisconsin State Capitol after studying our state
- **5th Grade** will travel to the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul

These experiences bring learning to life in ways that students will remember for years to come!



**Mr. Jared McCutchen**  
Elementary Principal  
mccutjar@btsd.k12.wi.us

# TITLE I Reading Corner



**Mrs. Cassie Hammond**

Reading Coach/Interventionist  
hammc@btsd.k12.wi.us



**Mrs. Kris Smith**

Reading Interventionist  
smitk@btsd.k12.wi.us

## **SPRING LITERACY UPDATE**

### **Wrapping Up Our 2025 to 2026 Literacy Journey**

As we wrap up the school year, we are proud to share an update on our literacy work. This year our school fully implemented Wisconsin Act 20, which strengthens early literacy using the Science of Reading. This research-based approach focuses on phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension to help every student become a confident reader.

## **LITERACY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR**

### **Universal Screening**

- All K through Grade 3 students were screened three times this year to monitor reading growth and identify students who may need additional support.

### **Personalized Reading Plans (PRPs)**

- Students needing additional support received individualized reading plans targeting specific reading skills.

### **Science-Based Instruction/Evidence-Based Practices**

- Teachers used systematic, explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, and word study to align our literacy instruction with science-based reading practices.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026 TO 2027**

Next year our literacy team will continue strengthening reading instruction by focusing on:

- Continuing strong structured literacy instruction
- Aligning comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and writing across grade levels
- Expanding classroom sound walls with morphology and syllable walls
- Maintaining consistent literacy practices across classrooms

## **KEEP READING STRONG THIS SUMMER**

To help maintain reading growth over the summer:

- Read together regularly
- Practice rhyming and sound activities
- Visit the library
- Encourage both fiction and nonfiction reading
- Talk about what your child is reading

Even a few minutes of reading each day helps build strong literacy skills. Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's reading journey. Together we are building strong readers and lifelong learners.

# Summa Cum Laude

## CLASS OF 2026

Blair-Taylor High School is proud to recognize eight seniors from the Class of 2026 who have earned Summa Cum Laude honors, the highest distinction within our laude system. This achievement reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence.

Students earn laude points by successfully completing advanced coursework while also maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Achieving Summa Cum Laude status represents years of dedication, perseverance, and a willingness to challenge oneself academically.

We congratulate these outstanding students on this accomplishment and look forward to seeing the great things they accomplish in the future.

*Students are listed in alphabetical order by last name.*

### SAMANTHA AGUILAR



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

BUSINESS

### KATERINA BARCZAK



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
RIVER FALLS

HORTICULTURE

### ANDI BECK



WINONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

NURSING

### LANDONN DAFFINSON



CHIPPEWA VALLEY  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
DENTAL HYGIENIST PROGRAM

**BEN  
KIDD**



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
LA-CROSSE**

**ACCOUNTING**

**KELSEY  
LIEN**



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
RIVER FALLS**

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

**KOLE  
TRAPP**



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
RIVER FALLS**

**EXERCISE & SPORTS SCIENCE**

**ANDREA  
WALDERA**



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
LA-CROSSE**

**PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY**



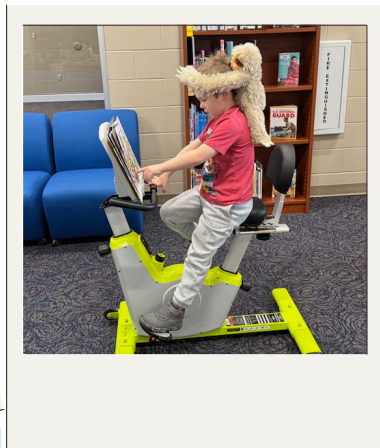
# LIBRARY MATTERS with Mrs. McNamer



School Library Month is a great time to recognize how important school libraries are for students and learning. School libraries provide access to books, technology, and reliable information that help students grow academically and personally. They encourage a love of reading, support research and critical thinking skills, and give students a safe and welcoming space to explore new ideas. Librarians also play an important role by helping students find information, discover new books, and learn how to use resources responsibly. Celebrating School Library Month reminds us to appreciate these valuable resources and the people who make them possible.



**Mrs. Kris McNamer**  
District Librarian  
mcmamk@btsd.k12.wi.us



## OVERNIGHT OATMEAL

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup rolled oats (uncooked, old fashioned)
- 1 cup yogurt (low-fat)
- 1 cup milk (nonfat or 1%)
- 1 cup berries (fresh or frozen)
- 1 cup apple (chopped [about 1/3 medium apple, 3" diameter])

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, mix oats, yogurt and milk.
2. Add the fruit now or add just before eating.
3. Cover and refrigerate oatmeal mixture for 6-12 hours. For grab-and-go breakfasts, place scoops of mixture in small dishes or spoon into small containers with lids.
4. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.





U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

## Tips for Bringing Nutrition into Your Home



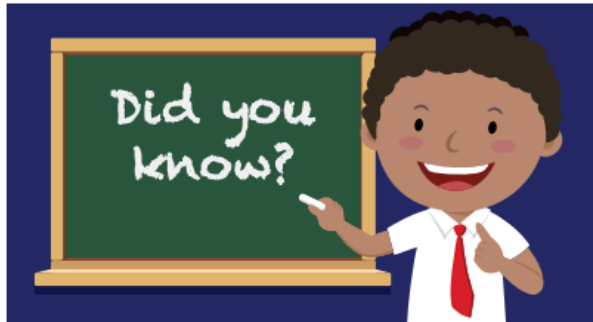
When making meals at home, choose foods from the five food groups (fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy) to build healthy meals that meet your calorie and nutrient needs.

Plan your weekly meals. Aim for variety to include the five food groups throughout the day.

- Use the MyPlate Plan to help you plan your meals throughout the week:  
<https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-plan>



Remember, when it comes to healthy eating and nutrition, small changes add up.



Family meals are a great way to spend time together and try out new, healthy recipes. If it's not possible for your family to eat together at home regularly, make time to cook together on the weekend or share an afternoon snack.

Preparing a healthy meal at home can be easy and fun. Try these tips:

- If possible, prepare ingredients in advance of cooking. For example, chop vegetables and refrigerate them until you are ready to use them.
- Buy frozen (without butter, sauce, or added seasoning) and low-sodium or no-salt-added canned vegetables to ensure that you always have some basic ingredients on hand.
- Try baking, broiling, grilling, or steaming instead of frying.
- Cook with herbs, spices, lemon juice, or no-salt seasonings, which add flavor without adding sodium.
- Prepare extra servings of a favorite, healthy dish to eat throughout the week. Making leftovers part of your plan can save time.
- Start collecting simple, healthy recipes. Organize them online or in a file box or binder. Visit <https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-kitchen/recipes> for new recipes, cookbooks, and more healthy cooking resources.
- Keep food safety in mind and check out food safety “do’s and don’t’s” on food shopping, storing, and meal prep. Visit <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-safety-your-kitchen>.

**FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**  
**Food Safe Shopping & Storage**  
 March 2018

Following these tips when buying and storing food can help prevent foodborne illness

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Keep produce separate from meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs in shopping carts and bags	Choose meat, poultry, or seafood in damaged or leaking packaging
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Place meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs in plastic bags at checkout	Buy eggs with cracked shells or damaged cartons
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Keep produce and other ready-to-eat foods in a separate area of the refrigerator from meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs	Remove eggs from carton or keep them in the refrigerator door
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Refrigerate food within 2 hours of grocery shopping, or 1 hour if kept in air temperatures above 90 °F	Place raw meat, poultry, or seafood on upper shelves of the refrigerator where they can drip onto other foods

**FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**  
**Food Safe Meal Prep**  
 March 2018

Following these tips when cooking and chilling leftovers can help prevent foodborne illness

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before preparing food	Wash meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Rinse whole fruits and vegetables under running water and dry with a clean cloth, paper towel, or salad spinner	Use soap or detergent on foods
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Wash utensils that have touched uncooked meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, or flour before using them with any food that will be eaten raw	Allow raw meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, or flour to touch any food that will be eaten raw
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
Clean cooking surfaces and utensils with hot, soapy water after every use	Reuse plates or cutting boards that have touched uncooked meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, or flour unless you wash them first with hot, soapy water

During Trimester 2, middle school students in Mrs. Matzke's cooking class had the opportunity to prepare a wide variety of meals while building important life skills. Throughout the trimester, students practiced meal planning, created grocery lists, converted measurements, and participated in discussions on kitchen and food safety. Highlights included 6th and 7th graders hosting a festive "Mingle & Jingle" holiday party for parents, creating delicious Valentine's Day goodies, and preparing both breakfast and lunch at school. Students even surprised Mrs. Matzke with birthday treats! Hats off to our newest middle school chefs for their hard work, creativity, and growing confidence in the kitchen!



## From the desk of Mrs. Slenczka

Finding the Magic in Middle School by Chris Balme highlights the unique opportunities and challenges that occur during the middle school years. Balme explains that early adolescence is a time when students are trying to understand who they are, how they connect with others, and how they can contribute to the world around them. While these years can sometimes feel confusing or emotional, they are also filled with potential for growth, independence, and self-discovery. The book encourages parents to shift from directing every decision to guiding their child as they learn to navigate increasing independence. Strong relationships with trusted adults help middle schoolers feel secure while they explore new ideas, friendships, and interests. Balme emphasizes that when families focus on belonging, encouragement, and open communication, students are more likely to develop confidence and resilience.

### Ways Parents Can Support Their Middle School Child

- Encourage **independence and responsibility** by allowing your child to make age-appropriate decisions.
- Maintain **open communication** by listening and creating a safe space for your child to share thoughts and feelings.
- Support **healthy friendships** and help your child learn how to navigate social situations and conflicts.
- Focus on **growth beyond grades**, encouraging activities that build interests, confidence, and skills.
- Involve your child in **family discussions and responsibilities** so they feel valued and capable.
- Model **positive behavior, problem-solving, and resilience** in everyday situations.



# Music News

## SECOND TRIMESTER ELECTIVES: CLASS PIANO & CLASS HANDBELLS

Second trimester brought exciting opportunities for 6th grade students to grow musically through two engaging elective offerings: class piano and class handbells. These hands-on classes provided creativity, collaboration, and confidence-building in a supportive environment.

The class piano elective introduced students to the fundamentals of piano playing. Using digital keyboards, students learned proper hand position, note reading, rhythm counting, and basic music theory – all while playing real songs from the very first weeks. Students presented their piano recital at Friendship First Community Center on January 15.

The class handbell elective offered a unique and collaborative ensemble experience. In this course, each student is responsible for specific bells and works together with classmates to perform full musical pieces. Handbells require focus and cooperation – every note matters!

Students developed listening skills and learned how their individual part fits into the larger musical structure. Students presented their piano recital at Friendship First Community Center on February 24.

**UPCOMING music events**

- May 2nd  
*State Solo and Ensemble*
- May 4th  
*MS/HS Choir Concert*
- May 11th  
*MS/HS Band Concert*
- May 29th  
*3rd-5th Grade Spring Concert*
- June 2nd  
*Kindergarten Graduation*

### **FBLA STUDENTS SHINE AT REGIONAL COMPETITION**

Students from our school district recently showcased their skills and professionalism at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Region 1 Regional Competition, held with strong participation from across the area.

A total of 15 students represented our district, competing in a variety of business- and career-focused events that tested their knowledge, problem-solving abilities, and leadership skills. Their hard work and preparation paid off, as 7 students qualified to advance to the FBLA State Competition later this year.

Region 1 proved to be highly competitive, with 37 school districts represented and 598 students in attendance, in addition to students who completed testing earlier. This impressive turnout highlights the high level of talent and dedication among FBLA members throughout the region.

We are incredibly proud of all our FBLA students for their commitment, professionalism, and willingness to challenge themselves at this level of competition. Advancing to State is a significant achievement, and we look forward to cheering on our qualifiers as they continue to represent our district with excellence.

Congratulations to all FBLA participants, and best of luck to our State competitors!

### **LETTERMEN CLUB HONORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN ACADEMICS, ARTS, AND ATHLETICS**

The Blair-Taylor High School Lettermen Club proudly recognizes the dedication, talent, and perseverance of students who have earned a varsity letter in music, academics, and athletics. This distinguished honor represents countless hours of practice, preparation, and commitment both in and out of the classroom.

Traditionally associated with athletic achievement, the Lettermen Club at our high school celebrates excellence across multiple areas. Students who earn a letter in sports demonstrate teamwork, discipline, and competitive spirit. Those who letter in music showcase creativity, performance excellence, and dedication to their craft. Academic letter recipients exemplify scholarship, leadership, and a commitment to achieving their highest potential.

Membership in the organization is more than a recognition of accomplishment—it is a responsibility. Students are encouraged to serve as positive role models within the school and community. Whether on the field, on the stage, or in the classroom, students are expected to represent the school with pride and integrity.

The club also emphasizes the importance of sportsmanship and school spirit. Members are encouraged to attend athletic events and activities throughout the year, supporting their peers and promoting a positive, respectful atmosphere. Cheering on fellow students, demonstrating respect for opponents and officials, and modeling appropriate behavior are central to the club's mission.

The Lettermen Club continues to be a proud tradition, celebrating student achievement while reinforcing the values of character, leadership, and community pride. "Congratulations to all students who have earned this distinguished honor. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and you continue to make our school proud."





# FORENSICS

Forensics is an extracurricular activity centered on public speaking, performance, and communication. Students select from a variety of categories—ranging from informative and persuasive speeches to interpretive reading events—and work to develop strong presentation skills, confidence, and critical thinking. Throughout the season, students practice writing, revising, and performing their pieces while also learning how to engage an audience and respond effectively in competitive settings. It is an activity that challenges students to grow both academically and personally, encouraging creativity, discipline, and poise.

Our forensics team has been hard at work preparing for competition season, and the program continues to grow each year. This season, we are proud to have 22 students competing in events such as expository speaking, group interpretive reading, impromptu speaking, Farrago, storytelling, poetry reading, and special occasion speaking. Their dedication paid off at subdistricts, held at CFC, where all 22 students advanced to the district level—an impressive accomplishment that reflects their preparation and commitment. Districts will take place on Saturday, March 21st, and students who advance will have the opportunity to compete at the state tournament at the University of Wisconsin–Madison on April 17th.

This year, the forensics program introduced updated scoring criteria, increasing the level of precision and skill required to advance through each round. Despite these added challenges, our students have risen to the occasion, continuing to refine their performances and support one another as a team. We are hopeful and excited to see multiple students advance through districts and on to state, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work and growth demonstrated by every member of the team.

Participating students include the following:

- Sam Aguilar
  - Autumn Amundson
  - Madelyn Beaman
  - Kayli Benedict
  - Ayden Bluem
  - Jadrean Borreson
  - Julia Brown
  - Jasmine Gomez
  - Alexa Hanson
  - Emma Hanson
  - Noelle Heiden
  - Ruby Herried
  - Alexandria Jorgenson
  - Landon Livick
  - Chloe Medenblik
  - Avery Peterson
  - Quinn Peterson
  - Amelia Schrock
  - Gretchen Schultz
  - Jaeda Seidel
  - Ethan Sweno
  - Alyssa Tubbs
- 

# ¡PURA VIDA!

Wildcats Travel to Costa Rica!



During Spring Break, the Blair-Taylor Spanish Club had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Costa Rica for a nine-day adventure. The goal of the (Spanish) world language classroom is to connect language with culture and provide opportunities to learn other cultures' unique practices and perspectives. There is only so much that can be done within the confines of the classroom, therefore this trip provided the unique opportunity to not only learn about culture but become completely immersed in it.

While in Costa Rica, students took chances and got outside of their comfort zone. Between the new foods and the adventurous activities, each day was a unique opportunity to experience something new.

On our first two full days in Costa Rica, students traveled to a village on the east coast only accessible by boat or plane. We tried Caribbean food and went on a boat tour of Tortuguero National Park, a 77,000+ acre rainforest reserve. There, we saw a lot of unique wildlife including dolphins, monkeys, turtles, lizards, and a variety of birds such as toucans and macaws.

The following three days were in the north-central mountainous part of the country. We were able to go ziplining, whitewater rafting, kayak, hike down to a waterfall, go on a chocolate tour, and go swimming in hot springs that were geothermically heated (by volcanoes). Our students loved the thrill of whitewater rafting and the tranquility of relaxing in the hot springs.

Our final days of the trip were in the western part of the country. We did another boat tour, seeing more unique animals. We also went snorkeling and swimming in the Pacific Ocean and walked across hanging bridges in the dry forest. On one of the final nights, we witnessed the most beautiful sunset atop our mountain resort.

This trip was truly the adventure of a lifetime and an unforgettable experience. Each student showed immeasurable growth through this experience, and as a teacher, that is one of the most amazing things to witness and a huge reason why we provide these opportunities.



### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWS**

Blair-Taylor is proud to announce the induction of 10 outstanding students into our chapter of the National Honor Society. These students were selected based on the four pillars that define NHS membership: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors a high school student can receive. Students are recognized not only for their academic achievements, but also for their commitment to serving others, demonstrating leadership within the school and community, and consistently displaying strong character.

Our newest inductees have shown dedication both inside and outside the classroom. They are involved in athletics, activities, community service, and leadership opportunities throughout the school. Their commitment to excellence and their willingness to contribute positively to our school community make them truly deserving of this recognition.

We congratulate these students on this achievement and look forward to the continued impact they will have on our school and community. We are proud of their accomplishments and excited to see the great things they will continue to do in the future.

Congratulations to our newest members of the Blair-Taylor National Honor Society!

Elizavetta Curran  
MaryJane Flynn  
Alexandria Jorgenson  
Lilly Kupietz  
Addison Lejcher  
Avery Peterson  
Kole Trapp  
Beau Trapp  
Alyssa Tubbs  
Emma Wathke



### **BLAIR-TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL GOLF**

The Blair-Taylor High School golf team is teeing off its second season, and excitement is building among players, coaches, and the community. After a successful first year establishing the program as well as sending Kyle Jahr to sectionals. This season brings new energy, growing experience, and a stronger sense of team identity. With returning players ready to improve and new golfers eager to learn, the program continues to build a solid foundation for the future.

One of the biggest changes this season is the team's move to Etrick Golf Course. This new home course offers a fresh challenge for the players, with its unique layout, varying terrain, and well-kept greens. Practicing and competing at Etrick will give the team opportunities to develop new skills and adapt their game, which will be key to their growth throughout the season.

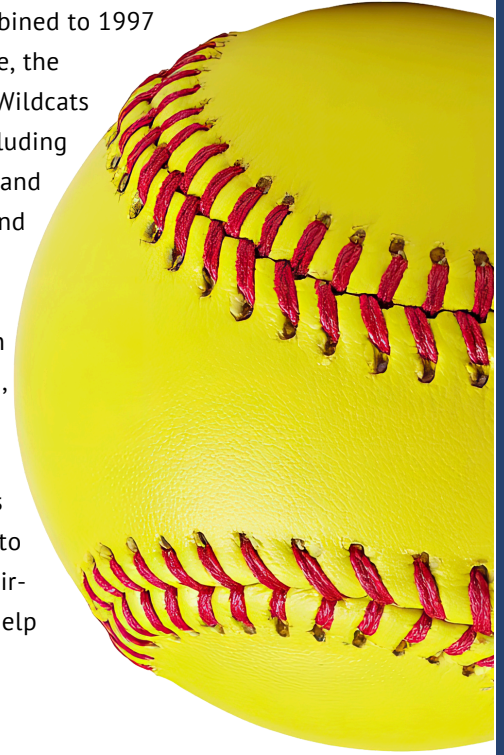
Looking ahead, the outlook for the Blair-Taylor golf team is full of promise. With a year of experience behind them, returning players are more confident and prepared to compete. The team's focus this season will be on improving consistency, lowering scores, and building strong teamwork on and off the course. Most importantly, the players are committed to representing their school with pride and sportsmanship.

As the season gets underway, the Blair-Taylor community has plenty to be excited about. With dedication, hard work, and a love for the game, this second season is shaping up to be a successful one for the Blair-Taylor Wildcats 2026 Golf Team.

## **BLAIR-TAYLOR SOFTBALL**

As the 2026 softball season approaches, this year's team knows that Blair-Taylor has a long and proud softball tradition. Since the two towns of Blair and Taylor combined, the softball teams have not just been a power in the Dairyland Conference, but is also respected in the state of Wisconsin. There has been only 2 coaches in the history of Blair-Taylor, Angie Hong was the coach when the schools combined to 1997 then Greg Bratina took over and has been the coach ever since. During this time, the Wildcats have won 10 Dairyland Conference titles and from 2018 to 2024, the Wildcats won 83 straight conference games. Blair-Taylor has won 13 Regional Titles including the last 8 in a row. They have made it to State 4 times and placed 2nd in 2017 and 2019. Blair-Taylor has produced many great players with 22 All-State players and 28 Senior All-Stars.

As we look forward to this season, the girls know that there is a certain pride in keeping this softball tradition strong in Blair-Taylor as they put a lot of work in, not just during the season, but outside the season as well as no one wants to let the players that came before them down. Also the girls and coaches know that this success is because of the strong support they receive from the communities of Blair and Taylor. So thank you to everyone who follows the team by coming to games, listening to radio, following the team's Facebook and work with the Blair-Taylor Youth Softball as this would not be possible without all that you do to help keep the Blair-Taylor Softball Tradition strong and proud.



## **Sports News with Coach Storlie**

We had a very successful and exciting Winter sport season and would like to thank the coaches, fans and parents for all their support of our programs. The Wrestling squad had a solid season, and we had three girls advance to the Sectionals in Stevens Point. The Boys' Basketball team finished 2nd in the Small Dairyland conference race. Our Girls' Basketball squad finished as Conference champions and made it to the Regional Final game.

We had CJ Dummer from our Boys' Basketball squad be named "Player of the Year" in the Conference. Congrats to him and the other individuals who made all-conference teams in this winter season.

Spring sports have started, and we are excited for them to get their seasons and events underway. We will again be hosting the Softball Sectional Final early June, plus we will be hosting three Track events in early May. We invite you to come on out and enjoy not only the events, but the efforts that our coaches and students put in. As always, "It is a great day to be a Wildcat!"



**Coach Randy Storlie**

Athletic Director  
storlr@btsd.k12.wi.us

## Blair-Taylor Spring Sport Schedule as of March 29th

Please remember that spring sports are scheduled to change due to weather conditions. So please check with the school, or your child's coaches, if activities are still on when the weather becomes questionable.

### Baseball 2026

All conference games to start at 5:00 pm  
Bus

<b>March 31</b>	<b>Immanuel</b>	
April 2	at Lincoln	3:00 pm
<b>April 6</b>	<b>McDonnell</b>	
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Alma-Pepin</b>	
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Fall Creek - No JV</b>	
April 10	at Augusta	2:45 pm
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Stanley-Boyd</b>	
April 14	at Osseo-Fairchild	3:15 pm
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Eleva-Strum</b>	
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	
April 23	at GET	3:15 pm
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Whitehall</b>	
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Caledonia - No JV</b>	
April 28	at Indee	3:30 pm
May 1	at Pepin	2:15 pm
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Melrose-Mindoro</b>	
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Arcadia</b>	
May 8	at Black River Falls	3:15 pm
<b>May 12</b>	<b>CFC</b>	
May 14	at Immanuel	2:45 pm
May 19	at Brookwood	2:30 pm
May 21	at CFC	3:00 pm
May 28	Regional	
June 3-4	Regional	
June 9	Sectional	
June 16	State	

### High School Track 2026

		Bus
March 21	at UWL	6:45 am
April 7	at Bangor	2:00 pm
April 9	at Indee	3:00 pm
April 14	at Brookwood	1:45 pm
April 21	at Luther	2:30 pm
April 23	at Lincoln	2:30 pm
April 27	at Arcadia	2:30 pm
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Blair-Taylor</b>	
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Blair-Taylor</b>	
May 14	at Augusta	2:15 pm
May 21	at Norse Invite	2:45 pm
May 26	Regional	
May 29	Sectional	
June 5-6	State	

### Middle School Track 2026

		Bus
April 14	at CFC	2:15 pm
April 16	at Lincoln	2:45 om
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Blair-Taylor</b>	
May 15	at Whitehall	2:45 pm
May 19	at Eleva-Strum	2:30 pm

### Softball 2026

Bus

<b>March 26</b>	<b>Fall Creek</b>	
March 27	at CFC - No JV	3:00 pm
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Immanuel</b>	
April 2	at Lincoln	3:15 pm
April 6	at Prescott	1:30 pm
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Alma-Pepin</b>	
April 10	at Augusta	3:00 pm
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Loyal - No JV</b>	
April 14	at Osseo-Fairchild	3:15 pm
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Eleva-Strum - No JV</b>	
April 18	JV Tourney	
April 20	Loyal - JV Only	
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	
April 23	at GET	3:25 pm
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Whitehall</b>	
April 27	at Stratford	1:45 pm
April 28	at Indee	3:30 pm
April 30	at BRF	3:20 pm
May 1	at Pepin	2:15 pm
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Melrose-Mindoro - No JV</b>	
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Arcadia</b>	
May 9	at Thorp Tourney	7:00 am
<b>May 12</b>	<b>CFC - No JV</b>	
May 14	at Immanuel	2:45 pm
May 16	at Almond Tourney	6:30 am
May 21	Regional	
May 26-28	Regional	
June 2-4	Sectional	
June 11	State	

### Golf 2026

April 9	at Indee	4:00 pm
April 14	at Indee	4:00 pm
April 20	at Alma	4:00 pm
April 21	at CFC	2:00 pm
April 23	at Osseo	4:00 pm
April 28	at Whitehall	4:00 pm
May 4	at Alma	10:00 am
May 5	at Indee	1:00 pm
May 11	at Eleva	2:00 pm
May 14	at Alma	3:00 pm
May 18	at CFC	12:00 pm
May 26-27	Regional	
June 2-5	Sectional	
June 8-9	State	



### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

[https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf)

[0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# From the Kitchen

### Summer School Meals

Free meals will be offered during the summer school program starting June 15 and will continue through June 26, 2026. All children 18 years of age and younger may receive free meals even if they choose not to enroll in the summer school program.

Breakfast will be served in the elementary commons at 8:00am – 8:20am. Lunch will be served at 11:35am – 12:30pm.

### 2026-27 Meal Prices

	Breakfast*	Lunch**
4K-5	\$1.85	\$2.80
6-12	\$2.05	\$3.20
Milk	\$0.40	

\*Breakfast prices include choice of entree, cheese stick, fresh fruit, juice and milk.

\*\*Lunch prices include main entrée, sides, milk, unlimited fruit/hot vegetable and an All-you-can-eat Salad bar.

### Meal Accommodations and Substitutes

If your child has a special dietary need, a medical form signed by a licensed physician must be on file at the school to make special meal accommodations. Please check with the school nurse if you are unsure if your child has the appropriate documentation on file. For new special dietary needs, Request forms may be obtained from the Blair-Taylor School Website, the school nurse or the nutrition director.



# April 2026 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

As of March 2026. Meal offerings may change.

		Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3
		Long John Craisins Juice / Milk / Cheese	Yogurt Parfait Fruit and Granola Juice / Milk / Cheese	No School
		WG Boneless Wings Garlic Pasta Broccoli w/cheese Grapes Milk	WG Uncrustable OR Ham & Cheese on Bun WG Doritos Cheese Stick Applesauce Craisins Salad Bar Milk	
		Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8
Breakfast	No School	WG Cereal Bar or Nitro Applesauce Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Cinnamon Roll Blueberries Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Breakfast Pizza Orange slices Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch		WG Pizza Dippers Marinara Broccoli Peaches Milk	Sloppy Joe WG Bun Sweet Potato Fries Baked Beans Watermelon WG Bug Bites Milk	WG Popcorn Chicken Orange Sauce Rice/WG Ramen Cali Blend Fortune Cookie Mandarin Oranges Milk
		Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15
Breakfast		WG Banana Bread Apple Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Pancake on a Stick Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Mini Donuts Craisins Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch		Philly Beef Au Gratin Potatoes Cali blend Pineapple Milk	Loaded Nachos Taco Meat WG Tortilla Chips Cheese, salsa, sr cream Corn. Fiesta Beans Tropical fruit Milk	Mac & Cheese WG Pretzel Carrots Strawberry Cup Milk
		Apr 16	Apr 17	
Breakfast		Scrambled Eggs Sausage Links Melon Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Frudel Applesauce Juice / Milk / Cheese	
Lunch		Turkey Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Beans WG Dinner Applesauce Milk	WG Calzone Peas Fruit Medley Pudding Cup Milk	
		Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22
Breakfast		WG Bagel Cream Cheese or Jelly Apple Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Pancakes Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Long John Blueberries Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch		Hot Dog WG Bun Baked Beans Potato Chips Apple slices Milk	WG Chicken Patty WG Bun French Fries Broccoli Peaches Roasted Chickpeas Milk	Chicken Alfredo WG Cavitappi Peas WG Galic Bread Watermelon Milk
		Apr 23	Apr 24	
Breakfast		Cheese Omelet WG Toast Orange slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	No School	
Lunch		Cheeseburger Potato Chips Green Beans WG Mac Salad Pears Milk		
		Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29
Breakfast		WG Waffles Strawberry Cup Juice / Milk / Cheese	Combo Bar WG English Muffin Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Cinnamon Roll Craisins Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch		Pulled Pork WG Bun Curly Fries Baked Beans Coleslaw Grapes Milk	WG Pizza Green Beans Pineapple Fruit Slushie Milk	WG Chicken Nuggets Sweet Potato Waffle Fries Cottage Cheese Corn Fruit Cocktail Milk
		Apr 30		
Breakfast		WG French Toast Bites Grapes Juice / Milk / Cheese		
Lunch		WG Pork patty Scalloped Potatoes Carrots WG Dinner Roll Peaches Milk		

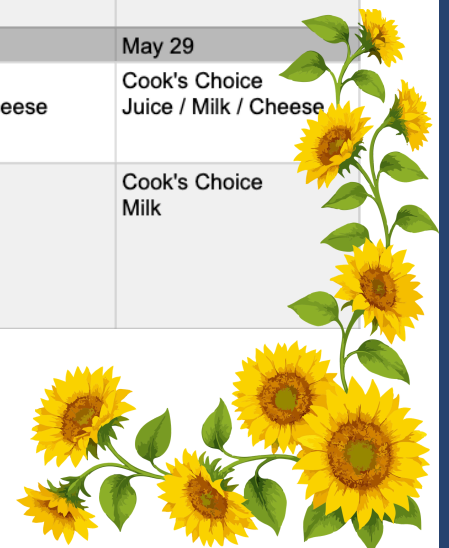




## May 2026 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

*As of March 2026. Meal offerings may change.*

					May 1	
					Combo Bar WG Appleway Bar Apple Sauces Juice / Milk / Cheese	
					Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn WG Dinner roll Tropical Fruit	
		May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8
Breakfast		WG Banana Bread Kiwi Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Pancakes Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Mini Donuts Craisins Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cheese Omelet WG Toast Orange Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese
	Lunch	BBQ Rib WG Bun Potato Wedges Carrots Apple slices Milk	WG Chicken Tenders Deli Roasters WG Crackers Baked Beans Pears Milk	Cook's Choice Milk	WG Ravioli WG Breadstick Broccoli Peaches Milk	WG Cheeseburger Mac Corn WG Dinner roll Watermelon Milk
		May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15
Breakfast		Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese
	Lunch	Cook's Choice Milk	WG Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn WG Dinner roll Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cook's Choice Milk	Meatloaf Au Gratin Potatoes WG Dinner roll Corn Applesauce Milk	Cook's Choice Milk
		May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22
Breakfast		Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese
	Lunch	Cook's Choice Milk	Loaded Nachos Fiesta Beans Corn Salsa/Sr Cream Pineapple Milk	WG Chicken Nuggets French Fries Mixed Vegetables Peaches Craisins Milk	Cavitappi Pasta Red sauce/Meatballs Cali blend WG Garlic Knot Applesauce Milk	Cook's Choice Milk
		May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29
Breakfast		WG Waffles Strawberry Cup Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cook's Choice Juice / Milk / Cheese
	Lunch	Cook's Choice Milk	Cook's Choice Milk	Scrambled eggs Sausage Patty Diced Potatoes WG Appleway Bar Banana Milk	Cheeseburger Potato Chips Baked Beans Apple slices Milk	Cook's Choice Milk



## Summer School Breakfast & Lunch Menu

*As of March 2026. Meal offerings may change.*

	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19
Breakfast	WG Banana Bread Apple Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Waffles Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Mini Donuts Blueberries Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Breakfast Pizza Orange Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Frudel Strawberries Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch	Hot Dog/ Bun Baked Beans Baby Carrots WG Doritos Strawberries Milk	WG Pizza Green Beans Watermelon Fruit Slushie Milk	WG Chicken Tenders French Fries Corn Peaches Milk	WG Mac & Cheese WG Pretzel Broccoli Applesauce Milk	Ham Sandwich or PB&J Veggies Cheese Stick WG Sunchips Apple slices Milk
	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26
Breakfast	Scrambled Eggs Sausage Patty WG Toast Craisins Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Pancakes Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Long John Grapes Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Mini Bagel Kiwi Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG French Toast Bites Melon Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch	Pizza Dippers Marinara Cali Blend Veggies Pears Milk	WG Corn Dog Baked Beans Carrots WG Doritos Pineapple Milk	Sloppy Joe WG Bun Smile Fries Peas Applesauce Milk	WG Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy / Corn WG Dinner Roll Manadrin Oranges Milk	Ham Sandwich or PB&J Veggies Cheese Stick WG Cheetos Applesauce Cup Milk

## August Breakfast & Lunch Menu

*As of March 2026. Meal offerings may change.*

				August 20	August 21
Breakfast				WG Waffles Apple Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Breakfast Pizza Applesauce Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch				WG Pizza Green Beans Peaches Fruit Slushy Milk	Hot Dog and WG Bun Cottage Cheese Baked Beans Potato Chips Fresh Fruit Mix Milk
	August 24	August 25	August 26	August 27	August 28
Breakfast	WG Banana Bread Orange Slices Juice / Milk / Cheese	Cheese Omelet WG Toast Banana Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Mini Cinnis Melon Juice / Milk / Cheese	WG Pancake on a Stick Grapes Juice / Milk / Cheese	Sausage Gravy WG Biscuit Kiwi Juice / Milk / Cheese
Lunch	Meatloaf Au Gratin Potatoes WG Dinner Roll Carrots Applesauce Milk	WG Chicken Tenders Sweet Potato Fries Corn Pears WG Crackers Milk	Sloppy Joe WG Bun Tater Tots Peas Manadrin Oranges Milk	Loaded Nachos Fiesta Beans Corn Salsa/Sour Cream Tropical Fruit Milk	WG Calzone Broccoli Fruit Cocktail WG Crackers Milk
	August 31				
Breakfast	WG Muffin Yogurt Blueberries Juice / Milk / Cheese				
Lunch	BBQ Rib WG Hoagie Bun Potato Wedges Broccoli/ Cheese Apple Slices Milk				

**School District of Blair-Taylor**  
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