

Boyceville Community School District



Leading Today... Developing Excellence for Tomorrow

Boyceville High/Middle School

Principal's Report

September 17, 2025

Submitted: Friday, September 12, 2025

Facilities

The referendum project continues to move forward with minor updates throughout the building. This past week we received our first shipment of classroom furniture, finalizing our upgrades in the sixth grade classrooms as well as the science classroom. It is anticipated that we will receive our "model classroom" furniture during the week of September 15, generating an additional level of excitement amongst students and staff. The preliminary feedback from students is that they enjoy the new furniture - as the chairs are outfitted with "rockers" allowing students to find a safe, non-disruptive manner in which to expend energy.

We continue to appreciate the efforts of our custodial staff as we try to put our building back in working order. From rehanging whiteboards and monitors to painting and discarding outdated materials, Derrick Retz has demonstrated a great deal of responsiveness to our staff as we complete the third week of the 2025-2026 school year.

Climate/Culture

The school year kicked off with grade-level meetings at the high school and a middle school assembly; each of these formats provided students an opportunity to be informed regarding changes that impact our school day. Information about changes to our cellphone policy was shared, attendance expectations were reiterated and well wishes for a successful start (and duration) to the school year were provided.

Our student council has been heavily involved in preparations for Homecoming Week, which culminates with our football game vs. Unity on Friday, September 26. STUCO is advised by Jennifer Bignell and this year an emphasis has been placed on student ownership; the STUCO leadership team - headed by President Will Engel - have already put their mark on events by reorganizing activities and presenting to grade-level meetings, ensuring that we are all moving forward in order to highlight our Bulldog Pride.

Jennifer Engel put together an incredible opportunity for our student body in an effort to honor 9/11. I had the opportunity to attend one of seven sessions that Ms. Engel conducted throughout the course of the day on Thursday, September 11 and was moved by the materials she used and the message that she delivered. From accessing the National 9/11 Museum, to hosting a live Q & A with museum staff, I was honored to be associated with a school community that finds value in honoring the significance of the events surrounding 9/11.

Curriculum & Instruction

We have engaged our students in IXL Benchmark testing; this testing will be administered three times throughout the school year. This first installment will be utilized to create a “ground floor” and the subsequent tests will help us better understand student learning throughout the year. This program provides us an opportunity to generate individualized learning plans, addressing the areas within the test where our students struggle. While outwardly, this may appear as “just one more test” the results that students secured were well received as students have voluntarily shared their successes with me.

Student Health & Safety

We have engaged our students and staff in a number of mandated drills in the first few weeks of school. The following drills are required based on state statute (the dates indicate our implementation).

- **Bus Safety Drill - Wednesday, August 27**

As buses enter the loop near the middle school entrance, students are engaged by their driver about the means by which they can evacuate the bus - from the emergency exit, to the roof hatch, to the “breakaway” windows - students are provided an opportunity to be more aware should an incident require evacuation in a means other than the main entrance. Drivers also share information about first aid supplies, as well as providing a heads up about access to the two-way radios.

The high/middle school teaching staff continues to provide a great resource as all students are exited from the bus prior to the elementary students being reloaded to head to TCE.

- **Tornado Drill - Monday, September 8**

In coordination with the Boyceville Police Department, we conducted a tornado drill complete with the Village’s Emergency Warning System. This drill has provided us with an opportunity to address some of the shortcomings in our plan as we learned about our class sizes and the ability to fit into designated spaces. Appropriate adjustments have been made and will be implemented in the case of any severe weather conditions that we need to respond to.

- **Safety Preparedness Drill - Thursday, September 18**

We will engage our students in a safety preparedness drill in which the focus will be on evacuating the building. In light of a rash of recent tragedies, we are mindful of how these drills may impact our students. An informational letter was sent home Thursday, September 11, encouraging parents to address this drill with their child(ren). Our students and staff will also work on being more situationally aware - developing an understanding of how they can move to safety in any situation.

We are in the planning stages of scheduling all our fire drills as well - coordinating with the Boyceville Police Department to ensure we are working together to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

Technology

We will engage our staff in training for Clevertouch use during our upcoming in-service. While there are varying degrees of comfort using these devices amongst our staff, it is exciting to witness the machines in action. To date, the feedback has been positive and as we learn more about the functionality, I can only assume that our positive feedback will grow.