

# Bridgman Elementary

## Board of Education Report

April 2026

- Angie Cooper, RMS Social Worker, has made it possible to launch our Blessings in a Backpack program for the remainder of 2026 and into the next school year. This meaningful initiative supports students who may not have consistent access to food over the weekend by discreetly providing easy-to-prepare meals. As a result, students return to school on Monday nourished and ready to learn. Beyond meeting a basic need, the program promotes dignity, care, and a strong sense of community for both students and their families. Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors, Blessings in a Backpack will have a lasting and positive impact on the lives of our students.
- Third and fourth grade students will begin taking the M-Step in English Language Arts and Math beginning on April 28, 2026. Scores will be available within 48 hours of testing.
- Progressive 5 and Kindergarten: Thirty-nine enrollment packets have been picked up. All students will be screened in May using the Dial-3 (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) for the recommendation into Pro5 or K.
- The third and fourth grade students attended a field trip to Lake Michigan College, where they enjoyed a performance by the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. This marks the third consecutive year of this enriching experience.
- Misty Yerington's kindergarten class celebrates Awesome Kids Day!



## Science Olympiad by Scott Caudell

It was another successful year for the BES Science Olympiad team! Twenty fourth-grade students participated in this year's squad. Mr. Caudell was incredibly impressed by the dedication, creativity, and outstanding teamwork displayed at every practice. The students represented the school exceptionally well at the countywide Science Olympiad event on Friday, April 10, at Lake Michigan College. Go Bees!

## Counselor's Report by Abby Doig

This month's guidance lessons are centered around the character trait of *cooperation*. Each grade was given different hands-on tasks to practice cooperating with each other and working towards a shared goal. A few examples include, 4th graders had to group up and cooperate with each other to build a pyramid of cups using only a rubber band and string. They could not touch the cups with their hands and had to work together thinking of different techniques they could use to complete their goal. First grade worked in groups to color pieces of a puzzle and then had to cooperate to put the puzzle together. The puzzles came out unique and reflected a story of cooperation that the teachers could hang in their room to remind them that working together makes us better and stronger.

I have been working closely with Emma Hughes to coordinate the 4th grade RMS tour. Each 4th grade class will tour RMS on May 12th, 13th, and 14th. Angie Cooper, Emma and I have also begun the conversations of how we could smoothly transition into 4th grade students who have had social work or counseling services. Since the beginning of the year, I have met with 421 students based on different referral types such as parent, teacher, counselor, or student referrals. I have included the disaggregated data below of referral types. I am working on creating a new referral system for next year to continue making sure all students have access to me.

Count of Referral

