

What is Vibrant Learning and Why Does It Matter?

Educators across Bracken County are talking about vibrant learning, but what does the term mean - and why is it gaining attention in classrooms across the state?

Vibrant learning is defined as “learning that matters to students.” In practical terms, this means learning experiences that are relevant, authentic and joyful, where students are active participants in their own education and where what they learn connects to the world around them.

In vibrant learning environments, students work in partnership with families and communities. They explore topics that reflect their interests, backgrounds and cultural strengths, and they apply what they learn through meaningful projects and personalized outcomes.



Middle school students observe Mr. Powell prepare a recipe, looking forward to sampling the dish.

More Than Just Memorizing Facts

Vibrant learning goes beyond traditional classroom instruction focused on memorization. Instead, it sparks curiosity and engagement, encouraging students to

ask questions and think deeply; honors students’ individual strengths and interests, allowing learning to be shaped by who they are; supports real-world application, where students create, perform, solve problems and dem-

onstrate understanding in creative ways and empowers students as learners, giving them agency and voice in their education.

Mr. Powell’s Classes are Cooking Up Something Good at

BCMS!

In a BCMS health classroom, vibrant learning might look and sound a little different than what many adults remember from their own school days. Instead of simply reading about nutrition in a textbook, students actively practice healthy living skills through hands-on experiences such as meal planning and cooking.

Mr. Powell’s students explore food groups, portion sizes, reading nutrition labels, and understanding how sugar, sodium, and fats affect the body. Rather than memorizing facts alone, they apply this knowledge to real-life scenarios.

Next, students work in small teams to create a healthy meal plan. They might be given a budget, dietary restrictions, or specific nutritional goals

to meet. This encourages problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking. Students compare prices, evaluate ingredients, and justify why their meal choices meet healthy standards.

After planning comes preparation. Students learn safe food-handling techniques, kitchen safety procedures, and basic cooking skills such as measuring, chopping, and following a recipe. Finally, they prepare and cook their meal together.

This type of lesson demonstrates vibrant learning in action - education that is hands-on, meaningful, and directly connected to real life. Students leave not only knowing what healthy eating is, but also how to plan and prepare a nutritious meal themselves - a skill that can last a lifetime. *submitted*

Claypool Art and Writing Contest Winners Named

The Bracken County Conservation District Board Supervisors have announced the district winners of the annual Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest.

The first place art winner is Taylor Elementary student Wylie Jones. Second place is Taylor Elementary student Olivia Buchanan, and third place winner is Taylor Elementary student Addyson Cooke.

The district writing winner is Bracken Coun-



Shown is Rae Turner, Middle School student.

Rae Turner. The Bracken County Conservation District Board Supervisors wish to express their appreciation to all the contestants and the teachers for their wonderful participation in the annual Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest. Bracken County had 239 participants. Congratulations to all the winners, and keep up the great work.



Shown is Wylie Jones.



Pictured left to right are Olivia Buchanan and Addyson Cooke.

Nominate an Educator for the Prichard Committee Outstanding High School Teacher Prize

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is now accepting nominations for a new Outstanding High School Teacher Prize, created by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence to recognize exceptional Kentucky high school educators. The recipient will receive a \$20,000 cash prize, and an additional \$5,000 prize will be granted to the recipi-

ent’s high school.

Once a nomination is submitted, the nominated teacher will be invited to complete a formal application. All nomination and application materials must be completed and received no later than March 31.

Additional information and to access nomination and application forms can be found at prichardcommittee.org.

Bracken Board of Education

Bracken County Board of Education met February 9, 2026. Present: Board Members: Josh Jones, Angie Crawford, Tracy Florer, TJ Burton, and Melissa Takata; Superintendent: Clayton King; Treasurer: Brittany Mullikin; Staff and guest: Brad Riley, Chris Yelton, Kevin Courtney, Cassie Fryman, Savannah Simpson, Andy Bisotti, Lila Brindley, Mariah Carpenter, Sara Blaine, Sara Penrod, Annette Harrison, Lisa Smith, Kaylen Mitchell, Kayonna Johnson, Emerson Fryman, Jasper Smith, Sydney Blaine, Zachary Baker, and Brooklyn Riley.

The February 9, 2026 Bracken County Board of Education Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joshua Jones.

Mr. King announced our new Board member, Samantha Jones, filling the Chatham district position opened by Mrs. Angie Crawford’s retirement. Mrs. Jones comes to the board with over 3 years of SBDM experience.

Items Approved by the Board were: •Minutes of January 12, 2026 regular board meeting and the February 5, 2026 Special Called board meeting; •January 2026 Treasurer’s Report; •January 2026 Monthly Financial Report; •Payment of all Bills and Claims; •Superintendent Travel; •Boys Basketball to Ripley, OH on 2/3/26 for basketball games (pre-approved by Mr. King) Band to Cincinnati Music Hall on 2/25/26 FCS Classes to Jungle Jims on 4/9/26; •2025-2026 Calendar Amendment – this will be communicated to all students, staff, and guardians; •2026-2027 Calendar; •CDIP Report; •FRC/YSC CPP for 2026-2028; •CFR; •Fundraiser Requests – MS to do a Valentine’s Dance for student incentive and shoe drive for Athletics; •Audit Contract; •BG4 beginning the close out process of the HS Concession stand

Items Reviewed by the Board with No Action Taken were: •Students of the Month – Kaylen Mitchell, Kayonna Johnson, Emerson Fryman, Jasper Smith,

Sydney Blaine, and Garrett Wright; •Related Art Student of the Month – Zachary Baker, Brooklyn Riley, and Jakob Hargett; •Attendance Report – Mr. Johnson; •SBDM Report – Mr. Bisotti.

Personnel: The following individuals were hired pending meeting all board requirements: Hired – Lyndsay Elam (Certified Sub), Rebecca Rodda (Certified & Classified Sub), Amber Smith (Classified Sub), Misty Ginandt (Certified Sub), Jacob Hay (Certified Sub), Shelby Hall (Classified Sub), Sara Penrod (Certified & Classified Sub), Chasity Gray (Classified Sub), Debi Crowder (Certified Sub); Separations/Resignations/Retirements – N/A; Other – Laura Reveal to transfer from HS Custodian to TE Custodian, and 1 FMLA request.

The Board opened the floor for public comment – no comment.

The Board went into and out of executive session to discuss Potential Litigation KRS 61.810(1)(c) with no action taken.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Basketball

Lady Bears Named to 10th Region Teams

The 10th Region Girls Basketball Coaches Association announced this year’s selections to the 10th Region All-Region teams.

Named to the 2nd Team was Kailey Sharp – Sophomore Guard, Bracken County; Lilly Ashcraft – Senior Guard, Pendleton County; Amirah Reed – Senior Guard, Mason County; and Teigh Yeast – Senior Guard, George Rogers Clark.

Honorable Mention players were Kyn-dall Johnson, Bracken County; Laci Tackett, Pendleton County; Zoe Brown, Nicholas County; Kyleigh Chestnut, George Rogers Clark; Keylee Custard, Harrison County; Hadley Eviston, Bishop Brossart; and Greylee Kramer, Bishop Brossart. *submitted*

Panthers Fall to Cougars

Submitted by Matt McCane

Last week was a rough week at Augusta, mostly due to sickness throughout the school. Despite having 6 players out, including 4 starters, the Panthers made the trip to Taylor Mill on Tuesday, February 17 to face the Calvary Christian Cougars. Augusta scored the first basket of the game, but the Cougars scored the next 17 of the quarter as the rout was on. Calvary lead 37-16 at the break.

The Panthers played hard throughout the game but never made any kind of dent in the Cougars’ lead. Calvary rolled to the victory, 65-31.

“The odds were really against us tonight,” said Coach Hinson, “It was more about getting guys some minutes. District is next week, we need everyone ready.”

Scoring vs. Calvary Chirstian: Carl 15, Miller 11, Thomas 3, Bach 2.

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PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MENU:
Pancakes w/butter & syrup,
Bacon and Sausage, Eggs,
Coffee, Juice and Milk

AUGUSTA ROTARY CLUB
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Saturday, March 7th
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Augusta School Cafeteria

\$10 PER PERSON
Proceeds help fund charity and community service projects.

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