

A yellow spotlight beam shines down from a dark blue lamp icon at the top center, illuminating the title and the left side of the page.

Spotlight School

Beechwood High

Beechwood Independent

GRADES SERVED: 7-12

Beechwood Independent Schools, located in Fort Mitchell, Ky., serves approximately 1,575 students from preschool through 12th grade. With a single elementary, middle and high school in a connected building, Beechwood Elementary (P-6) and High School (7-12) offers a uniquely aligned P-12 experience. Rooted in tradition, the district has strong community ties, with many families attending for generations and local partnerships enriching student experiences.

Since 1860, Beechwood has built a reputation for academic excellence while balancing tradition with innovation to prepare students for life after high school. About 90% of graduates attend college, and the district consistently ranks among Kentucky's top performers on the ACT and state assessments. Beechwood offers a rigorous curriculum, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual credit and diverse electives, with an AP participation rate over 80%. Both Beechwood Elementary and High School are National Blue Ribbon Schools, and the district has been ranked Kentucky's best by Niche. With a small, close-knit community, students have abundant opportunities for leadership and extracurricular involvement.

DEMOGRAPHICS

14.6% Economically Disadvantaged

6.1% Students with Disabilities

2.6% English Learner Students

PRINCIPAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

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WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL:

- 1.** Why a strong mission and vision for your school is a top priority
- 2.** The importance of community partnerships and their impact on challenge-based learning
- 3.** How to instill leadership in your school staff and students

SERVICES AND STRATEGIES USED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

Beechwood Schools are guided by a strong mission and vision known as "[The Beechwood Way](#)."

At Beechwood High School, state standards are implemented through a balance of rich, experiential learning and a focus on rigorous core academic experiences. School staff are passionate about combining these two approaches so that students can be prepared for both college and/or career. Beechwood Independent Schools go beyond core academics to equip students with essential skills for any postsecondary path. The district's unique Educational Design Geared toward Experience (EDGE) Program, a K-12 initiative, was developed through research with community, industry and postsecondary institutions to address gaps in critical thinking, problem-solving, long-term planning and creativity. Guided by a Strategic Plan and Core Concepts, the program integrates real-world experiences with over 100 business and university partners. Students engage in grade-specific challenges, middle school Seminar courses and high school minors to develop their EDGE. More information is available at [Beechwood EDGE Program](#).

Personalized learning is a priority for all students and includes intervention lab classes, study skills classes, individualized support and data tracking, end of grade level expectations, continuing to increase AP and elective offerings, increased opportunities for enrichment and Gifted and Talented (GT) students and increased English learner (EL) support. Defenses of Learning at the 6th, 8th and senior year levels are conducted. At the senior level, each student has a staff mentor to support them in preparation for an individual, professional website created for the Defense of Learning but also can be used for college, scholarship, and job applications.

Beechwood Independent district provides a [professional learning website](#) that includes a menu of opportunities so that all teachers and instructional staff can access personalized learning for their growth. Staff Innovation Teams have a voice in working on the five district goals and strategies to continue to progress in each of those areas - Personalized Learning, Community Engagement, Leadership, Culture, and Wellness.

The EDGE program has led to over 100 business partners and six university partners that are directly involved with students and staff in a myriad of ways. Some help plan curriculum for high school minor classes. Some help to build and deliver real-world authentic challenges for students to work on and give students feedback on their product and process. Some partners mentor within the internship program and have senior interns work with them in their career fields each day. Around 75% of seniors are in internships in 2024-2025.

Beechwood High School partners with the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Alumni Association and Beechwood Educational Foundation to provide supportive partnerships for the school as well.

Beechwood High School emphasizes extracurricular involvement, and the majority of students are involved in at least one activity outside of the classroom. Extracurricular activities offered can be seen at the [Beechwood Activity Guide](#).

Leadership is also one of the district goals for students and for staff. In addition to traditional leadership opportunities, some examples of our other student leadership programs include Tiger Ambassadors, having a student representative on the SBDM Council and Student Advisory. Leadership curriculum is also embedded into the middle grades Seminar courses.

WHAT DATA SUPPORTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES AND STRATEGIES OFFERED?

- 70.45% of all AP tests taken were passed (score of 3 or higher) in 2024. 67.2% passed in 2023.
- 22.33 was the ACT composite average for juniors in March of 2024 when the state average was 18.6. The average for juniors in March of 2023 was 22.98.
- Beechwood Schools consistently earn Blue on the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA).
- The four-year graduation rate was 93.5% in 2024 and 99.1% in 2023 both impacted by reclassification allowed by Senate Bill 128.
- The five-year graduation rate is 100%.
- Postsecondary readiness rate was 99.5% in 2024 and 98.3% in 2023.

- Culture is also extremely important to Beechwood High School. In addition to input from students, parents/guardians and staff through surveys, committees and regular conversations, staff culture and climate data from the Organizational Health Inventory, Tell Surveys and Impact Surveys have been consistently higher than state and national averages.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAS THE SCHOOL FACED? HOW WERE THEY OVERCOME?

Beechwood High School believes in working together to find solutions!

In recent years, Beechwood Independent Schools have undergone significant facility upgrades. As the district implemented the EDGE Program, the need for modern learning spaces became evident. This led to strategic investments in innovative learning labs and facilities designed to enhance authentic learning experiences. These upgrades ensure that current and future students, along with the broader Beechwood community, have access to state-of-the-art educational environments for years to come.

Another challenge was the implementation of a comprehensive K-12 EDGE program that provides a hybrid of traditional, rigorous content with rich, experiential learning. The focus is on students learning skills and proficiencies that are needed post-secondary through a curriculum developed in conjunction with over 100 business and six university partners. Beechwood High School strives to meet the diverse needs of students and work towards capitalizing on their small size to personalize learning pathways for all students. They continue to iterate and work each year to take this program to the next level for students making changes and adding components as the need arises.

WHAT ADVICE DOES THIS SCHOOL SUGGEST TO SCHOOLS ON THEIR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION?

- Keeping everything student-centered. This is part of The Beechwood Way!
- Focus on experiential learning and preparing students for their futures.
- Hire innovative staff and hire based on dispositions, character and mindsets.
- Foster and support a culture of leading and learning as described in The Beechwood Way. One excellent way for educators to learn is by visiting other educational institutions beyond their region.
- Examine staffing positions and structures for new ideas. One example is the Business/University Liaison position at Beechwood High School, which aligns EDGE program partner support for each class.
- Other systems and structural revisions to accomplish goals include creative scheduling, internship opportunities, new classes and repurposed positions.
- Don't be afraid to seek support from external partners. The school has found that when looking for expertise and time, rather than monetary donations, business and university partners are thrilled to connect with the students and staff. Being able to communicate your purpose and goals in these initiatives is key.
- Plan a visit to Beechwood High School! They would be happy to share their journey and resources with you.



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