Bedford Public Schools believes that their schools belong to the community. The community is strong because of the partnerships that exist between the schools, the parents, the business community, township government, social and civic organizations, county and state organizations and all of the citizens of the community.

Bedford Township has a strong and enduring tradition of community engagement. The school district plays a key role in bringing the community together to do this through their successful community schools initiative, which has been in existence for 36 years. More than 80 full and part-time staff and over 1,500 volunteers make up the Bedford Community Education Department, which coordinates the community school initiative.

As a part of Bedford Public Schools, the Community Education Department works closely with the Board of Education, the Township of Bedford, the Parks Commission, and many community partners to coordinate its efforts for families and children.

As the executive director of the community education program, Sharon Throm, puts it, “we believe that the school belongs to the community, and that we have an obligation to provide education and services to the entire community.” The partnerships that the program has established helps the school district to do just this. Services and supports are offered to all community members, from senior citizens to kindergarteners.

People in Bedford Township benefit from the services of the United Way of Monroe County, the Monroe County Commission on Aging, the Monroe County Health Department, the Michigan Community Service Commission, local, county and state law enforcement and public safety officials, Monroe County Probate Court, the Child Advocacy Network, the Bedford Educational Child Care Center and the Latchkey Program.

Families and community members have access to health services through a partnership with Health Check (a county wide health screening program). Other programs that aid in the well-being of the entire community include the Community Recreation Program, the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, the Health Van Program, Senior Transportation, Adult Education, the Bedford Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, CASA, the Lions Den Resale Shop, the GED testing center, the driver training and testing program, among others.

Special programs such as Summer Parks, Safety Town, Kindergarten Readiness, Summer Band and Strings Camps, youth sports camps, Summer Math and Reading Enrichment, and Science Camp, engage children in healthy activities, learning and fun all summer.

The community schools initiative is entirely self-supporting. Through donations, fundraising, state and federal grants, a county senior millage, fees for service, program support from the school district and the township, and many community, business, agency, and parent volunteers, it has not only proved its sustainability over the years but has also been a major asset to the community.

About Bedford

The Bedford Public School District, serving the communities of Temperance, Lambertville, and Samaria, is located in the southeast corner of Michigan. With just over 31,000 residents within a 39.3 square mile plot, Bedford enrolls approximately 5,400 students, in five elementary schools, one junior high school, and one senior high school.

Temperance Road Elementary

Temperance Road Elementary (TRE) is one part of the Bedford Public Schools’ family. A Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School, TRE is an excellent example of a community school.

The building is open after school, evenings, weekends, and summers, and is full of activities and programs. A building steering committee made up of teachers, parents, and the student council, plan activities such as family reading night, the fall family picnic, the family ice cream social, open computer lab nights, and after school and evening enrichment classes for youth and adults.

The welcome back dinner for migrant families, the service-learning projects with the Red Cross and the county sheriff’s department, partnerships with the senior center, and other volunteer and service projects connect the students and the community.