

# BOLIVAR-RICHBURG

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



December 2020

### *Wolverine Elementary Superheroes*

This year, we will be holding quarterly student recognition assemblies to celebrate students who have displayed great character. During the months of September and October students have been working hard on Respect and Responsibility. In November, they will be reflecting on the character trait 'Thankful' and practicing gratitude. We were able to take advantage of the beautiful weather in November and come together as a school outside to recognize students for their outstanding Character as well as recognize the winners of our reading challenge and bullying prevention poster contest.



### *BRCS Yearbook*

The Claw staff is working hard to produce a sensational 2021 Bolivar-Richburg yearbook. Seniors have been reminded that senior pictures, baby and toddler pictures as well as quotes, activities and future plans are due no later than November 20, 2020. It is important that we adhere to these deadlines in order to complete the yearbook on time. Due to the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 situation, we have moved the dates up for the required items from our seniors. Also, parent ad letters will be mailed out next week. These ads will be due by December 31, 2020. As always, we thank our families and our local businesses for their support. Your ads help us to continue to maintain yearbook prices and help make it affordable for all of our students. Remember to purchase your yearbook through [JostensYearbooks.com](https://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or contact Ms. Schena or Mrs. Donahue – 585-928-2561, ext. 4314 or 4222. The price of the yearbook is \$50.00. Personalization is also available for an additional cost.

**Picture Re-Take Day: December 3, 2020**



# Message from the Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Members of the Bolivar-Richburg Community:

As I write my annual holiday welcome letter, I find myself in a situation I never thought in all my years in education we would be in, trying to educate children during a global pandemic. Since March, I have witnessed true miracles and human kindness. Our faculty switched from in-person teaching to virtual on-line instruction overnight. All of you welcomed the teachers into your home virtually so that they could continue to instruct your children. I know this was not an easy task for them or for you as parents and guardians. Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) should you ever have any questions or concerns.

Our support staff continues to serve thousands of meals and clean every room thoroughly every day; our nurses are doing amazing work screening our students daily; and transportation staff are taking extra steps to make sure every student is transported to and from school safely. As Superintendent, my number one priority is the health and safety of all students and staff. My second priority during these times is to do all we can to have our buildings open every day possible for in-person learning. Every day that we are open is another successful day for our students and staff.

I would like to thank you as parents and guardians for your patience and understanding as we try to navigate our way through this current situation. We have a solid plan that is updated regularly as information changes. It is working well as we only had to close just one day so far. We are looking at a few long winter months, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

## New Faculty / Staff

We're pleased to welcome a number of new employees to our district this year. We proudly welcome the following faculty: Kristin Bentley, 1st grade teacher; Lyndsey Dahill, 5th grade teacher; Gina Gerard, 2nd grade teacher; Katelyn Hackett, kindergarten teacher; Elizabeth Joyce, reading teacher; Stephanie Mallery, 1st grade teacher; Jamie Perkins, kindergarten teacher; and Jessica Windus, kindergarten teacher. Also, please welcome the following support staff: Rachele Blauvelt, custodian; Holden Cole, custodian; Kevin Dent, custodian; and Kristin Woodhead, school business manager.



Kristin Bentley



Rachele Blauvelt



Holden Cole



Lyndsey Dahill



Kevin Dent



Gina Gerard



Katelyn Hackett



Elizabeth Joyce



Stephanie Mallery



Jamie Perkins



Jessica Windus



Kristin Woodhead



## School Board Recognition

October was School Board recognition month, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Education for their dedication to our students here at Bolivar-Richburg Central School and our community. If you see any of our Board Members, Jude Auman, Jarrod Bell, Erin Baldwin, Kami Doane, Heather Iantorno, Amanda McDonnell, and Jody McLaughlin, please let them know how much you appreciate them and all their hard work.

## Communication

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education, and a big key to their success is communication. Good communication begins with talking directly to the person most closely related to the particular situation or concern. In many cases, that would be with your child's teacher or building principal. I encourage you to follow the chain of command as you work towards your answers, but my office door is always open.

Additional communication avenues include School Messenger Calls for things like emergencies, important information or reminders, and of course weather closures. Also, please check out our school website. It is full of great information and happenings here at Bolivar-Richburg Central School. I encourage you to check it out regularly at [www.brcs.wnyric.org](http://www.brcs.wnyric.org).

## School Closures / Delays

Please remember with the change of weather and winter upon us comes the potential of school closings and delays. The procedures and closing information can be found in this newsletter for your review. Closings and delays will be announced on the various radio and television stations as well as through School Messenger, the district's notification system, and posted on our website. As always, our number one concern is student safety, and we will be working with several agencies to help us make a decision as quickly as possible.

## Happy Holidays

The 2020-2021 school year is well underway, and we look forward to another exciting year at Bolivar-Richburg Central School. As always, I thank you for your support and invite you to call or visit my office anytime. My door is always open. Your input is important and together we can continue to provide the best education possible for our students. I wish you and your family all the best as we enter the holiday season! Merry Christmas and may your New Year be filled with health and happiness!

Respectfully,

*Michael A. Retzlaff*



# Elementary News

## Elementary Principal's Corner

Mrs. McLaughlin

Happy Holidays family and friends! I cannot believe how fast this school year is flying by! December is upon us and the hustle and bustle is beginning. December is a month for celebrations! Setting goals and celebrating accomplishments is important to your child. Your child needs to understand the targets that he/she is trying to reach. Set some goals around your house for your child to work toward. Examples of attainable goals include learning how to tie shoes, practicing math facts, or reading a story every night. Keep up the GREAT work boys and girls!

### Important November/December/January Dates:

- November 23-24 – Students are dismissed at 10:45 a.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 25-27 – No School for students, Thanksgiving Recess
- December 3 – Picture Retakes
- December 21 – January 1 - Winter Recess; Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- January 18 – No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**\*\*Please remember during the winter months, students still do go outside for recess, weather permitting. Please make sure to send to school the appropriate clothing for students.**

Please enjoy the holiday season, and best wishes to you and your family!

## 3 Pre-K News

Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie

Our 3 year old Pre-K classroom is up and running. We started right in with learning our classroom routine, practicing following directions, interacting with our peers in a kind manner, and learning how to use the many centers, toys, and manipulatives that are available to them in our classroom. The kiddos have enjoyed stories, painting, dancing, singing songs, pretending in the house center, sliding and riding tricycles in the gym, and making new friends. We are looking forward to a great year!



## Half Day Pre-K News

Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie

We have had a busy couple of months in Pre-K! The students have been working very hard on their kindergarten readiness skills, adjusting to the classroom routines, learning how to work with a group of peers, and having TONS of fun!

The school year started out with an "All About Me" unit that allowed students to explore all of the things that make them unique, parts of the body, the 5 senses, fun stories and finger plays, and many silly songs that always brought out the giggles. In math, we've explored counting, patterning, matching, identifying more/less and similarities/differences.

October brought School Safety Week as well as Fire Prevention Week. Our Weekly Readers helped us to identify actions to take in order to stay safe in our schools and in our homes. We practiced fire drills and talked about creating a meeting place for all family members to meet in case of a fire at home. We were very fortunate to have members of the Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department come and speak to our class, show them their gear, and answer students' questions.

We ended the month of October with a week full of Halloween tricks and treats. Treats were exchanged and students were excited to share their plans for their evening of trick-or-treating. We are all looking forward to the upcoming months and the endless learning opportunities headed our way!





# Kindergarten News

*Miss Hackett, Miss Perkins,  
Mrs. Stutzman and Mrs. Windus*

We are having a blast in kindergarten! Although our rooms look a little different from the years in the past, you would never know when seeing how much fun we are having! We have loved our classroom visits from Mrs. Schryver and our morning social-emotional time to talk about ourselves and feelings.

We started off our year listening to and singing nursery rhymes. We learned some life lessons from fables such as slow and steady wins the race. We did a writing-our-name race to test this lesson out! Some watched a real-live humpty dumpty fall off a wall! Others acted out some of their favorite nursery rhymes. Then we learned all about our five senses. We enjoyed sensory walks and investigated pumpkins using our senses. We have been practicing writing in so many ways! We started by making lines in the air, on the walls, with play-dough, on paper, and much more. Then we dove into our letters and are continuing to work very hard to make STAR-worthy letters. We practice the letter names and letter sounds, and even go on letter hunts around the school to see if we can find any of our special letter of the day. We have been reading our first words and sentences. The day we read our first word was magical! Our brains are growing very quickly. Each new letter has been a key to unlock a whole new treasure box of words!

In math, we have been working really hard on our numbers one through ten. We have been counting, writing, and building our numbers in many different ways. Counting while moving has been one of our favorite activities. Finding numbers and shapes throughout the school and house has been one of the fun ways to make connections.

Kindergarten has blasted off with iPads. Students are using them daily within the classroom and are enjoying all the ways to interact with one another using technology. They have been a great way for students to practice recording their voices, taking pictures of their work and playing different games that reinforce what we've been learning. iPads have not only reduced the number of papers traveling around the classrooms, but also engaged our students in learning and allowed for them to move at their individual pace for learning.

It is such an exciting time in kindergarten! The kindergarten teachers are looking forward to working with all of the kindergarten kiddos as they continue to grow and explore this year!

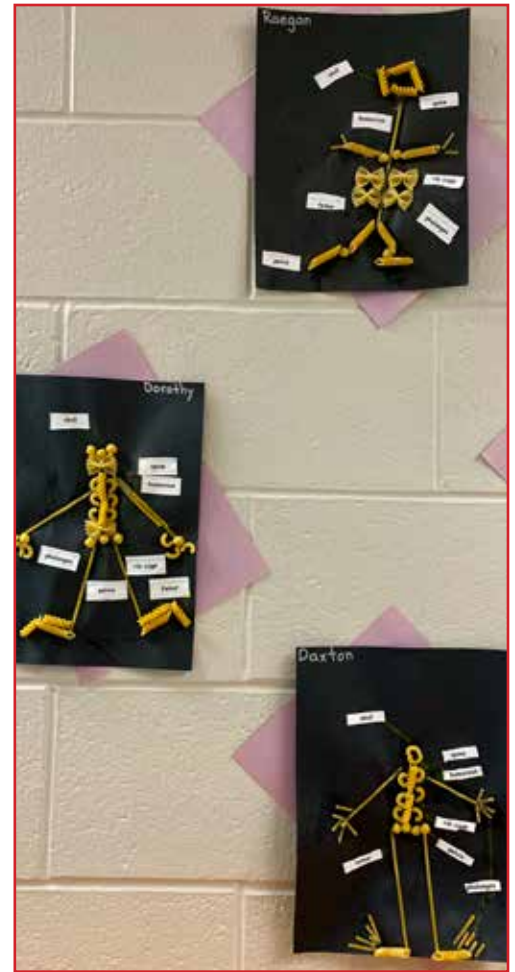




## First Grade News

*Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Mallery and Miss Van Deusen*

Do you know how many bones or muscles we have in our bodies? Well, first grade does! We've been exploring and discovering new information about how our bodies work and grow. All the amazing networks of body systems (skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, and nervous) are comprised of organs that work together to perform a variety of vitally important jobs. Students have also explored germs that cause diseases and how to stop the spread, keys to good health and the importance of a well-balanced diet to help us grow and stay healthy. First grade is happy to tell you that we have about 206 bones and 650 muscles working together in our bodies!



## Second Grade News

*Mrs. Livingston, Mrs. Clark,  
Miss Perrin and Miss Gerard*

We've had a busy start to second grade!

In reading, students have heard and learned about Fairy Tales and Tall Tales, Ancient Greek Civilizations, and Greek Myths. They have also read stories about a sneaky cat bandit, along with reading trickster tales and fables. Second graders have been busy learning many new phonics sounds and spellings, including oi, oy, ou, ow, oo, ar, er, or, and long and short vowels. They have been working on developing the skill of going back into the text to find their evidence for the answer. Lastly, they have been using the organizer somebody, wanted, but, so, then to help them retell a fiction story.

In math, students are working hard on developing their understanding of place value within 1000. They are learning to count within 1000 using a variety of strategies to skip count by 10s and 100s from any number.

Students are learning that each digit in a 3-digit number represents the amount of hundreds, tens, and ones. They are learning how to compare 3-digit numbers represented in all forms (number form, word form, expanded form, and unit form). Students are continually working on mastering their math facts with sums and differences within 20. Please work on math facts within 20 at home.

Students have been learning about how to write complete sentences, making sure to use capitals and punctuation. Second graders have been working on varying their sentences using different types of punctuation. They have also learned about using quotation marks in their writing.

Happy Birthday to all those students who celebrated a birthday in September, October, and November!

## PE Corner

*Mrs. Auman*

What a great start to the year! Mrs. Auman's PE classes started out with a "Building a Foundation" unit outside. Grades PK-2 worked on locomotor skills and movements. Grades 3-5 started with fun group games of Rock, Paper, Scissors and 11's. Our soccer unit was next. Students worked hard on their dribbling skills in a Hoops game. Soccer bowling and Soccer golf focused on passing skills. We concluded the unit with a version of Foosball Soccer. The game focused on positions and passing. Fun was had by all!

Starting at the end of October, Miss Hill joined us from St. Bonaventure University. She will be working with Mrs. Auman until Thanksgiving break. Miss Hill will continue working on our Tossing and Catching unit, focusing on our accuracy. We are happy that she has joined us!

Looking ahead for recess...please send in your students with coats, boots, hats, and gloves (snow pants are a good idea too). We will be taking students outside all winter long to get them out of the classroom and to enjoy some fresh air. If your child is in need of winter weather clothing, please contact the school. We will do our best to help you with your needs.



## September BRCS Reading Challenge

The Elementary Reading Department wishes to congratulate all of the students who filled out their September reading logs and/or who did their reading homework every night. Every student who participated received a free book, a small prize, and a raffle ticket. We had a lot of excitement about reading last month! We would like to give a huge thank you to the local businesses who donated gift certificates or prize baskets for the raffle winners. Corbin Rockefeller won a gift certificate to Sidelines, Kordell Collins and Peyton Kemp won prize baskets filled with goodies from Dollar General. We are so proud of our dedicated readers! KEEP READING!!!



## Fourth Grade Science/Social Studies News

Mrs. Hillman

We have had a busy, productive, and fun start to this school year. The fourth graders have been hard at work observing and experimenting with living things in science class. We have had fun exploring the structures of crayfish and finding out the function of each structure! Have you ever seen a Paper white bulb? We have! Your 4th grader has helped to grow these plants. Ask them to explain to you the structures on this very neat flower!

In Social Studies, we have been exploring our great state of New York by mapping bodies of water, major cities, rivers and other features in our state. The kids made excellent maps! Next, we will travel back into time as we study the Haudenosaunee culture.



## Fourth Grade Math News

Mrs. Perry

As the first quarter comes to a close, we have to stop and take a look at how far we've come in this 2020-2021 school year. We may have started the year out with holes in being ready for 4th grade due to Covid-19, but we have certainly gained some solid ground. The students continue to impress me daily with their level of patience and hard work as we have moved into a classroom filled with technology and software programs instead of so many workbooks and sharpened pencils. The kids have learned to save their assignments on their iPads while in class so they can work at completing them at home and not need internet service. Turning in assignments during homeroom has taken a lot of the burden and worry off of parents at home. I'm looking forward to quarter 2 where our concentration has shifted from technology training to learning all about 4th grade math.

## Fourth Grade ELA News

Mrs. Sharpe

Our fourth graders have enjoyed reading a book called *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. They have followed Jack's journey from not understanding or liking poetry at all to seeing him get excited and write his own masterpiece poem about his dog, Sky. Students were excited to learn there is a sequel called *Hate That Cat*. We finished this unit as we wrapped up the first marking period. We are now learning about the American Revolution and preparing to read a drama called *Divided Loyalties*.

## BRCS Emergency School Closing List

When it is necessary to delay school opening, close school, or dismiss early, the following TV and Radio Stations will be contacted.

Channel 2 TV	WGRZ-TV Buffalo AM Program
Channel 4 TV	WIVB-TV Buffalo AM Program
Channel 7 TV	WKBW-TV Buffalo AM Program
WJQZ, Wellsville	103.5 FM Radio
WLSV, Wellsville	790 AM Radio
WOEN, Olean	1360 AM Radio
WMXO, Olean	101.5 FM Radio
WHDL, Olean	1450 AM Radio
WPIG, Olean	95.7 FM Radio
WBEN, Buffalo	930 AM Radio

The District will also use the automated system, School Messenger, to inform families. Please contact the guidance office to update telephone numbers. Thank you.





## Fifth Grade ELA News

Mrs. Smith

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing! Our guided reading groups are running smoothly, enjoying fiction and nonfiction texts on Raz-Kids. We have been reading the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Set in the early 1930s, twenty years after the Mexican Revolution and during the Great Depression, *Esperanza Rising* tells the story of a young Mexican girl's courage and resourcefulness when at the age of thirteen she finds herself living in a strange new world. Esperanza, whose name means "hope" in Spanish, must rise again, into a resourceful and responsible young woman. I hope this novel teaches us the value of human rights, to persevere when faced with obstacles, and to treat others with dignity and respect!

Our "Wolverine Superheroes of the Month" certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Jayden Burdick and Brandan Blake. In order to be selected as a Superhero, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits. Jayden and Brandan are truly deserving of this award!

Happy belated birthday wishes go out to: Landon Fanton – September 28, Lucas Fanton – September 28

## Fifth Grade Math News

Mrs. Dahill

Math has been filled with lots of math excitement. Recently, we have been learning about place values. Over the past few months, we have learned to add and subtract decimals, as well as multiplying decimals. In moving forward, it is very important that all students brush up on their multiplication facts. Students have access to iReady Math to help support their learning. Of course, it's always wonderful to simply grab those flash cards and practice too. Next, we will begin working on dividing decimals and move into base ten operations. Students will learn to apply what they have already learned to real-world problems with whole numbers and decimals. I am very impressed with how well students are navigating classroom technology and am looking forward to seeing what this school year brings.

Our Wolverine Superheroes for September and October are students who present specific character traits, such as respect and responsibility. Congratulations to Connor Margeson and Trey Pettit! This month's character trait is Thankful—I wonder who will be our classroom representative?

## Fifth Grade Science/Social Studies News

Mr. Pruch

It has been a fast start to the year, thanks to the wonderful boys and girls we have in fifth grade. In science recently, we have been trying to learn about the rock cycle, as well as rocks and minerals in general. During social studies, we have been attempting to figure out our first inquiry, "What Makes a Complex Society Complex?"

The students are so respectful and responsible as they come in each day, quickly settling down to do their morning obligations, such as filling in their agendas, logging their reading time and checking in with a short survey. Then they move on to an iReady reading or math assignment, or to a social studies or science task, like learning the 50 states or watching a Twig video about rocks or a Scholastic Jam slideshow on volcanoes.

We're all grateful for the technology that we now have to accomplish all of this.

## Bullying Prevention at the Elementary

Angela Schryver, Elementary Counselor

October is national bullying prevention month. Schools across the nation promote activities to educate students on the meaning of bullying, what to do if they see it, and how to prevent it. Students at the elementary school participated in activities to learn about the different types of bullying and practiced ways to prevent it. Pre- K through first grade read "Spookley The Square Pumpkin" and talked about how we are all different and how important it is to respect each other's differences! They decorated pumpkins to show that it is okay to be different! Other activities across the grade levels included stories, videos, class discussions and a poster contest! Many students pledged promises to help make our school a safe and kind environment. On October 21, students participated in Unity Day to show their support against bullying. The winners of our poster contest were treated to a pizza party and the top winners will have their designs made into a large poster to hang on display in our building!



# NYSDOH COVID-19 In-Person Decision Making Flowchart for Student Attendance

## Can My Child Go To School Today?

In the past 10 days, has your child been tested for the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as SARS-CoV-2?



Was the test result **positive** OR are you still waiting for the result?



Your child **cannot** go to school today.  
They must stay in isolation (at home and away from others) until the test results are back and are **negative** OR if **positive**, the local health department has released your child from isolation.



In the last 14 days, has your child:  
• Traveled internationally to a **CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country**; or  
• Traveled to a state or territory on the **NYS Travel Advisory List**; or  
• Been designated a contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 by a local health department?



Your child **cannot** go to school today.  
They must stay at home until your local health department releases your child from quarantine, at least 14 days.  
A negative diagnostic COVID-19 test does not change the 14-day quarantine requirement.



Does your child currently have (or has had in the last 10 days) one or more of these new or worsening symptoms?

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/runny nose



Your child **cannot** go to school today.  
Your child should be assessed by their pediatric healthcare provider (HCP). Call your child's HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child's COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.



Your child **CAN** go to school today.  
**Make sure they wear a face covering or face mask, practice social distancing, and wash their hands!**

Report absences, symptoms, and positive COVID-19 test results to your child's school.

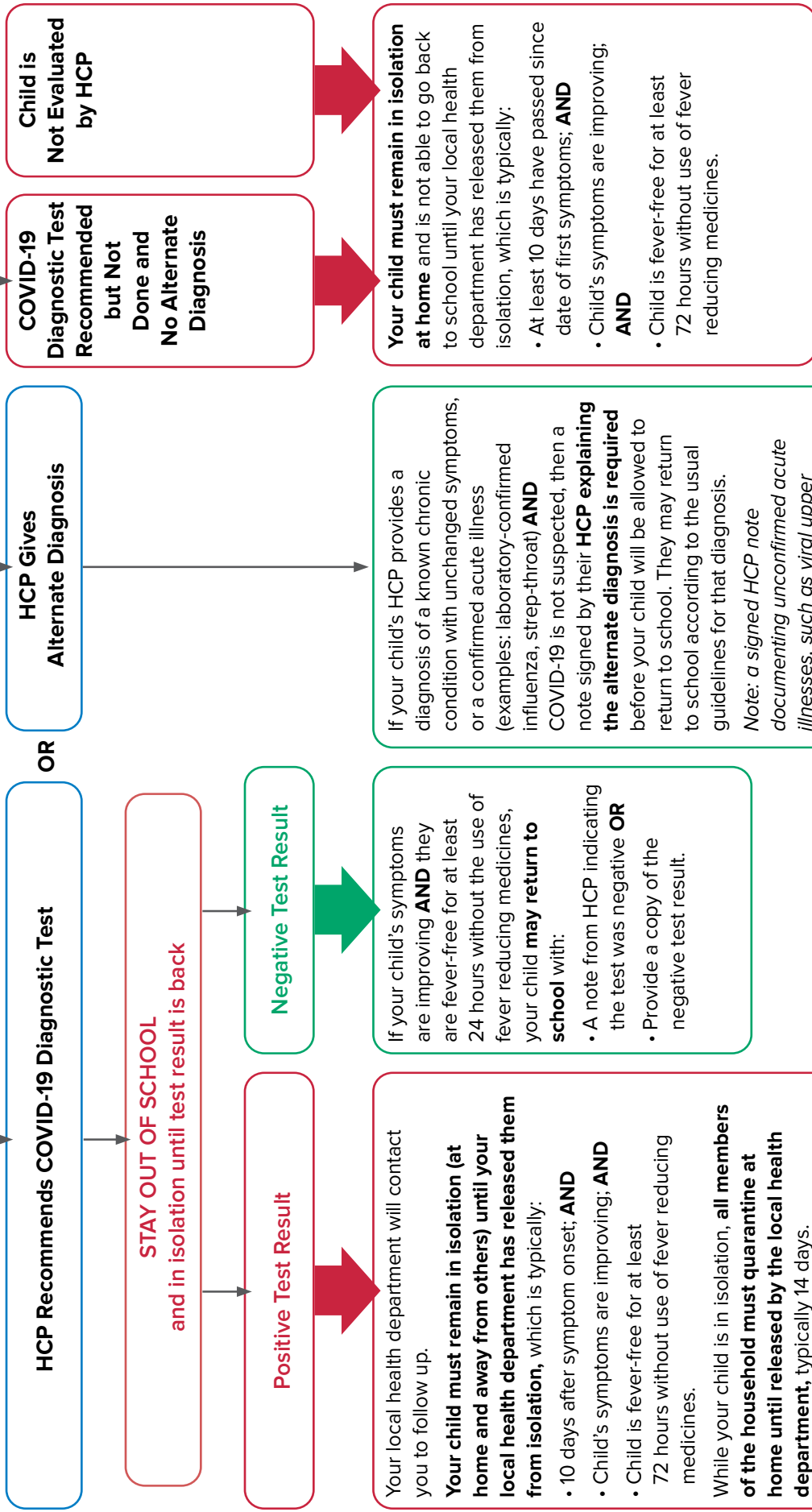
## SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue
- Prolonged fever
- Racing heart or chest pain
- Is too sick to drink fluids
- Decreased urine output
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion



# My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)



COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.



# Middle/High School News

## Middle/High School Principal's Corner

Mr. Quartley

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our students and their families for the very successful device pick up days that were held in August. With your help, we were able to pass out 341 devices, math calculators, student agendas, and student schedules to our Middle/High School students. This made our opening days of school run very smoothly. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members pitched in to get the students to the building to pick up their devices. In 30 years of working with students and families in Western New York, I can honestly say this was one of the proudest moments I've had in education. This event showed to me how dedicated and supportive this community is. To everyone that went out of their way and continue to go out of their way to support our students and our school, I say a heartfelt THANK YOU. The COVID Crisis will no doubt go down in educational history as one of the most difficult periods of time in American education. I am supremely confident that our school community will come out of the situation stronger, better and more committed to each other than before.

Parents, we know that this hybrid learning model can be frustrating for all parties, and we appreciate your support. Our teachers and technology department are here to support you with any questions or concerns you may have. The expectations regarding video conferencing can be found on our B-R website under the parent tab. My letter lists expectations that students are expected to follow regarding video conferencing.

Despite the hardships of this year, time continues to move on, and the joy of the holiday season is already upon us. Especially this year, I hope the holidays bring a chance for all our families to visit with loved ones and take a much-needed break from all the stress. As it has been for the last 5 years, it's my honor and pleasure to say, on behalf of the faculty and staff at Bolivar-Richburg Middle & High School, we wish everyone in our school community a happy and safe **holiday season!** And as always, "Go Wolverines!"

## Ski Club

Sara Johnson, Ski Club Advisor

### Who is it for?

Students in grade 6-12 (over 11 years of age)

### When does it start?

Holiday Valley will open the day after Thanksgiving, weather permitting

### What is the schedule?

Sundays (once ski season begins)  
1:15 Bus will leave from school  
2:30 Arrive at Holiday Valley  
7:30 Bus leaves for home  
8:30 Arrive back at school

### How to sign up

Visit the Holiday Valley BRCS Ticket Store  
Username: **MWBOLIVAR**  
Password: **ski**

### Have questions?

Sara Johnson, Ski Club Advisor  
sarajohnson@bolivar-richburg.org  
585-928-2903

## Our Thankfulness Wall

For the month of November, Mrs. Scribner's Class is writing thank you letters to people they are thankful for. Normally, they would hand deliver the letters to the person they are thankful for but this year we are hanging them on the wall outside of our classroom. Not only does this help improve their writing skills, but it also helps them really think about all the people that make their lives better. The kids really enjoy doing this. We love seeing them smile when the kids receive a letter. Even more, they love watching someone else's expression when they read a letter they have written.



## Earth Science News

Ms. Renyck

I am thrilled to be back in the classroom with your children—and what a wonderful group of young people taking Earth Science this year! I couldn't be prouder of how the students are handling the COVID-19 safety protocols in my classroom for the benefit of all.

We are currently engaged in the Earth's Interior & Plate Tectonics unit of the NYS Science Learning Standards. This includes the study of minerals, rocks, volcanism, plate tectonics, earthquakes, the processes that create them, and locating places on Earth.

Please note that I teach the same lesson on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday. I live Zoom my lessons on Tuesday and Friday. This way anyone who is absent won't miss class should they choose to Zoom. Students know that they should be checking the "general post" section in Teams for morning announcements that guide them on their daily assignment. Fully remote students meet with me on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday during their regularly scheduled class periods. Wednesday is especially important since that's when we complete the virtual lab.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Chess Club

Ms. Renyck

Good news, Chess Club members! We have been given the green light to play—with safety protocols, of course! We will be running our matches on Zoom. Please see Ms. Renyck for details. Any member who needs to borrow a chess set may do so. I'll be sure to sanitize them before sending them home with you.





## Guidelines for Selection of National Honor Society Members

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors awarded to a high school student. As part of the by-laws of the National Honor Society Constitution, each school district is required to publish its selection procedures annually. Bolivar-Richburg's selection procedures are as follows:

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

At the midpoint of the school year (i.e. **after** the 2nd marking period), each high school teacher receives a list of **juniors and seniors** who have met the scholastic eligibility requirement of having a **91%** or higher average. This score reflects the student's cumulative high school average through the midpoint of the current school year. The teachers will evaluate students on the three other criteria necessary for selection: leadership, service and character. Teachers will only evaluate students with whom they have had direct contact.

During this process, each scholastically eligible student receives and completes a **Student Activity Information Sheet**. On it, students list their activities and extracurricular information for the Faculty Council to review. In addition, the Faculty Council asks that each candidate submit a written response to a provided writing prompt. The Faculty Council is a committee consisting of five high school teachers and is appointed annually. The principal and NHS advisor are **non-voting members** of the council. This body reviews each student's activity form, written statement, as well as faculty recommendations. Candidates receiving a majority vote (i.e. at least three votes) of the Faculty Council are inducted into our NHS chapter.

**When students receive their Student Activity Information Sheet, it is imperative that students do NOT leave any section blank. In order to be inducted into the National Honor Society, students must meet all criteria necessary for selection – scholarship, leadership, service and character. It is impossible to tell if a student meets the criteria if a section is left blank.**

All eligible candidates in the current Junior and Senior classes will receive information from Mr. Baldwin after the 2nd marking period. If you have any questions about the National Honor Society please contact Mr. Baldwin, the NHS advisor at: [ebaldwin@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ebaldwin@bolivarrichburg.org).

## Senior - Sarah Clark - 2020 "DAR" Daughters of the American Revolution Award Winner



Sarah Clark was selected by the BRCS faculty and her senior classmates for the "DAR" Daughters of the American Revolution Award for best exemplifying the outstanding qualities of **DEPENDABILITY, SERVICE, LEADERSHIP** and **PATRIOTISM** in her school, home, and community.

Dependability: truthfulness, honesty, punctuality  
Service: cooperation, helpfulness, responsibility  
Leadership: personality, self-control, initiative  
Patriotism: unselfishness, loyalty to American ideals

We are so very proud of Sarah and the role model, student, teacher, friend and classmate she is! Local political representatives will honor her this spring at a DAR ceremony.

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## College Reps, Fairs and Visits

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to hold our usual ACCA College Fair at Houghton College. However, some colleges are still allowing students to visit campuses for tours and are still coming to BRCS to see students in person. However, many are utilizing virtual campus tours and virtual college rep meetings.

The dates and Zoom codes for college reps are currently being sent to students in our Guidance Teams that we have created entitled: "Guidance Info-Juniors Class of 2022" and "Guidance Info-Senior Class of 2021".

Mrs. Crandall-Bean is glad to help students with college exploration applications and setting up in-person and virtual visits.

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## Seniors Make Future Plans

I have met with all seniors individually to review transcripts and make corrections if needed, determine what specific courses and regents exams are still needed to be passed for graduation, discuss post-high school plans and map out the tasks they need to complete for their career plans. Each student was given an individualized folder of tasks to complete for their specific post-secondary career, military or college plan. Those students who are interested in college may have been given handouts about selecting and applying to colleges. **It is highly recommended that seniors complete their college application(s) by the end of Thanksgiving recess.** However, some programs require students to apply earlier to ensure that their program of choice is not filled to capacity. Watch all application deadlines! Students are welcome to have their applications proofread in the Guidance Office prior to submitting them. **Also, since most students are now applying on-line, it is vitally important that they let me or my secretary know each time they apply so that we mail or upload the student's official transcript. Colleges require an official transcript of high school grades and will not process a student's college application until they have received one.**

Any parent who wishes more information about the college selection process or financial aid can call Mrs. Crandall-Bean at school at 928-2985 or send an email to [ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org). The "Senior Fall To- Do List", "Basics of Financial Aid" and "Scholarship Searches" video presentations can be found electronically on the high school guidance website and will be pushed out to students in grades 11 & 12 in Microsoft Teams. These documents may be helpful to parents of seniors to make sure that important fall tasks are being completed in a timely manner. We are trying to not take in person class time from teachers for Guidance lessons so we are using Wednesdays and virtual video lessons as much as we can.



## College Entrance Testing: PSAT, ACT and SAT Testing

Interested sophomores and juniors took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) on Wednesday, October 14 with Mrs. Bean. The PSAT is a “practice/warm-up” for the SAT and enters juniors into the National Merit Scholarship Competition. PSAT results should be available in December. At that time, I will review the test with students and they will receive a printout of their results to take home.

We will be offering a PreACT practice exam for sophomores and juniors this winter. The date has not yet been determined.

**College-bound juniors are encouraged to consider taking the SAT or the ACT in the spring.** Many counselors feel the ACT is a fairer exam for students and colleges accept ACT scores equal to SAT scores. Registration documents for both tests are available in the Guidance Office and on the Guidance website to assist students with the on-line registration process. Registering on-line is relatively simple, convenient and will allow students to receive their test scores quickly.

### Test optional - What does that mean?

Due to COVID’s indoor large group gathering restrictions, many SAT and ACT exams were cancelled earlier this year. Therefore, many colleges have gone “test-optional” meaning no SAT or ACT is required for college applications to their institutions. Many colleges may remain test optional in the future after COVID restrictions are lightened. However, to be safe it does not hurt to take at least one SAT or ACT exam in case it is needed in the future for college acceptance and scholarship contests.

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## Websites for College and Career Exploration

Need help exploring colleges, find out more about the financial aid process, look into finding a career, or about touring a college virtually on-line? Here are a few fantastic websites that will surely help both students and parents:

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org), [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org), [www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com),  
[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com), [www.nymentor.edu](http://www.nymentor.edu), [www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com) and [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

Students in grades 10-12 also have their own accounts on-line, which they created on the Career Cruising website in order to save their college and career research documents.

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## How to Access the High School Guidance Web Page

Parents and students can access a large amount of information on the Guidance webpages. Start at the BRCS home page ([www.brcs.wnyric.org](http://www.brcs.wnyric.org)), click on the pulldown menu at the top of the page titled “Departments,” and then click on “Guidance.” To the left of the screen you will see links to the middle school as well as the high school guidance webpages. Topics on the high school guidance site include: scholarships, financial aid, summer school, regents examination schedules, recommended websites, graduation requirements, course descriptions, summer camps, info just for seniors, SAT, ACT and drivers’ education information.

**SCHEDULES FOR GRADE 6-12 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED. THE DROP PERIOD IS NOW OVER AND STUDENTS WILL REMAIN IN THEIR CURRENT COURSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. The only drops that may be allowed will now require a parent/student/teacher discussion and must be approved by the building principal and teachers.**

## College Financial Aid Information

In the past, the FAFSA application portal (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) has opened on January 1. This portal is how students qualify for free federal grant money and for federal student loans at low interest rates. **The FAFSA portal now opens earlier on October 1 each year. This allows families a greater amount of time to be wise consumers regarding college costs and reviewing financial aid award letters before making a college commitment by the May 1 national commitment date.**

Financial aid is very detail-oriented so if you have questions, do not hesitate to call the Guidance Office or any college financial aid office for assistance.

Two of the best resources for parents to find more information on this process are at the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website: [www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org) and at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). These two sites are loaded with information for parents and are two of the very best and easiest to navigate. Further, these sites are not just for parents of seniors but also for parents of any students who are considering college.

Lastly, parents (or students) should not feel the need to pay for help with financial aid forms or for scholarship searches. Often times the services that advertise to help you with these are frauds or, at the very least, a rip-off. They often promise students thousands of dollars in financial aid. The rule of thumb, “If you have to pay, stay away!” We have provided the best free resources on our scholarship webpage for you to utilize. If you have very complicated finances, you may want your personal financial planner to assist with the financial aid process. But those are not typical instances for most people.

Also, do not forget to complete the NYS TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Grant financial aid application at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-forfinancial-aid/apply-for-aid-start-here.html>. Then click on the pulldown menu at the top of the page titled “Departments” and click on “Guidance.” TAP money is available for eligible New York State residents who plan to attend college within New York State.

The New York State Excelsior Grant is on hold at this time due to a lack of funding for it at the state government level.





## COVID Update

**Daily Checks** – All faculty and staff members must complete a daily COVID questionnaire and temperature check.

**Thermo-Imaging** – In late September, we added an additional layer of coverage to our COVID screening. We installed two portable thermo-imaging cameras in each building that are capable of quickly scanning students/staff/visitors to check for temperatures over 100 degrees. We have also been doing random touchless temperature checks on a limited number of students each morning as a back-up to the thermo-imaging.

**Daily Cleaning** – The District has hired additional custodians/cleaners in each building that provide extra support for thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms and daily common areas throughout the school buildings. This cleaning occurs throughout the school day and in the evenings after the students and faculty have left for the day. After all surfaces have been cleaned and wiped down, as a final precaution, the rooms are fogged with a disinfectant spray.

**Masks/Social Distancing** – Mask wearing occurs at all times in each building except while eating or if socially distanced. Teachers will be allowed to designate mask breaks throughout the day provided students maintain social distancing.

**When can a student/staff member be released from quarantine?** – When a student or staff member is on quarantine, they can only be released by the Allegany County Health Department. When they return to the building, they must check-in with the school nurse for final approval before they can return to class/work.

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## Parents - Beware of Scholarship and Financial Aid “SCAMS”

In years past, several students and parents have called about information they have received in the mail or phone calls they have received regarding college scholarships and financial aid. Usually the sales pitch starts something like this, “Do you know that over two million dollars in college scholarships went unclaimed last year? We can guarantee you a scholarship for college!” Often times the e-mails or envelope and the letters look like they have been sent from an official agency with words like “national,” “exclusive” and “education” in their title. I say, buyer beware!

Quite often the scholarships and the financial aid assistance these companies offer as part of their service are routinely available for **free** right here at school or on many websites. Furthermore, no one can promise you a scholarship because a legitimate scholarship is **always** competitive. Lastly, most financial aid that students receive for college will be generated from the FAFSA form or directly from the student’s college.

My advice to parents is to exercise caution and call me before signing on to one of these “financial aid” businesses. A call or search online to the Better Business Bureau (703-276-0100) or the Attorney General (through the Consumer Protection Board – 800-697-1220) is another way to verify a company’s reputation. More than likely, high schools and colleges can do just as much for you as one of these companies – the only difference is that we don’t charge a thing. We in the Guidance Office can provide you with excellent resources for doing high quality scholarship searches and have an abundance of information linked on the Guidance website under the scholarship page.

## ASVAB CEP Career Exploration Program for Juniors and Seniors

On Wednesday, December 2, interested juniors and seniors can take the ASVAB exam at 11:45 a.m. in the lecture hall, which will allow students to learn more about their academic strengths and weaknesses and how their aptitudes can affect their future career paths. The ASVAB can also be used as an entrance exam for enlisting in the military. Then on Wednesday, December 9, all interested students will then participate in a career exploration lesson virtually by Zoom with Dr. Faith Durden, who oversees the ASVAB program for all of Western New York and Pennsylvania. She will interpret those results for students. Students will also complete the FYI (Find Your Interests) career interest inventory. This is an excellent career exploration program, which is free to schools. We give the ASVAB on students’ school laptops, which allows students to proceed with testing at their own pace and be dismissed as soon as they are done testing.

### **STUDENTS CAN SIGN UP FOR ASVAB ELECTRONICALLY OR IN PERSON IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 24.**

Parents of juniors, please be aware that the ASVAB test results will be released at the end of the school year to military recruiters because the ASVAB is the entrance exam used by military branches. If you do NOT want your child’s scores released to the military, please also notify us in the Guidance Office by November 24. However, please realize that the primary purpose of this program is for juniors to explore future career paths. This program’s intention is not to lead students in any way shape or form necessarily toward a military career. These ASVAB scores, however, are active scores for students wishing to enlist in the future. If you have questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Bean at 928-2985.

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## Whole Kids Foundation Awards Grant to BRCS

The Whole Kids Foundation awarded a \$3,000 Garden Grant to Bolivar-Richburg Central School to purchase and install new raised beds in the Wolverine Environmental Education Center.



## District Heroes

Thank you to our amazing cafeteria, custodial, transportation and health services staff!

Ways that our staff is going above and beyond:

- Desk/sneeze guards installed in classrooms
- Continual disinfecting of handrails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures—basically anything that can be touched
- Isolation room to keep kids that are ill separate from those that are healthy
- Online survey for bi-weekly checks
- Staff daily screening tool
- 1,200 breakfasts packed and served each week
- 300+ lunches each week sent home to MS and HS students for their hybrid/virtual days
- 80 meals delivered each week to completely virtual students

“I could not do my job without the help of the guidance, the secretaries, and our Admin. We are a great team. Working together is our strong point to maintain the safety, health and well-being of the students here at BRCS.” (Sara Johnson, MS/HS Nurse)

“The cafeteria staff at Bolivar-Richburg is truly a dedicated team that has gone above and beyond through this entire situation. This group of amazing ladies has shown what “B-R Strong” really means. They have been willing to make changes without a moment’s notice and always strive to make sure that every student is taken care of to the best of their ability.” (Tracie Middleton, Cafeteria Manager)

“The custodial staff is going above and beyond what is expected of them. I would also like to thank the staff and faculty for helping out with the disinfecting of the rooms. We all must work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.” (Randy Harmon, Buildings and Grounds)

“Everyone is working together thoroughly sanitizing, wiping bus areas down, and keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. Everybody is working heroically to keep the Bolivar-Richburg buses rolling, transporting students to school.” (Ann Feuchter, Transportation)

“While this article points out the many hard-working and dedicated staff members who work in our cafeteria, custodial, transportation, and health services; truly every faculty and staff member at BRCS are heroes each and every day. We could not service our students if we didn’t have the dedication of every person in our Bolivar-Richburg family.” (Michael Retzlaff, Superintendent)



*Custodial Staff*



*Custodial Staff Member*



*Custodial Staff*



*Transportation Staff Member*



*Cafeteria Staff*



*School Nurses  
Sara Johnson and Stephanie Pierce*



## *From the Athletic Director*

### *Mr. Dustin Allen*

We would like to thank our Boys and Girls Soccer coaches and teams for providing athletic entertainment for the Fall 2020 season. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all other Fall sports were postponed and will play late winter/early spring. We would also like to thank our fans for the support of our athletes during these difficult times. Finally, a big thank you to our technology department and Jeff Margeson who helped in streaming games this fall.

We are excited to announce that the Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer teams both advanced to the sectional semi-finals. These teams had excellent seasons.

Congratulations to our Fall Senior Athletes: Dominick Baldwin, Logan Bess, Brayden Day, Jason Greeson, Wayne Karnuth, Mark Pangburn, Aliyah Cole, Nichole Davis, Kelsey Pacer, Paige Taylor and Kelsey Ferris.

We had 3 boys nominated for Allegany County All Stars: Mark Pangburn, Wayne Karnuth, and Wyatt Karnuth.

We also had 3 girls nominated for Allegany County All Stars: Madigan Harris, McKinley Harris, and senior Aliyah Cole.

Both the Boys Varsity and Girls Varsity teams were eligible for the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete nomination. In order to qualify, the average for at least 75% of the team must be 90% or above. Congratulations to our boys and girls who continue to balance their grades and academics while participating in sports.

The Boys and Girls modified soccer teams both performed at stellar levels this season too. The boys, under Coach Casey Allen, were undefeated with a 10-0 record. The girls, under Coach Brooke Lovell, finished with 8 wins and 1 loss. Congratulations to these young athletes and their exceptional coaches!

We have learned that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has given further details for our Winter Sports season. High risk winter sports (basketball, cheer, wrestling, volleyball) will be postponed to January 4. Section V has advised that indoor track is also being postponed until January. This is due to COVID-19 issues and concerns with venues that would normally host events.

Currently, Winter Sports sign-ups are open on our website. Please click the Athletics tab on the BRCS website, and select Athletic Activity Registration. Signing up is easy. Thank you to all the parents and students who have already used this new system.

Please keep checking our websites (<https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/>) under the Athletics tab, as well as our Athletic Teams website (<https://bolivarrichburg.schoolteams.com/>) for up-to-date information.

Unfortunately, we are not able to post schedules at this time. Once Winter Sports have been defined, we will have up-to-date schedules available on our website(s) on the Athletic Calendar.

Lastly, PHYSICALS! Anyone signing up for a sport must have a physical on file dated less than 12 months from the season start date. We are not able to provide SCHOOL SPORTS PHYSICALS at this time. If your student's physical is dated more than 12 months from the sport start date, we will need an updated physical provided to the nurse's office. It can be dropped off to her, or it can be faxed to 585-928-1833. If you are not sure of the date we have on file, please contact our office at 585-928-2917.

## *Boys Soccer Update*

*Mike Zilker, Boys Soccer Head Coach*

At the beginning of the season, we had two worlds collide...soccer and football. With football being postponed until spring, some of the boys were just looking for something to do. I am so glad they had the courage to try something new. The amount of work that needed to be done in order to be able to compete as a whole was huge. Rather than just go with the flow, we got to work. The boys began to mesh and take shape. The two worlds brought unity to a town that was able to at least have a sports season in this crazy time of life. The support we received from families and friends and the community was astounding. We were allowed to bring some sort of normalcy to a time that was fairly chaotic. In doing so, we had a lot of fun and did extremely well.

The boys started off the season strong with a couple nice wins. It was hit or miss in the middle of the season, but we rattled off 3 straight wins at the end of the season to secure 3rd place in our section. This earned us a first-round bye which we have never done before. We then earned a 2nd round home game, another first. Then we won that game and earned ourselves another home game for the semifinals, another first for us. Unfortunately, we lost that game, but we made it one game away from playing for a sectional championship which would have been another first for us. This group of boys did some amazing things this year...a season full of fun, excitement and firsts.

This is absolutely one of my all-time favorite teams to have coached and been a part of. These boys knew how to make you laugh and work hard all in the same day. I will greatly miss the 6 seniors and their leadership but am blessed to say that we could possibly be returning 18 for next year. And maybe, just maybe we could have another season of firsts.

We have a great modified soccer coach, who is also my assistant for varsity in Casey

Allen. She has been a great addition to the boys' program, and I thank her for her passion and dedication. The future looks bright for BR soccer. Thank you for a fantastic year fellas, and I wish you all the best in the future. We look forward to what comes next...Ohana!

## *A Season Like No Other!*

*Mark Emery, Girls Soccer Head Coach*

**Overall Record 10-4-1**

***Third Place finish in Allegany County DI with a record of 4-3-1***

***Defeated in the Sectional Semifinals by Geneseo***

***Three players selected to the Allegany County DI All Star Team***

Reflecting upon the 2020 Girls' Varsity Soccer season, maybe the only thing we can say that was "normal" (at least what we used to call normal) was that everything was abnormal! We found out what **Gaiters** were, and we **memorized 4 magical questions!** We played the majority of our season **without** all of our team members. **We won three out of five games with just 11 players** playing. We won one game **without even playing**. Another team had to cancel a game with us late in the season, and fortunately we found a replacement game on very short notice (our game against Belfast). **We finally had our entire team able to play 2 Sectional games, and we won them both!** Yes, it is fair to say this season was like no other!

Some things to remember...

- Our team really bonded by the end. We could see this progressing as players became able to play, and by the end they were a pretty tight group.
- Our team really progressed as we went on. All of our players improved as this season progressed! As a coach, this is a heartwarming thing to see!
- Mr. Thomas was a great addition to our team! His help this year was truly appreciated.
- Mr. Jackson and his students were with us all the way this season, and it was wonderful having them take care of our bumps and bruises throughout the season.

Maybe the most memorable thing of all...for a season, even though things were a bit abnormal, it brought some normal into our student athletes' lives. It was wonderful seeing kids play a game again and for that we were truly grateful!



**Bolivar-Richburg Central School**  
**100 School Street**  
**Bolivar, NY 14715**

**Board of Education:**

Erin Baldwin, President  
Heather Iantorno, Vice President  
Jude Auman  
Jarrod Bell  
Kami Doane  
Amanda McDonnell  
Jody McLaughlin

**Administration:**

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Susan Bokman, Director of Special Education  
Andrea McLaughlin, Elementary Principal  
Daniel Quartley, Secondary Principal  
Mary Snyder, Assistant Principal  
Jessica Rose, Director of Curriculum  
Kristin Woodhead, School Business Manager

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 1825  
Olean, NY  
14760

**Current Resident**

**or Local Postal Patron**

## State Testing Update

At this time, January 2021 Regents exams have been **canceled** due to safety precautions during the pandemic. Students who were slated to take January Regents exams needed to graduate can receive a regents exam exemption **IF** they pass the corresponding course related to the Regents exam by the end of January 2021, or if they are currently in a remedial Regents test prep class preparing to take a Regents.

At this time, there is no word from the New York State Education Department if June 2021 Regents exams will occur. However, teachers are teaching to stay on pace to cover all of the content that students would need to prepare for June Regents exams. We will let students and families know as soon as we receive word on the status of the spring state exams.

## PowerSchool Parent Portal

Parents of 6-12th grade students who have not yet set up a PowerSchool parent portal account or need assistance resetting your current accounts, please feel free to contact your child's counselor at 928-2915 (Mrs. Swartwout grades 6-9) or 928-2985 (Mrs. Crandall-Bean, grades 10-12) to obtain directions along with your child's portal codes. The portal allows you to view on-line, 24-7, your child's current grades, attendance and lunch account balances. Parents have the ability to add all of your students on to one single portal account. Students are all given their own student account when they begin grade 6 and are encouraged to self-monitor their own academic progress. Our goal this year is to have 100% of our 6-12 students and parents using portal accounts. We hope you will take advantage of this great tool that can be extra helpful with our hybrid schedule to stay up to date on grades and attendance and homework assignments.



There is also a PowerSchool phone app that parents and students can use. The free app can be obtained through the App Store or the Google Play store. The BRCS school code is CRKT. Many students and parents use the portal phone app to stay on top of their academic information, as it is a wonderful communication tool!

## Mark Your Calendar Important Dates

Christmas/New Year's Holiday Recess  
December 21 - January 1

Superintendent's Conference (Half Day)  
January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday  
January 18

Mid-Winter Recess  
February 15-19

Superintendent's Conference (Half Day)  
March 12

Spring Recess  
April 2 - 9

## COVID Support

**We realize COVID causes many stressors for families and students. Please reach out to us if we can be of assistance. We want to help offer support in these trying times.**

**New email address - [ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org)  
Guidance Office - 585-928-2985**

