

BRCS Spelling Bee



7TH ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE NEWS

On January 14, students in grades 6-8 participated in the 7th annual Middle School Spelling Bee. Students had to write 25 words and ten tie-breaker words, rather than pronouncing their spelling aloud. The top three students who spelled the most words correctly were our winners.

This year we have a repeat winner, an 8th grader Starlyn Kisel. Second place went to 7th grader Wendy Dannheim, and third place to 8th grader Blake Scroggie. The winners won cash prizes, and all competitors received goodie bags and certificates.

Our champ is now eligible to participate in the next regional round of competition in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will take place virtually in March.

Congratulations to all three winners! We are proud of you!



HOBY Conference

Congratulations to sophomores Gabby Mitchell and Kori Thomas for being selected as our HOBY Leadership representatives in May 2022 at the prestigious University of Rochester campus. Kori and Gabby will improve their leadership and team building skills, make new friends and be exposed to a great college environment at this nationally-known conference.









The Circus is Coming to Town!



The circus will be in town on **March 11!** It will be lots of fun after these long winter days. It will be great as usual, but this year you can choose between two performances, one at 5:30 and one at 7:30. Each performance will have a maximum number of tickets we can sell for each time, so be sure to get yours in advance to guarantee your spot. Prices are the same for both times! Once again tickets will be \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Kids 12 and younger are free with an adult. Tickets will be on sale in the elementary through each student's classroom or at the high school through Mr. Sahm. All school rules regarding COVID will be in effect.

Message from the Superintendent

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

Again, we have reached the halfway point of a busy school year. As a District we continue to encourage our students to work hard and excel inside and outside of the classroom in sports, on the stage, and throughout our community. The Wolverine spirit is running high and as a community we have a lot to be proud of.



School Budget Preparation

I am working very closely with the Board of Education and the administrative team to develop the budget for the 2022-2023 school year. The budget focuses on balancing academics and inter-scholastic sports, the fine arts, and after-school programs. In doing so, we are looking at the long-range financial success of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District. During this budget development process, our number one priority is to preserve a well-balanced educational experience for all of our students. Each year this task gets a little more difficult, but Bolivar-Richburg Central School has talented and dedicated people. So, I'm confident we will be able to reach our goals without impacting the local taxpayers.

Capital Project

This is the first newsletter since our successful Capital Improvement Project vote which passed by a two-to-one margin in favor. I want to personally thank everyone who came out to vote and support this next chapter in our students' education. The Capital Improvement Project not only will address and maintain our infrastructure investments in our District buildings and property but will also increase our educational offerings to all of our students moving forward. The project touches upon several instructional areas including: new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) and technology rooms and additions, renovations of the music and art suites, lighting and sound updates to both of our stages, classroom renovations to address additional storage and much-needed special education support services spaces, sports locker rooms district wide, parking lot re-paving district wide, roof repair, boiler replacement, repairs and maintenance to the transportation garage, and additional safety and security improvements district wide. The architects and engineers have been meeting with administration and shareholders groups to start to work out the final design of all of the new educational spaces. In the future, we will have an open community forum to review these designs before we submit them to NYSED for final approval.

Phase 1 of the project has already been submitted to NYSED for approval with the hopes we will be able to bid it out this spring with construction starting this summer. This initial phase focuses mostly on stadium field turf replacement, parking lot reconstruction/paving, along with some interior improvements. The bulk of the work will be addressed in Phase 2, which is scheduled to start in the Spring of 2023.

Communication

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education and a big key to that 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 as always, my office door is always open.

As always, I thank you for your support and invite you to call or visit my office anytime. Your input is important and together we can continue to provide the best education possible for our students here at Bolivar-Richburg.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Retzlaff

Superintendent of Schools Bolivar-Richburg CSD



Qualifications for Membership on a School Board

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a qualified voter of the district; that is, a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age or older.
- Must be and have been a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election.
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year.
- May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family.
- May not be a current employee of the school board.
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office.

BRCS Petitions for Board of Education Seats

Petitions are available from the Superintendent's Office at the address below or by emailing Connie Emery, District Clerk, at cemery@ bolivarrichburg.org. Petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the District no later than 5:00 p.m. on or before April 18, 2022. Petitions will be filed for two full three-year expired terms.

- 1. Expired term of Kami Doane for three (3) years.
- 2. Expired term of Amanda McDonnell for three (3) years.

Each petition must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters in the district and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

BY: Connie P. Emery
District Clerk
Bolivar-Richburg Central School
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715



Elementary News

A Letter from the Elementary Principal Mrs. Duke

This time of year is always exciting, as we have officially transitioned into the second half of the academic year. With nice weather right around the corner, students begin to get "spring fever" and may begin to look forward to spring recess and beyond. However, this remains a very important time within the academic year. We have just finished up our winter iReady diagnostic and have used this data to reorganize AIS groups and to review the delivery of our instruction. Soon, students will be taking the NYS 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments. We always want our students to strive to do their best on these assessments as they are another valuable tool that will be used to continue to make BRES better (see assessment dates and reminders below).

Please continue to communicate with your child's classroom teacher. If you have any concerns regarding your child's academic/behavioral performance, the first step would be to contact the teacher directly through one of the approved communication platforms (ParentSquare, Seesaw, email, phone, etc.). If initial communication has not resolved the concern, the next step would be to schedule a Parent-Teacher conference to discuss concerns further. If issues still arise, then you should reach out to the Principal. The BRES faculty/staff are here to support you and your child(ren) and open lines of communication help to develop stronger relationships between school and home.

Lastly, in the theme of spring, I wanted to share how proud I am of all of our students and the growth they've shown since the beginning of the school year. We know students are making strides academically but I often see personal and emotional growth this time of year. I hope you have seen similar changes in your child(ren) and are proud of them too!

Upcoming NYS 3-5 Testing Dates:

- · ELA: March 29-March 31
- Math: April 26-April 28
- Science (4th grade only): Week of May 24-June 3 (performance) and June 6 (written)
- *Please discuss with your child the importance of doing their best
- *Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast on these testing dates
- *Please continue to read, have dialogue, and encourage creative writing because a strong understanding of language has a positive impact on a student's performance across contents

Important Reminders:

- Students often go outside for recess during the winter/spring months.
 Please be sure your child has the appropriate winter gear (hats, gloves, jacket, snow pants, boots). If you are in need of anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.
- March 11- Superintendent's Day, afternoon only. Students will be dismissed at 10:50 a.m.
- April 11-15- Spring Recess



Elementary PE Corner

I am truly amazed at our students and the community! The Kids Heart Challenge has been another success. Thank you to everyone for supporting our students and this great cause! All donations will be tallied over February break. Once we have the totals after break, our top earner will get to slime Mrs. Auman or Mr. Pettit. The top earner from each grade level will also get a chance to toss a pie in the face of a volunteer. It is always lots of fun—look for pictures on Facebook.



During the Kids Heart Challenge, students in all grades worked on their jumping and landing skills with and without a jump rope. It was lots of fun working with the long jump rope and learning how to do

run-throughs and turn the rope with a partner.

To join in on the Winter Olympic festivities, students were able to learn about and participate in various events. A brief video about Curling was shown and then students used frisbees and pillow polo sticks to complete an end. Students learned about the history of the Bobsled and tried our own course. The Biathlon was introduced using scooters and a beanbag target toss. The BRES Olympics were a success!

Recess Update

Thank you to all of the families that have been making sure that their children have been bringing winter clothing for recess! We will continue to get students outside for recess as much as we possibly can. Students have had the opportunity to build snowmen, make snow forts, and even slide down the side hill on the soccer field.



Elementary Guidance News Mrs. Angela Schryver, Elementary Counselor

State Testing Just Around the Corner!

- NYS ELA Grades 3-8: March 29-31
- NYS Math Grades 3-8: April 26-28
- Grade 4 Science Performance Test: May 24-June 3 (exactdate TBD)
- Grade 4 Science Written Test: June 6

Anticipated spring testing is just around the corner! At this time, we have not received anything from the state that spring testing will be cancelled for the 2021 school year. We will continue working with our students to prepare them as much as possible! State testing often brings angst for both parents and children. All parents want to see their children perform well in school. Parents play an important part in helping their children give their best performance on a test. The tips presented below may serve as a guideline for parents when helping their children prepare for testing.

During the weeks leading up to the test begin to talk with your child about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. Practice with them, talk to their teachers to find out what areas they need more practice in, and most importantly READ with your child. Good reading skills will help your child with reading passages and will help them feel more confident. The following are tips to help you in preparing your child to do their best.

The night before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Help children resolve immediate arguments before going to bed.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

The morning of the test:

- Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
- Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can
 be hard and that they're designed so that no one will
 know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is
 what counts. The important thing is to make your child
 comfortable and confident about the test.

After the test talk with your child about how it went. Praise them for doing their best, and reassure them that you are proud of them for giving their best effort.

4th Graders Get Organized!

Mrs. Angela Schryver, Elementary Counselor

The fourth-grade classes are working hard on their organizational skills! During the end of January, I was able to spend some time in the fourth-grade classrooms talking to students about the importance of organization! Students are learning how to be responsible with the items they are expected to bring to class as well as how to create a system to keep their day to day items organized and arrive to their classes both prepared and on time! Students were able to brainstorm and come up with examples of other places they might visit where organization is important such as grocery stores, clothing stores, skating rinks, and even their bedrooms! Over the next several months, we will recognize weekly organized rock stars! Students will be selected by their teachers as an "Organized Rockstar" for showing up to class prepared, on time, and having homework done. Their name will be added to the "Rockstar Hall of Fame" board and they will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win an item that will help them stay organized! In addition, we have locker fairies that visit lockers a couple of times a week and if a student has an organized locker they are left a small treat and note from our locker fairy! Our fairy has caught several organized lockers over the past couple of weeks! Keep up the great work fourth graders

Half Day Pre-K 3 News

Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie

We've been busy in Pre-K3! Each day children explore the world around them through structured and unstructured play-based learning opportunities. Students are learning to interact with their peers, learning to use language when dealing with conflict, and most importantly—how to be a good friend.

Through the last few months, our themes have included artic animals, winter and snowmen. Our own Pre-K library helps to reinforce these themes with book choices in the classroom as well as books that students choose to "check out" each week. Thank you, Miss Julie, for being our classroom librarian!

March will bring us to our spring unit where we will explore the signs of spring, weather changes, and how plants grow. We'll also sprinkle in some Dr. Seuss activities when we celebrate his birthday.















Half Day Pre-K 4 News Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie

The students in Pre-K continue to work on their kindergarten readiness skills. They are building their skills and confidence through active engagement and participation in play-based activities each day.

It has been a busy few months in Pre-K. In November and December we enjoyed the holidays by sharing our traditions and learning about how other people celebrate at this time of year.

In January we welcomed in the New Year! We added our last names on our name plates and started printing our last names. We have explored many groups of animals in our animal unit, completed our unit on shapes, and began working with numbers greater than 5.

February started off with a celebration of Groundhog Day! We learned many interesting facts about groundhogs, made groundhog puppets, made weather predictions, and learned that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, predicting there would be 6 more weeks of winter.

Throughout the months we have enjoyed borrowing books from our own Pre-K library. Miss Julie has exposed us to many amazing children's authors and illustrators through the choices provided each week. We have also been fortunate to continue our Friday visits to the Bolivar Free Library to share stories with Mrs. Fuller.

March will be an exciting month! We will start off by celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. We'll do several activities with a variety of his rhyming books and fun characters. The students will become authors and illustrators of their own rhyming book—which they can read! We are really looking forward to our next ELA unit on Plants—a sign that spring is on its way and the snow is on its way out!

Full Day Pre-K News Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell

Greetings from the full day Pre-K classes! We had a great turnout in November for Parent Teacher conferences. Your child's education is so important! Thank you for being so supportive and involved!

In December, students learned all about "Families and Communities." We had so much fun learning all about families and how they love us and help us grow and change! Students also learned about family traditions and celebrations, communities, and community helpers. Students had the opportunity to share with the class some of their family's holiday traditions. Thank you to all the families that helped with these projects. They were fantastic!



In January and February, your child has learned all about "Animals." Students learned the names of many animals, how animals' body parts help them to survive, and animal baby names and their mothers. They even took a closer look at all of the animals they have learned about and sorted them into groups of animals, such as birds, insects, fish, and mammals. Students also worked on practicing retelling familiar stories, learning nursery rhymes, rhyming, alphabet letters/sounds, drawing, and writing their names, and even some animal names

In math, students explored two- and three-dimensional shapes and objects. They learned to identify circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles. Students continue to work on counting up to 20, one-to-one

correspondence, counting a set of objects to tell "how many" up to 10, and number recognition 6-10.

Kindergarten News

Miss Hackett, Mrs. Stutzman and Mrs. Windus

We've been having fun learning in Kindergarten! In our ELA Kings and Queens unit, we learned all about what royal kings and queens do as rulers. We made royal crowns, participated in a palace STEM challenge, and even learned how to ballroom dance. All the princes and princesses dressed up in their best outfits for their Royal Afternoon Tea Party.

Our next unit is Columbus and the Pilgrims. We will learn about the adventures Columbus made to the New World and the later pilgrimage the Pilgrims made and the creation of the First Thanksgiving. We will wrap up the unit with a Boat Race between the kindergarten classes using three of the ships: Niña, Pinta, the Santa María. We look forward to seeing each class compete to make it to America.

In math, we wrapped up comparing weight, height, length, and volume. We have used our numbers to compare more, less, or same. We love counting to 100 by ones and tens, especially with song. We are currently learning about number bonds, adding, and subtracting. It has been so much fun to add and subtract real-life objects such as our food or school supplies.

Second Grade

Mrs. Livingston, Miss Gerard, and Mrs. O'Neil

Second graders continue to work hard every day! In reading, students have heard and learned about The War of 1812, and Westward Expansion. They have also read stories about kids who excel at various activities and about a brother and sister who are in search of a summer job in New York City. Second graders have been busy learning many new phonics sounds and spellings, including ey, the many sounds of y (short i, long i, long e), aw, augh, au, and igh. Students have been learning the difference between common and proper nouns along with verbs, including different tenses of the verb "to be" (was, is, were).

In math, students have been learning MANY different place-value strategies to add and subtract two- and three-digit numbers within 1,000. They also have been working very hard on solving one and TWO step word problems. Please continue to work on math facts within 20 at home; this helps them be successful when using place value strategies to add and subtract.

Happy Birthday to all those students who celebrated a birthday in December, January, and February!

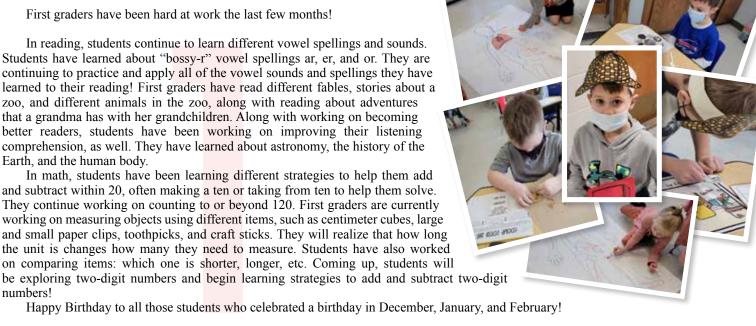


First Grade News

Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Ormsby, Mrs. Ordway, Miss Perkins

In reading, students continue to learn different vowel spellings and sounds. Students have learned about "bossy-r" vowel spellings ar, er, and or. They are continuing to practice and apply all of the vowel sounds and spellings they have learned to their reading! First graders have read different fables, stories about a zoo, and different animals in the zoo, along with reading about adventures that a grandma has with her grandchildren. Along with working on becoming better readers, students have been working on improving their listening comprehension, as well. They have learned about astronomy, the history of the Earth, and the human body.

In math, students have been learning different strategies to help them add and subtract within 20, often making a ten or taking from ten to help them solve. They continue working on counting to or beyond 120. First graders are currently working on measuring objects using different items, such as centimeter cubes, large and small paper clips, toothpicks, and craft sticks. They will realize that how long the unit is changes how many they need to measure. Students have also worked on comparing items: which one is shorter, longer, etc. Coming up, students will



Third Grade Mr. Butler, Mrs. Hackett. and Miss Pierce

Students in third grade learned how to be police detectives and crime scene investigators this quarter when Mrs. Duke, the Elementary Principal, was kidnapped. Students were great detectives by working on finding area, eliminating suspects using their reading comprehension skills, and making inferences. Then they put their writing skills to the test by writing up a police report. Finally, they used their engineering skills to construct handcuffs and arrest the guilty suspect. Mrs. McClellan. It was a fantastic day!

During the third quarter, students have been learning about fractions and where they are found in everyday life in math. In ELA we have started a unit on wolves.

Our minds continue to grow each and every day!











Fourth Grade ELA Mrs. Glauser

Fourth grade has been learning about the American Revolution. In ELA, we have finished the book Divided Loyalties about a family that supports the Patriots and Loyalists. While they feel divided politically, they still love each other and find ways to make peace with each other. Additionally, the fourth-grade classes have all earned donuts or pizza for getting One Hundred 100s on iReady lessons!

They are close to earning another reward already! I am really proud of their hard work!

Fourth Grade Math Miss Ferris

It has been a great past few months in 4th grade math! We have learned a lot about multiplication, division, area and perimeter, factors and multiples, and practicing word problems. We are about to jump into a short unit about measuring angles, and then we will be diving into the exciting world of fractions. The students continue to work hard and make tremendous gains. We are looking forward to everything that we have planned, along with some warmer weather! Stay healthy and warm.





Fifth Grade ELA Mrs. Smith

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing. We continue to read informational and literature-based texts. Our current module focuses on new or improved technologies that have been developed to meet societal needs and how those inventions have changed people's lives. Our writing focus has been responding to questions based on the articles or stories we are reading in class. Short responses are scored using a 2-point rubric. The extended response, which is an essay based on paired passages, requires an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Essays are scored using a 4-point rubric. This is helping students prepare for the upcoming state tests which will be administered March 29-31.

Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Kate Mitchell, Ella Pangburn, and Gabby Faulkner. To be selected, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits. PAWS stands for: Patience & Kindness, Awesome Attitude, Working Together, and Staying in Control and Being Safe. These three students truly deserve this award!

Please continue to support your child at home each night by checking their agenda, and red folder for homework assignments and important notes. All 5th graders are required to read at least 25 minutes every night, which should total 500+ minutes per month as part of the school-wide reading program. Remember, reading is knowledge!

Fifth Grade Math Mrs. Greene

What a busy time we have been having in math! The students have been working hard adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Soon, we will be using those fraction skills in our measurement unit. Think Spring!!

Fifth Grade Science & Social Studies Mrs. Hillman

Science and social studies have been filled with lots of exciting learning! In our science class, we have studied Earth's spheres and discovered how these spheres interact with one another with our science kit, "Models

of Earth." We specifically looked at water distribution on our planet and came up with ways to sustain our water usage. We wrapped up this unit by completing an Engineering Design Challenge where the students were tasked with creating a water filter to produce clean and clear water. The kids all came up with some excellent filters and overall had great results. Their work was very impressive!

In social studies, we have been busy learning about Ancient Civilizations such as the Maya, Aztec, and the Inca. We discovered ways they were able to survive in difficult environments using different inventions. The students completed a research project on different inventions and technologies in our society, and discovered the benefits and drawbacks of each. We have just started our unit on European exploration and its effects.

We are always on the lookout for "Paw Worthy" behavior in 5th grade. Congratulations to Alexa Stives, Ty Putnam, and Jake Thornton who truly deserve this award!



7

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG 3-YEAR OLD SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

In order to identify all children who will enter our 3-year old program in September 2022, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2022. Your child must be 3 years of age on or before December 1, 2022. This information is necessary when we initiate program sign-ups in the spring. We will use the information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name	e		M/F	M/F Date of Birth					
Mother's Name:									
	First		Maiden		Last				
Street Address:									
	House #		City		State	Zip			
Mailing Address:									
(If different from above) Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM									
Father's Name:									
	First		Middle		Last				
Street Address:									
Mailing Address:	House #		City		State	Zip			
	•	from above)							
Phone Number v	where you	can be reached b	petween 8:00AM and 3:00PM _						
Child resides wit	h:								

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2022, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2022. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2022. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use the information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Students currently attending the 3-year old program will automatically be sent a packet. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name	·				M/F	Date	of Birth	
Mother's Name:								
Street Address: _	First			Maiden			Last	
Mailing Address:	House #	Street		City			State	Zip
Phone Number v		from above) can be reach	ned between	8:00AM and 3:0	0PM			
Father's Name: _								
Street Address:	First			Middle			Last	
Mailing Address:	House #	Street		City			State	Zip
	(If different	from above)	ned between	8:00AM and 3:0	0PM			
Please check one: Prefer half-day progra							Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School PO Box 158 Richburg, New York 14774	
In order to identify a ATTEND THE PRE-K F December 1, 2022. T	ll children w PROGRAM to his informat	no will enter Kin complete this for is necessary	dergarten in Sep form and return when we initiate	etember 2022, we are it to the elementary EKindergarten sign-	school by April 1, 202 ups in the spring. We v	s who have 2. Your chil vill use the	eligible children d must be 5 year information belo	who DO NOT CURRENTLY
Child's Full Name	e				M/F	Date	of Birth	
Mother's Name:								
Street Address:	First			Maiden			Last	
Mailing Address:	House #	Street		City			State	Zip
Phone Number v		from above) can be reach	ned between	8:00AM and 3:0	0PM			
Father's Name:								
Street Address:				Middle			Last	
Mailing Address:	House #	Street		City			State	Zip
Phone Number v		t from above) can be reach	ned between	8:00AM and 3:0	0РМ			
Child Resides Wi	th:						PO	g Elementary School Box 158 Iew York 14774

Bolivar-Richburg CSD- District Notifications

Information Regarding Non-Discrimination

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including career and technical educational opportunities as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Board of Education affirms its compliance with those sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 dealing with program accessibility.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in federally assisted programs or activities solely on the basis of disability. The District shall make its program and facilities accessible to all its students with disabilities.

The District shall also identify, evaluate and extend to every qualified student with a disability under Section 504 a free, appropriate public education, including modifications, accommodations, specialized instruction or related aids and services, as deemed necessary to meet their educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

Sexual Harassment of Students

The Board of Education affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide for all District students an environment that is free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Sexual harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the Board prohibits and condemns all forms of sexual harassment by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors which occur on school grounds and at all school sponsored events, programs and activities including those that take place at locations off school premises or those that take place in another state. Generally, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- a. Submission to or rejection of such sexually harassing conduct and/or communication by a student affects decisions regarding any aspect of the student's education, including participation in school-sponsored activities;
- b. Conditions exist within the school environment that allow or foster obscene pictures, lewd jokes, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other harassing activities of a sexual nature; and
- c. Such conduct and/or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an educational or extracurricular activity, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment; and/or effectively bars the student's access to an educational opportunity or benefit.

Complaint Process

Any student suspecting discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability may make a claim of discrimination using the procedure outlined below. Anyone who is aware of or has a complaint about sexual harassment should also follow this procedure. This claim or complaint is filed with the Superintendent/designee, who will assist with the complaint process if necessary. The following information should be included on the complaint.

- The exact nature of the complaint actions, policies, or practices believed to be discriminatory and any person believed to be responsible.
- 2. The date, time and place of the alleged discriminatory action(s).
- 3. The names of witnesses or persons who have knowledge about the complaint.
- Any available written documentation or evidence that is relevant to the complaint.

5. The actions that could be taken to correct the complaint.

The Superintendent/designee shall cause a review of the complaint to be conducted (including necessary meetings and interviews) and a written response mailed to the complainant within ten school days after receipt of the complaint.

If it is agreed that discrimination occurred, corrective action will be taken to restore denied rights.

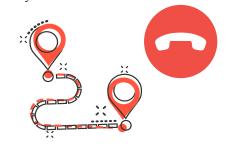
If there is not agreement, a written appeal may be submitted to the Board of Education indicating the reasons for disagreement. The Board of Education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the appeal.

A complaint of illegal discrimination may also be filed with the Federal Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

Title IX Coordinator for the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District Susan Bokman Director of Special Education 585-928-2914

Phone Number or Address Changes?

Please contact the Guidance Office at 585-928-2986 if you and your children have phone number, e-mail address, emergency number or address changes that need to be made in our PowerSchool student information computer system. Thank you for helping us keep our information as up to date as possible as it is especially important to have during the pandemic to stay in communication with you!



Middle/High School News

A Letter from the Principal Mr. Quartley - Secondary Principal

It feels like it has been a long winter, and I am sure that many of you are looking forward to Spring and the promise of warmer weather. We are still planning to go forward with our 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. in May with the Close-Up Program. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation and will keep everyone updated. The trip has lived up to expectations as an excellent educational opportunity for our students. We will be leaving for Washington on Sunday, May 1, at 6:00 a.m. sharp and returning on Wednesday, May 4, between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. Thank you to Mr. Baldwin, who has put in countless hours to prepare for this trip.

We recently received notice that the WEE Center will receive a \$10,000 grant this year and another \$8,000 next year. This grant was made possible through Cornell University's Agriculture Education and Outreach Program. The incentive grant will provide local school-based agricultural education programs with grant awards to secure necessary resources for a high-quality agricultural education program. These resources may include, but are not limited to: curriculum development, professional development, program development, resource acquisitions, and program coordination.

Bolivar-Richburg Central School is now a new member of the FFA. The grant will allow us to purchase needed supplies, make improvements to the WEE Center, and continue to provide our students with the best agricultural science program in Allegany County. Derek Hill, the New York FFA Director, stated, "This grant allows agriculture programs to expand what they are already doing in and out of the classroom and provides the startup funds needed for schools that want to have an agriculture program. We have charted nearly forty new FFA chapters in the last few years and many of them have participated in this program. We are excited to grow agricultural education and FFA in New York through the 5th year of funding for this grant and hope to reach more schools across the state!"

The High School National Honor Society sponsored the "Souper Bowl of Caring" during the month of February. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a food drive that helps provide food for families in need of assistance. The food drive took place from February 7 to February 16 and brought in a large amount of food items for our community. One in six children in the United States goes to sleep each night hungry. This is just another example of how our students are making a difference in our community. Thank you to Ms. Schena and our students for taking a leadership role in this important issue.



Earth and Space Science Mrs. Renyck

By the second week in February, students of finished units on Plate Tectonic Theory and of earthquakes. Students will investigate sedimentary of processes like weathering, erosion, and deposition through the end of March. We will study how these processes shape landscapes. By late March, we will delve deep into weather and climate. Of course, we will also spend time on current events as they arise. For example, we didn't ignore the science behind our latest snowstorm just because our topic of focus was earthquakes.

Parents/guardians, please note that I sent letters home that shared your child's exam averages for the class. This is a good predictor of how your child will perform on their Regents exam in June if they were to do nothing to change habits. Any student with a 75% or lower is encouraged to attend after school Regents Review (late bus is provided). These sessions will occur every Thursday with the exception of school breaks and/or cancellations.

Happy Spring.

High School Guidance News December 2021- February 2022 Mrs. Crandall-Bean

TIPS AND TASKS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS THAT WILL HELP YOU STAY ON TOP OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

These basic tasks will assist you in staying current and up to date regarding your student's grades, attendance, homework assignments, deadlines, and information sent out to students from teachers, counselors and other staff to your child.

- <u>Utilize the parent portal every day to monitor your child's homework completion, attendance and grades.</u> The Guidance Office is glad to help set up accounts, reset passwords, etc. with the portal which as a helpful tool. You can even add it as a mobile device phone app and it is then at your fingertips to check!
- Ask your child to share with you their Microsoft Teams log in or sign in together (user name and password) so that you can view what assignments and messages they have inside of Teams. This is where teachers may be linking students' work electronically. Teams does not currently have a parent/guardian view-only option for their software platform unfortunately.
- Make sure your child has turned on the notifications for every Microsoft Team they are a member of to receive immediate notification messages
 so that they are aware when staff are sending out not only assignments, but other important messages.
 IF NOTIFICATIONS ARE OFF, YOUR CHILD IS PROBABLY MISSING OUT AN A GREAT AMOUNT OF IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL
 INFORMATION
- Contact your child's teachers and counselors if you need assistance.
- Help your child have a quiet, distraction-free learning space, time and routine at home as often as it is possible.
- Assist your child in creating a school daily calendar whether it be on paper, in a school agenda or an electronic calendar platform or app for their important deadlines.

PLEASE REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT IF YOUR CHILD IS STRUGGLING EMOTIONALLY OR ACADEMICALLY!! WE WANT TO HELP IF WE CAN AND REALIZE THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES!



Grades 8-II to Select Courses for the 2022-2023 School Year

During the months of March through May, all 8th through 11th graders will meet in-person or virtually with their school counselor to select courses for next school year. Parents are required to sign the student schedule request form to show approval of the courses selected. However, parents are more than welcome to set up an appointment to be present when I schedule your child. Please e-mail me at ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org or call me at 928-2985 if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's choice of courses for next year or if you would like to come in to meet regarding course selection. Mrs. Swartwout will be meeting with current eighth and ninth graders to create their schedules. She can be reached at cswartwout@bolivarrichburg.org or at 585-928-2915. A course description booklet will be available on the Guidance Website soon and linked in the students' Microsoft Teams called "Guidance Info" to assist them in making wise choices regarding their course selections.

Spring College Fairs for Sophomores & Juniors

This weblink has all of the information for the spring national college fairs and how to register to attend virtually or in person: http://www.nacacfairs.org

New York State SUNY public colleges are offering several virtual college fairs in March via this link: https://www.suny.edu/attend/events/virtual-college-fair/

The St. Bonaventure University Penn York College Fair is canceled this year due to the pandemic. JUNIORS, PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REGISTER FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS AS HUNDREDS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE REPRESENTED.

College Selection Tips for Juniors

Please watch your "Guidance Info for Juniors" Team for a lesson coming soon entitled "Collection Selection Tips." Mrs. Bean will assist with the college search process during individual scheduling appointments and any time students need help. This lesson will be added to our guidance webpage, Remind app and Teams so that it is available to parents and students as needed.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Our local scholarship applications are linked electronically on our Guidance website, which can be accessed via the following links: https:// www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/773: Start at the BRCS website at www.brcs. wnyric.org, click on the "Department" menu and pull down to the bottom of the list and click on "Guidance." Next, to the left click on the "High School Guidance" link. To the left on this screen you will see links for "internal/local scholarships" as well as a link to "external/national scholarships." There you will find a large amount of scholarship information, web links to search sites as well as actual scholarship applications along with the deadlines. On October 1, seniors received a lesson on how to search for scholarships step by step as well at our "Snacks and Scholarships" Day. Seniors are encouraged to get an early start on completing scholarship applications as often they involve writing essays, attaching transcripts, letters of recommendations and/or financial documents. Please call (928-2985) or stop into the Guidance Office if you need assistance! REMEMBER TO BE "NEAT AND COMPLETE" WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS!!!!

SAT and ACT Update for College-Bound Sophomores & Juniors

Due to the pandemic, many SAT and ACT tests opportunities have been cancelled or restricted for safety reasons. 84% of colleges have gone "test optional" for the current senior class. For juniors starting college the 2023-24 school year, SUNY New York State colleges have recently announced they will all be test optional. Test optional means you MAY submit an SAT or ACT score if you have one, but that it is not required in order to apply. It is recommended that juniors take at least one ACT or SAT in the spring so that you have an official test score just in case you need one at a private institution. We have given the PreACT already this year to any interested sophomores and juniors free of charge that wish to take practice exams to familiarize themselves with the test time limits and style of questions. On Thursday, February 10, students who took the PreACT practice exam reviewed their score reports and were provided with test prep information.

Students should register for these tests on-line at www.actstudent.org for the ACT and www.sat.collegeboard.org/register for the SAT. I am glad to assist if students run into technical problems while trying to complete their registrations. If a student normally qualifies for free or reduced lunch or receives government financial assistance, I am able to give him/her a fee waiver, which

waives the fees to take the SAT and the ACT exam twice during their junior or senior year. Students need to request fee waivers in person at the Guidance Office. STUDENTS MAY TEST AS MANY TIMES AS THEY WOULD LIKE AND COLLEGES WILL OFTEN CONSIDER THE HIGHEST SUBTEST SCORES.



Financial Aid Reminders for Seniors

Seniors have been reminded to be sure that they have filed the correct financial aid applications for the colleges to which they have applied—mainly the FAFSA and TAP applications. In addition to all colleges requiring the FAFSA, some colleges have their own application or use the CSS Profile and, more importantly, their very own filing deadlines. Students should call their college financial aid department or check the website to verify forms and deadlines. We have several good financial aid resources available for parents linked on our guidance financial aid website at https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/276. At this link you will find a lesson called "The Basics of Financial Aid" which provides some detailed step-by-step directions for completing financial aid. https://www.brcs.wightheyor.wightheyo



COMING SOON!

Senior Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top Ten Scholars will be announced soon!

From the Athletic Director Mr. Dustin Allen

Our winter sports season is finishing up. The following teams will be recognized by New York State as Scholar Athlete teams: Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Wrestling, Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' Volleyball, and Competitive Cheer. These teams maintained a combined GPA of 90% or above during their seasons.

Our wrestling team had a very successful season which concluded with them winning the Class B sectional title. We had five individual champions in Gary McDowell Jr., Teegan Sibble, Trey Buchholz, Tayvn MacDonnell, and Trent Sibble. They also had athletes move on to supersectionals. Coach Andrew Taylor



won Coach of the Year. Teegan Sibble made Section V history by being the first female Champion ever.







Above: Section V Class B3 Wrestling Champions



In Boys Basketball, Landon Danaher (pictured left) scored his 1000th point, breaking the previous Bolivar-Richburg scoring record!

We have also seen successful seasons out of our Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Boys' Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Indoor Track and Field. At the due date for this newsletter, most teams have not competed in sectionals yet.



Spring sports sign-ups have begun with varsity and JV practices starting on school's website.









Sports physicals for next school year will be taking place on May 23, 24, and 25. Your students will be given opportunity during their gym classes to sign up for school sports physicals. These are provided to your students at no cost. You can also obtain a physical from your own physician, at your own expense. Please provide a copy of this physical to the school nurse. If you do not want your child to receive a school physical for sports, please contact the Athletic Office or Nurses Office and we will make note of this.

For complete schedules of the spring season, check out the Athletic Calendar on the school's website. You can also sign up to receive text or e-mail notification on all of your favorite Wolverine sports teams.



BRCS Musical Notes

All County Band & Orchestra

On Friday & Saturday (Jan. 14 & 15) a group of select students from our Band & Orchestra programs participated in a prestigious invitational event: the All-County Honors Orchestra & All-County



Honors Band at the beautiful auditorium of Cuba-Rushford High School. The students earned the privilege of representing the Bolivar-Richburg Music program based on their merit through ensemble participation, technical abilities, and overall musical proficiency. Given the nature of the Honors event, students were also required to participate in intense rehearsals on Friday and Saturday led by expert clinicians, ending with a live performance that stirred up the hearts of parents and family in attendance.



The BRCS Music Department sent seven of its top orchestra musicians—Jessica Majot, Raina Bowen, Bradley Johnson, Jazzlynn Rizzo, Hunter Stuck, Celia DePriter and Alexandra Fisk—as well as three of its top band musicians—Azi Mitchell, Sierra Hall, and Lindsey Greeson. We are immensely proud of these students and the honor they have achieved representing Bolivar-Richburg schools at the 2022 All-County Honors Orchestra & Honors Band! BRAVO!

Scholarship Winner

Raina Bowen won the ACSMA Senior Scholarship given to a senior who has been active in music for their high school career. The scholarship comes with a monetary award along with a performance at one of the All-County festivals. To qualify for the scholarship, Raina had to write an essay and complete an audition where she performed an Italian art song accompanied by Miss Harris on the piano.



You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown



Elsewhere, in the lit stages and rehearsal rooms of the BRCS High School, another important event is brewing; rehearsals are underway for our first BRCS Spring musical in more than a decade! The Broadway hit musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" under the direction of BRCS Choral Director, Andrea Harris, will open on **Friday, April 1**, and **Saturday April 2**, at 7 p.m.

The beloved characters of Charlie Brown and Linus will come alive on our stage, opening up the show talking to each other in that deliciously familiar way... "I really don't think you have anything to worry about, Charlie Brown," Linus says. "After all, science has shown that a person's character isn't really established until he's at least 5 years old."

"But I am five. I'm more than five," laments Charlie Brown.

"Oh, well, that's the way it goes," says Linus.

The fun moves along quickly, introducing more of the "Peanuts" gang: Patty, Schroeder, Lucy and Snoopy. As the show advances, the relationship of the "Peanuts" characters to one another develops even further. If you remember the comic strip, these relationships will bring back many sweet memories, including Lucy's infatuation with Schroeder and her perverse joy at tormenting Charlie Brown, Linus's love of his blanket, Snoopy's rich world of imagination, and, of course, Charlie Brown's hopeless love-at-a-distance of the mysterious little redheaded girl.

Tickets are \$5 (children under 10 are free!!). For more information or to order tickets, contact Ms. Harris (aharris@bolivarrichburg.org), Mr. Suzano (asuzano@bolivarrichburg.org) or Ms. Amy Anastasia (aanastasia@bolivarrichburg.org).

As always, thank you SO MUCH for your support of our BRCS Music Department!

We can't wait to see you all here on April 1 & 2 for our Spring Musical!

Cheers,

Ms. Harris. Mrs. Crane & Mr. Suzano

Learn More about Music Opportunities at Bolivar-Richburg:

www.brcs.wnyric.org/music





Bolivar-Richburg Central School District Recruiting Substitute Bus Drivers

School bus drivers have one of the most important jobs in any school district. They are the first and last person to see our children each school day and are responsible for getting them to and from school safely. The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District is recruiting motivated and responsible individuals to apply for substitute school bus driver positions.

Substitute School Bus Driver Responsibilities

The most obvious responsibility of a school bus driver is to transport students to and from school and activities in a timely and safe manner. This includes showing up to each home or stopping at the scheduled time and driving safely in all types of weather.

Qualifications and Expectations

- Good verbal communication skills
- At least 21 years old
- Valid License Requirements. Bus drivers must possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), with a Passenger (P) endorsement and a School Bus (S) endorsement
- Be subject to a background check, fingerprinting, drug screening & physical

Substitute School Bus Driver Compensation

Starting Pay: \$16 per hour

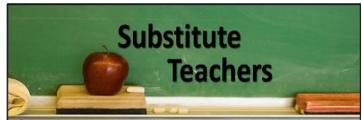
How to Apply

Please click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "District Tab" of the Bolivar-Richburg webpage (https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/) to fill out an on-line application to work as a substitute bus driver. You can also call the District Office at (585)-928-2937 and we can provide you with a paper copy of the application for you to complete. After we receive your completed application, our Transportation Director will call you to schedule an interview and a time to learn more about our District.

If you are interested in joining the BRCS family as a substitute bus driver, please consider filling out an application. If I can answer any questions you might have regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (585) 928-2937.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Retzlaff



Bolivar-Richburg Central School District Recruiting Substitute Teachers

According to a recent study, students will spend six months of their school career learning from substitute teachers. Because the number one factor to increase student achievement is a skilled educator, the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District is recruiting motivated and responsible individuals to apply for substitute teaching positions.

Substitute Teacher Responsibilities

Provide instruction and assessment aligned with district curriculum based on lesson plans provided by the regular classroom teacher in a safe and positive learning environment.

Qualifications and Expectations

At least two years of higher education or sixty (60) credit hours and a willingness to work hard and serve as a positive role model for our students.

Substitute Teacher Compensation

\$125 a day for certified teachers, and \$105 a day for uncertified individuals.

How to Apply

Please click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "District Tab" of the Bolivar-Richburg webpage (https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/) to fill out an on-line application to work as a substitute teacher. You can also call the District Office at (585)-928-2937 and we can provide you with a paper copy of the application for you to complete. After we receive your completed application, a BRCS administrator will call you to schedule an interview and a time to learn more about our District.

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District has a proud tradition of preparing students for success down the road and around the world. If you are interested in joining the BRCS family as a substitute teacher, please consider filling out an application and helping our students become lifelong learners. If I can answer any questions you might have regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (585) 928-2937

Sincerely,

Michael A. Retzlaff



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

Board of Education:

Amanda McDonnell, President Jude Auman, Vice President Erin Baldwin Jarrod Bell Michelle Clark Kami Doane Michelle Robinson

Administration:

Michael A. Retzlaff, Superintendent Susan Bokman, Director of Special Education Megan Duke, Elementary Principal Daniel Quartley, Secondary Principal Mary Snyder, Assistant Principal Sarah Cartmill, Director of Curriculum Jessica Mitchell, School Business Administrator Current Resident

or Local Postal Patron



NON PROFIT



Bolivar-Richburg Central School 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.



Transportation Requests

Parents are reminded that written requests for transportation to non-public schools must be received by April 1, 2022, to be eligible for the 2022-2023 school year. Please send requests to:

Michael Retzlaff, Superintendent Bolivar-Richburg Central School 100 School Street Bolivar, NY 14715

