

# BOLIVAR-RICHBURG Central School



**December 2022**

## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

*November 21 (PM) & 22*

### **Thanksgiving Recess**

*November 23-25*

### **Christmas/New Year's Holiday Recess**

*December 23-January 2*

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**

*January 16*

### **Mid-Winter Recess**

*February 20-24*

### **Superintendent's Conference in the Afternoon**

*March 17*

### **Spring Recess**

*April 3-7*



## *BRCS Holiday Dinner*

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District will be hosting a Holiday Dinner for Senior Citizens in the Cafeteria of the Bolivar building at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022

*For reservations, please call the Superintendent's office at 585-928-2937 by December 1, 2022.*

## *BRCS Fall Play*

Our fall play, "The Election," will take place on December 2 & 3 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

In lieu of an admission cost, we will be collecting donations (both monetary and food) for families in our community in need.

# Message from the Superintendent

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

As I write this letter, I look out my window and see a beautiful fall day here in Bolivar-Richburg, but I know it's only a matter of a few weeks and winter will be upon us. Students and faculty/staff have settled into the routines that come with every new school year.

Our fall sports teams saw our Boys' Soccer team, Girls' Volleyball team, and the Varsity Football team compete in sectional semi-finals. Although they were not successful to move on, these teams of players provided many nights of fall pride for the Wolverines.

We also had members of our music department participate in Area All-State music festival which was held in Elmira, NY. Several of our 11th grade students had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. and participate firsthand in the election process and learn how Congress really works. And finally, our Drama department will be preforming "The Election" on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3.

## School Board Recognition

October was School Board recognition month, and I want 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, Erin Baldwin, Jarrod Bell, Michelle Clark, Kami Doane, Amanda McDonnell, and Michelle Robinson* – 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 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 open.

Additional communication avenues include School Messenger Calls, for things like emergencies, important information or reminders, and of course "snow closures." Also, please check out our school website. It is full of great information and happenings here at Bolivar-Richburg Central School, and I encourage you to check it out regularly at <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 local Town and Village agencies to help us decide as quickly as possible.

## Happy Holidays

The 2022-2023 school year is well underway, and we look forward to another exciting year here at Bolivar-Richburg Central School. This year will mark the return of the Senior Citizen's holiday dinner on December 8 at 1:30 p.m. Please join and reserve your spot by calling (585) 928-2937. 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**

Superintendent of Schools  
Bolivar-Richburg CSD



## New Faculty / Staff

We're pleased to welcome a number of new employees to our district this year. We proudly welcome the following:



**Raymond Baldwin**  
Dir. of Ed. Tech.  
& Info. Systems



**Kaytlynne Heath**  
Bus Monitor



**Heidi Crowley**  
Cook



**Angel Liller**  
Teacher Aide



**Tamara Ritchie**  
Food Service Helper



**Kennedy Chind**  
Food Service Helper



**Meghan Bradley**  
Elementary Teacher



**Marian Burdick**  
Food Service Helper



**Nicholas Dodson**  
Bus Driver



**Jade VanNatter**  
Bus Monitor



**Ashtin Harenda**  
Teacher Aide



**Betty Harless**  
Food Service Helper



**Matthew Hyson**  
Math Teacher



**Haley Robinson**  
Art Teacher



**Christina Scott**  
Guidance Counselor



**Thela Snow**  
Family &  
Consumer Science



**Elizabeth Wilson**  
Social Studies  
Teacher



**Raymond Mannix**  
Bus Driver



**Tori Johnston**  
Elementary Teacher



**Doris Dunham**  
Elementary Teacher



**John Mesler**  
Cafeteria/Cook  
Manager



**Troy Geisel**  
Custodian



**Malibu Peelman**  
Bus Driver







Our fall sports season has come to a close. Our volleyball, football, and girl's soccer teams all advanced to the semi-finals. Boys' soccer made an incredible run that ended in the sectional finals. This is the first time in school history our boys' team advanced this far. Our JV and modified sports teams had excellent seasons as well.

I would personally like to thank all of our coaches and volunteers for their time and dedication. Also, a huge thank you to our extremely loyal fans who show up to support our athletes no matter where the games are being played. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate our athletes whose dedication and long hours of hard work are clearly paying off.

In closing, I am looking forward to an exciting Winter Sports season. Come out and support your Wolverines! We are BR!

Mr. Dustin Allen,  
*Athletic Director*

For complete schedules please 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 Fitness Center

Open for Community Use

### Hours:

Monday-Thursday from  
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Fitness Center will be closed whenever school is closed (for holidays, snow days, etc.)

## 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.*



## Area All-State Festival

A group of BRCS students had the honor of performing with a highly select group of musicians from NYSSMA Region 15 in the Jr. High Area All-State Festival. Students were selected for participation based on their skills and scores achieved in last year's NYSSMA competitions. Among those top students were the proud BRCS musicians: Rylee Whiting, Kylee Whiting, Madalynn Woodworth, Emily Perry, Sierra Hall, Izik Bowen, Trevor Whitsell, and Kaydence Edwards.



Hello, BRES Families!

As always, I cannot believe how quickly the school year is going. We have had a lot of fun in the elementary so far and have continued to make many improvements to better our students' experiences. We have rolled out our new PBIS program, have continued to work on providing academic interventions for more students, and are offering enriching opportunities like our upcoming trip to Shea's to see Aladdin.

The holidays are quickly approaching. Shortly we will be partaking in celebrations with family and friends. We have a lot to celebrate this year at BRES!

Each year, CA BOCES provides Districts with an outline of student performance data in relation to the recent NYS 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments. The outline compares our student mastery percentage and BOCES ranking over a five-year trajectory (2016 to 2022, excluding the COVID years). This year, Bolivar-Richburg Elementary was presented with some great news in relation to student performance. In five out of six of our assessment areas, we improved our student mastery percentage and BOCES ranking significantly. For example, in 2016 we ranked 18th out of 21 Districts in the BOCES region based on our NYS ELA 5 performance, but our results from the 2022 assessment have placed us 9th out of 21 Districts!

As a District, we are proud of the improvements we have made in the most recent years. We continue to have work to do, but wanted to take a moment to celebrate our staff's hard work and our students' successes. Thank you for your continued support of Bolivar-Richburg Elementary.

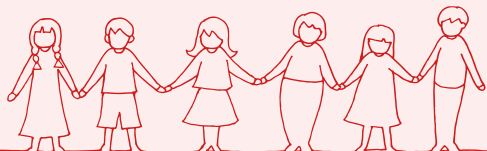
### Important Reminders:

- November 21: Early dismissal for students (Parent/Teacher Conferences in afternoon and evening)
- November 22: No school for students (Parent/Teacher Conferences in morning)
- November 23 – 25: No School (Thanksgiving Recess)
- December 15: Holiday Concert, Grades K-2 at 9 a.m. and Grades 3-5 at 6 p.m.
- December 23 – January 2: No School (Holiday Recess)
- January 17: No School (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

I appreciate your partnership and continue to ask that you reach out to the Main Office with any questions/concerns regarding your child's education. Please remember, we are here to help!

Go Wolverines!

**Mrs. Duke**  
Elementary Principal, BRES



## Kindergarten News

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

In kindergarten, we have been having a lot of fun learning. We have been getting to know each other and playing with friends. We've been making fall crafts and doing fun fall activities. We started off the year listening to and singing nursery rhymes. We heard fables that taught us life lessons such as "slow and steady wins the race." We heard some of our favorite stories and learned about characters, settings, and plots. Then we learned all about our five senses. We enjoyed investigating the world around us using our senses. We have been practicing writing in so many ways! We started by making lines in the air, on the walls, with playdough, on paper, and much more. We practice the letter names and sounds every day. We have even begun reading our first words and sentences. In math, we have been working hard on our numbers one to ten. We have been counting, writing, and building our numbers in many ways. Counting while moving has been one of our favorite activities. The kindergarten teachers are looking forward to working with all the kindergarten kiddos as they continue to grow and explore this year!





## Half Day Pre-K New

*Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie*

Our first few weeks in the Pre-K3 classroom have been full of fun, adventure, and learning! 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 for use in our classroom. The children have enjoyed stories, painting, dancing, singing songs, pretending in the house center, sliding and riding tricycles in the gym, and best of all 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 have 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. October also brought on the start of our weekly visits to the Bolivar Free Library. Mrs. Fuller welcomes our class each week and shares many great books!

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!



## Full Day Pre-K News

*Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell*

We had a great start to the school year in full day Pre-K! In September, we did a lot of name activities as well as "getting to know each other" activities. It was so much fun getting to know all of the students. Our first reading unit was "All About Me." The students learned about naming the five senses as well as the corresponding body part. The students had so much fun painting and creating life sized cut outs of themselves!

This month, the 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.

In the next couple of months, we will be working on Classic Tales such as "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Elves and the Shoemaker," and "The Gingerbread Man." In math we have been working on numbers 1-5, sorting objects by color, shape, size, and we have been identifying groups that are the same and different.

Thank you, Officer McPherson, for coming in and talking to the students about Halloween Safety. Thank you for the glow sticks and trick-or-treat bags!







## First Grade

*Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Ordway, and Miss Perkins*

Happy Fall! First graders have had a busy start to the year! In Math, they have been learning more about how addition and subtraction are related and writing correct number sentences. They also learned about the value of the equal sign and how to balance equations! (ex.  $5 + 1 = 4 + 2$ )

In Reading, they have been reviewing all their letters and sounds and learning new tricky words. Tricky words are words that have parts in them that do not follow the rules so we have to learn that part by heart. They have been working hard at breaking words up by their sounds and then blending them back together to say the word. They have also heard many fables and learned what is a moral, or lesson. Students also have been busy learning about different body systems such as circulatory, skeletal, nervous, digestive, and muscular. They have learned the importance of eating healthy and washing their hands!

Lastly, students got to investigate apples. They learned about the life cycle of an apple tree, tasted foods made with apples, weighed and measured apples, made applesauce, and tasted 3 different kinds of apples. We are looking forward to more fun and learning in first grade!



## Second Grade

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

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. 2nd 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. Students

have been learning how to retell a story using a graphic organizer that identifies character, setting, beginning, middle, and end. Second graders have also learned how to determine the moral of a 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. Second graders have also been learning about RADD when answering short response questions. R=restate the question, A=answer in a complete sentence, D=detail to support answer, D= detail to support answer.

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



## Third Grade

*Mrs. Hackett*

In third grade we have settled into our classroom, found old friends and made new friends. Time seems to be flying already! Speaking of time, we started our unit on telling time to the nearest minute and solving word problems with elapsed time. We have also been learning how to multiply and divide numbers! Learning how to do this is always so fun and exciting. We have found a way to make word problems more fun by getting our favorite games involved. In ELA, students are learning how people in other countries access books and gain the power of knowledge. We just finished up our country projects and have learned so much! We continue to work on our summarizing, clarifying, predicting, and questioning the texts. We start chapter books next! It's going to be awesome!!



## Fourth Grade Science & Social Studies

*Mrs. Bentley*

This year just started, and I feel like we have already done so much! In Social Studies, we have learned about the geography of NY. We have been making maps, learning about the Erie Canal, and so much more! Our next unit is on Native Americans of NY. On the 18th we had a presenter, Dave Ruch, come in to teach us more about the Native Americans with his guitar!

In Science, we have been focusing on the Earth and how it has formed into what it is today. We have done some experiments with sugar cubes showing how weathering affects rocks, and using Starburst to show how rocks form! We also received a video sent to us from a real geologist who studies volcanoes! She is the niece of an employee here at B-R and has her doctorate in geology! She made the 4th graders their very own presentation about what her job is like! It was interactive and full of information!

Also, for the month of October, we have a "Student Spotlight" in fourth grade. Students vote on each other for kids showing characteristics of PAWS. For the month of October, we recognized Sammy Dunn, Allison Abdo, and Kaidence Palmer. Congratulations to the three of them!

## Fourth Grade ELA

*Mrs. Bell*

Mrs. Bell's 4th grade class has been busy learning all about the Native Americans of New York State. Students have had a lot of fun learning about the Iroquois culture. One of their projects was to create a wampum belt that showed symbols in their own life. These were all displayed in the hallway for a few weeks to show off what a great job they did. We have also been working hard at being strong writers! They are doing a great job at writing strong paragraphs using details from the text to support their writing. Way to start the school year off strong 4th graders!

## Fourth Grade Math

*Miss Ferris*

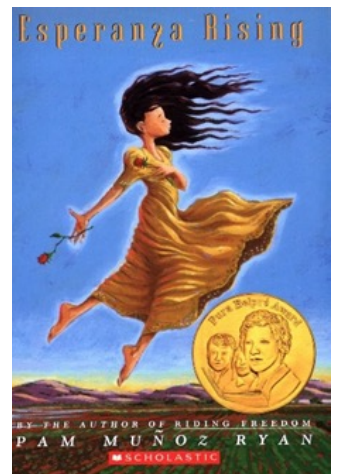
In fourth grade math, we just wrapped up Module 1: Place Value. We have now moved onto Module 3 which is a lot about multiplication and division. The students are doing well and learning a lot! Many of them have mastered their multiplication facts. We are looking forward to an exciting holiday season and ringing in 2023.

## Fifth Grade ELA

*Mrs. Smith*

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing! Our guided reading groups are running smoothly, as we focus on fiction and nonfiction texts. 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. My hope is that 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 PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Crimson Kron and Presley Robinson. In order to be selected, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits.





## *Fifth Grade Math*

*Miss Johnston*

In Miss Johnston's 5th grade math class, we have been learning about place values and decimals. The topics that we have been covering include rounding, completing patterns, converting measurements, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, as well as solving word problems. Students have been working together to solve the math problems and discuss the different ways to solve the problems. Students are using background knowledge from previous lessons to help them solve the lessons and make connections to other topics we have learned. Within the next few weeks, we will be focusing on solving expressions and solving multiplication and division problems with multi-digit numbers and decimals.

## *Fifth Grade Science & Social Studies*

*Mrs. Hillman*

We have had a busy, productive, and fun start to this school year. Fifth graders have been hard at work in science learning about matter with our science unit "Chemistry in the Kitchen." We have conducted many exciting experiments to find evidence to prove matter is made of particles too small to be seen. We will soon be exploring whether mixing two or more substances will result in a new substance. Ask your child to share with you some of the experiments we have done in class!

In social studies, we have been flying through our geography unit. We started by identifying the continents of the world and then the Western Hemisphere. The students all worked hard to conduct research and present to the class information about a country in the Western Hemisphere. These projects turned out amazing! We are now beginning to label the 50 states and will soon be exploring how geography affects the way that we live.



Congratulations to Alison Dunn who was our PAWS recipient! Keep up that PAWS worthy behavior!

# PAWS



## *BRCS Reading Challenge*

*Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Mallery and Mrs. Scott*

The BRCS Reading Challenge has begun! From October to May, the Reading Department is encouraging students to read and log their minutes to reach their grade level goal. Students are to log their minutes on their calendars (grades Pre-K-3) or in Microsoft Teams (grades 4 and 5). Every child that reaches their grade level goal will be allowed to choose a book from the Reading Challenge Vending Machine and a special treat rewarding their reading!



*Elementary Reading Department*

## *Elementary Physical Education*

What a great start to the year! To begin with, we welcomed Mr. Werner from St. Bonaventure as a student teacher. He helped Mrs. Auman's PE classes with a "Building a Foundation" unit. Grades PK-2 worked on locomotor skills and movements. Grades 3-5 started with fun, cooperative group games. The next unit was tossing and catching for the younger students and Football for grades 2-5. Students worked hard on their rolling skills, then progressed to tossing and catching. The younger students got lots of practice bowling and aiming for targets. The older students worked hard on their football skills to be able to play 4-Zone football games. Fun was had by all!

Mr. Werner led the soccer unit. He focused on dribbling, passing, trapping, and scoring goals. Lots of lead up games were played. The students' favorite was the game "Sharks and Minnows." Mr. Werner finished out his time at BRES with some soccer games and stations. We were so thankful that he was able to join us for the start of the school year.

For Halloween this year, students were able to participate in a variety of Halloween themed games, including Ghostbuster, Zombie Invasion, and Ghosts in the Graveyard to name a few. The Haunted House was back and a huge success. Students were given the opportunity to walk through the decorated stage if they chose to. It was great to have it back on the stage again this year.

Looking forward, students will be working on volleying skills and basketball skills. It looks to be a wonderful school year full of activity!





# Middle/High School News

Steve Jobs once said, “The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

I saw this quote in a random magazine last month and it immediately reminded me of our teachers and staff here at BRCS. I am sure you are well aware of how difficult it is to find teachers these days, and I have met with many community members who tell me, “I don’t know how you teachers do it every day!” It is an extremely challenging profession that offers no consistency. In fact, the only constant is change! And it is true, it takes an extremely unique person to choose the teaching profession, especially those who dedicate their entire life to the job, but I think I know the secret to why they do what they do...CHANGE!

The goal here at Bolivar-Richburg is to create a wave of change. A new way of thinking, a new way of learning, and a new way to embrace our future. We have worked hard as a family to break the addiction of cell phones and social media. We are currently revamping our Response to Intervention (RTI) in our Middle School to help bridge the learning gaps of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We have reintroduced frameworks for our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which offered students a chance to dress up for Halloween and for some to participate in fun games and activities during advisement. We offered a six-day, all expense paid trip for our Juniors to Washington, D.C., where they sat front seat to the mid-term elections and learned how to be more active in our local, state, and federal government.

The driving force behind this wave of change are our teachers and staff. They do the heavy lifting on a daily basis, understanding that the steps might not be big, but we are moving in the right direction!

My hope is that you will join us on this journey. How can you change? How can you help? If you’re willing, I simply ask for your support. Our students need good role models. They need community members who teach them the importance of working as a team to reach our collaborative goals. They need fans in the stands who cheer for them and demonstrate great sportsmanship. They need parents who hold them to higher standards and help them solve their problems. They need a family they can depend on, even when the road gets rough.

I have been blessed to see this process in motion, and it is my job to keep it moving forward. I want to thank our entire BRCS community for the support and understanding through these first ten weeks of change. The example you set serves as the blueprint for our children!

Please enjoy the holidays with your loved ones! I am a phone call away if you need anything!

Respectfully,

**Jeff Margeson,**  
Secondary Principal



## HS Guidance Info: BRCS Remind App Codes

With a smartphone using the web browser go to [rmd.at/guidancebr](http://rmd.at/guidancebr). Then follow the instructions to sign up for and download the Remind mobile app. Mrs. Bean will be sending information to high school parents and students via this app. Example: field trip slips, reminders of college rep visits, deadlines, Pre-ACTs, military reps, booklets on financial aid etc. Remind also allows you to text Mrs. Bean back with individualized questions.



## Scholarship Presentations

On November 3, Bruce Campbell from the Allegany County Area Foundation presented to our seniors on the ACAF Scholarship application process. Mrs. Bean will follow up with a lesson on how to search for scholarships.



## *Tips For Parents to Help Stay on Top of Your Child's Schooling*

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

- Utilize the parent portal **every day** to monitor your child's homework completion, attendance, and grades. The Guidance Office is glad to help set up accounts with the portal. You can even add it as a mobile device phone app and it is then at your fingertips to check! You can email teachers directly through the portal.
- Ask your child to share with you their Microsoft Teams login (username and password) so that you can view what assignments and messages they have inside of Teams. This is where teachers may link 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.**
- Monitor your child's use of Teams Chat feature to make sure they are utilizing it respectfully and responsibly.
- Contact your child's teachers and counselors if you need assistance.
- Help your child have a quiet, distraction-free learning space at home as much as it is possible.
- Assist your child in creating a school daily calendar with their paper planners or electronically in Teams
- "ROSES AND THORNS" DAILY CHECK IN: Every day, check in and ask your child how their day was. What was the "rose" or best part of the day? What was the low point or "thorn" of their day? As counselors, we are currently flooded with students coming in needing to speak about stressors, anxiety, and depression this year. Family members taking some time each day to check in with your child about their day is a critical support that all students need. Do not assume that your child is coping well if they are quiet. Please talk openly and often about their school days.

**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!**

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

---

## *JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS SCHEDULED*

January Regents exams may be given throughout the state on January 24-27, 2023. Students must see Mrs. Crandall-Bean at once to be sure that their name is placed on the test roster if they would like to retake a Regents examination either to earn a passing score or if they want to retest to try and improve scores on previously taken regents exams. There is no charge for a student to re-take a Regents exam in January. Please note that New York State regulations do not allow students to be admitted to a morning exam after 10:00 a.m. or to an afternoon exam after 2:00 p.m. In addition, no student may leave an exam before those same times. This regulation is in place to prevent students from sharing information about an exam.





## 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 (Ms. Scott, 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 very helpful 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!



## Websites for College and Career Exploration

Need help exploring colleges? Do you need to find out more about the financial aid process, look into finding a career, or about touring a college virtually online? 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)  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

We also will be utilizing a new K-12 guidance software system called Xello to work on college and career planning.

## 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.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "SNACKS AND APPS DAY" For Seniors

On October 7, interested seniors attended the Second Annual "Snacks and Apps" Day in the lecture hall. A Marine recruiter presented on military enlistment. Susan Day from the Allegany County Employment and Training Center in Belmont presented on finding jobs and Alfred State College representative Nicolle Barsch presented on how to apply to college. Students were treated to snacks while they worked on college applications, started their financial aid apps, resumes, wrote college essays, and explored college websites.



## *“DAR” Daughters of the American Revolution Award Winner*

Benjamin Kisel was selected by the BRCS faculty and his senior classmates for the “DAR” Daughters of the American Revolution Award for best exemplifying the outstanding qualities of **DEPENDABILITY, SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, and PATRIOTISM** in his 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 Ben and the role model, top student, friend, musician, actor, and classmate he is! Local political representatives will honor him this spring at a DAR ceremony.



*BRCS Senior DAR Award winner Benjamin Kisel*



## *Alfred University College Campus Visit For Juniors and Seniors*

On October 5, forty-six Bolivar-Richburg juniors and seniors visited Alfred University. Students received an admissions overview presentation, toured the campus, and ate lunch in the Dining Hall. Raina Bowen and Matt Mitchell, two members of the BR Class of 2022 and who both now attend Alfred, joined us for lunch and shared their experiences of life at AU. Alfred University has one of the top art programs in the country and produces over 50% of all ceramic engineers in the entire world. We are lucky to be so close to this institution!



## *Pre PSAT, ACT, and SAT Testing*

We will be offering the Pre-ACT practice exam for interested sophomores and juniors this December. We will have 20 tests available at no cost. Student must sign up in the Guidance Office. The Pre-ACT practice exam was given on October 12 to interested students.

**College-bound juniors are encouraged to consider taking the SAT or the ACT in the spring and seniors are encouraged to take one of these exams this fall.**

Many counselors feel the ACT is a fairer exam for many students as it is based on student achievement. 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 or limited in test seats. Therefore, 84% of colleges have remained “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.







## Alfred State College Campus Visit For Juniors and Seniors

On October 27, forty-eight juniors and seniors visited Alfred State College. They sat through an admissions overview providing them basic importation about applying and selecting colleges, toured campus, and ate lunch in the leadership building. Several students spent the day on the Wellsville campus shadowing in their classrooms of interests such as carpentry and heavy equipment operations. Alfred State offers numerous degrees and programs and is close enough for our B-R students to commute and obtain a quality education at an affordable price.



## College Reps, Fairs and Visits

This year we were able to hold our annual ACCA College Fair at Houghton University on September 27. BR juniors and seniors were able to speak with around 50 college representatives.

The Guidance Office is hosting many individual college reps in person in our office—as well as some virtually—this fall. The list is available in Teams and Remind for students and parents and is shared during morning announcements. Mrs. Crandall-Bean is glad to help students with college exploration applications and setting up in-person and virtual visits.

## Seniors Make Future Plans

I will soon meet 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 will be 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 try to complete their college application(s) by the end of Thanksgiving recess.** Please note: some programs may require students to apply. 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" 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.



## Important 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. Oftentimes 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. The portal to apply is now open at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/apply-for-aid-start-here.html>. 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.

On November 2, Mrs. Bean presented a detailed lesson on financial aid to all seniors in Economics class. This lesson is available on guidance webpage, in Microsoft Teams and in the Remind apron parents and seniors to reference.

## 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 via phone calls 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!" Oftentimes 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 -1-800-697-1220) 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

On Wednesday, November 30, 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 Thursday, December 8, all interested students will participate in a career exploration lesson. The ASVAB presenter will interpret test results for students. Students will also complete the FYI (Find Your Interests) career interest inventory. This an excellent career exploration program, which is free to schools. We give the ASVAB on student school laptops, which allows them 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 19.**


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 notify us in the Guidance Office by November 18. 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. A letter will be mailed home soon regarding the ASVAB.






## Mr. Hyson's 8th Grade Math

For the first couple weeks we reviewed specific topics from 6th and 7th grade that are key to the 8th grade content. This review was important so that we can easily reference back to concepts that should now be more recognizable after a summer off. With that behind us we are now moving full steam into our 8th grade content as we explore real numbers (rational and irrational numbers), exponents, scientific notation, and solving multi-step equations. Please encourage your student to ask for help if needed, and we'll find the time outside of regular instruction to ensure success.



### BRCS Musical Notes Holiday Concert

We invite the Bolivar-Richburg community to attend the BRCS Music Department Christmas Holiday Concert on **Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.** The BRCS Bands, Orchestras, and Choirs will perform a beautiful variety of classics and standards from our Christmas repertoire that is certain to warm our hearts and prime us for the “most wonderful time of the year!”



## Library Club Book Fair

Bolivar-Richburg Central School would like to invite everyone to the Library Club Book Fair. It will run from November 28 to December 2 during school hours, and will be open Thursday, December 1 for parents and the public from 3:15 to 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor library at the Jr./Sr. High School. This is a Middle School/High School book fair, so there will not be Elementary books available. Please remember that because it's a club, tax will be collected. Thank you so much for your support!

BRCS Library Club

Rylee Whiting, President  
Pressley McDowell, Vice President  
Alaina Stout, Secretary  
Travis Bell, Treasurer  
Ms. Werner, Advisor



## Schedules

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 allowed will now require a parent/student/teacher discussion and must be approved by the building principal and teachers and may be denied.



**BOLIVAR-RICHBURG**  
WOLVERINES  
Bolivar-Richburg Central School District  
Home of the Wolverines

Home District Schools Departments Athletics Students Parents Staff Community

Visit Our Website:  
**[www.brcs.wnyric.org/guidance](http://www.brcs.wnyric.org/guidance)**  
The place to go, when you need to know!



**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  
Jeffrey Margeson, Secondary Principal  
Mary Snyder, Assistant Principal  
Sarah Cartmill, Director of Curriculum  
Jessica Mitchell, School Business Administrator

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

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

**Current Resident**

**or Local Postal Patron**



## Winter Bus Stop Safety

**It's that time of year again! With the approach of winter, we encourage parents to talk to their children about bus stop safety.**

**Danger Zone:** This is that 15-foot area that surrounds the entire bus. Always try to keep 15 feet between you and the bus.

### **Pick-up procedures:**

- Be out 10 minutes before pick-up time.
- Running to the bus is extremely dangerous.
- Dress for the weather.
- Only approach the bus after it comes to a complete stop. Remember – 15 feet!
- Use handrails, as steps can be slippery.



### **Drop off procedures:**

- No loose articles, drawstrings, papers, etc.
- Stay behind the white line until the door is open.
- Immediately proceed 15 feet from the bus. This is not the time to check the mail or grab the trash cans.

### **Crossing Procedures. Know the signs!**



Stop and Wait.



Make eye contact.



Only cross when given the sign.



Danger! Go back quickly.