

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG Central School



March 2023



8th Annual BRCS Middle School Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the finalists in our BRCS Middle School Spelling Bee!

Twenty-five of our top spellers from grades 6, 7, and 8 competed in our 8th Annual Spelling Bee, which was held on December 22, 2022. Congratulations to our finalists and all the participants in this year's Spelling Bee. We're proud of all of you!!

Alyssa Fisk
1st place

Wendy Danneheim
2nd place

Connor Margeson
3rd place

Mark Your Calendar
Important Dates

Spring Recess
April 3-7

ELA Exams Grades 3-8
April 19-21

Math Exams Grades 3-8
May 2-4

Elementary Physical Education Mrs. Auman and Mr. Pettit

Our annual Kids Heart Challenge is off to a great start! We are excited to partner with the American Heart Association to learn ways to lead a healthy lifestyle and keep our hearts healthy. All students will be introduced to the life-saving skill of hands-only CPR.

Students in grades 3-5 have been learning about how to measure their heart rate and how participating in different exercises increases their heart rate. Younger students learned how their heart is a muscle and needs to be exercised to stay strong. In PE class, students participated in Cardio Fitness Stations, which included battle ropes, agility dots and ladder, punching bags, tire flips, medicine ball toss, planks, and jumping over a "wall."

Coming soon, all students will be jumping rope ninjas. They will be learning how to jump rope and will be challenged to level up by completing consecutive jumps and earning colored belts. Jumping rope is a great way to exercise your heart! We can't wait to see if any students make it to a black belt level.



Superintendent's Conference Day, School Closed – Friday March 17, 2023

Message from the Superintendent

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

As I am sitting in my office overlooking the most northern mountains of the Appalachian Mountain region, it's hard to believe we still have six more weeks of winter. That is because we are experiencing a very unusual winter season, and we are in the second week of higher than normal temperatures, leaving the region to feel like we are having an early spring. But it is also that time of year where 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 much to be proud of.



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.

In closing, I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of winter as I am sure we all are looking forward to the warmer days of spring. Together we can continue to provide the best education possible for our children. It is an honor to serve this community, faculty, and staff, and most importantly, the children who you entrust to us every day.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Retzlaff

Superintendent of Schools
Bolivar-Richburg CSD



School Budget Preparation

I am working very closely with the Board of Education and the administrative team to develop the budget for 2023-2024 school year. The budget focuses on both balancing the 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 CSD. 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 CS has talented and dedicated people. So, I'm confident we will be able to reach our goals, without impacting the local taxpayers.

Capital Project

As of this newsletter, we are still awaiting the New York State Education Department to complete the final review of our proposed Phase 2 of our 15.3 million-dollar, Capital Improvement Project. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in late spring of 2023 and will hopefully be completed by December 2024. This Capital Improvement Project not only will address and maintain our infrastructure investments in our District buildings and property, but also will increase our educational offerings to all of our students moving forward. This new Capital Improvement Project touches upon several instructional areas and includes: new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and 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 service spaces, sports locker rooms, parking lot re-paving district wide, boiler replacement, repairs and maintenance to the transportation garage, and additional safety and security improvements district wide.

School Safety and Security

As a District, our number one priority is to provide our students, faculty, and staff a healthy and safe place to learn each and every day. In an effort to continue to improve on our current safety and security measures, we have enrolled for assistance with a nationally respected, school safety and security firm. This past fall we had an onsite safety and security inspection, which resulted in a list of further steps the District could take to better meet this goal in today's world. They are also working with the District administration and safety committee to conduct table-top training scenarios, and District-wide training/drills. Another part of our District safety plan includes our local School Resource Officer (SRO) through the joint efforts of the Bolivar-Richburg CSD and the Village of Bolivar PD. The SRO program provides daily police presence at all of our campus buildings, while building relationships between our students and local law enforcement.

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

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 Bolivar-Richburg Central School District at 100 School Street, Bolivar, NY, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. weekdays, 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 17, 2023. Petitions will be filed for two full three-year expired terms and one unexpired term of one year.

1. Expired term of Jude Auman for three (3) years.
2. Expired term of Jarrod Bell for three (3) years.
3. Unexpired term of Michelle Robinson for one (1) year.

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



BRCS ATHLETICS

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, Indoor Track, and Boys Volleyball. 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 finishing third at the Class B3 sectionals. We had five individual champions in Gary McDowell Jr., Trey Buchholz, Tavyn MacDonnell, Caden Allen, and Trent Sibble. They also had athletes move on to super-sectionals.

We have also seen successful seasons out of our Boys and Girls Basketball teams, Boys Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Indoor Track and Field. As of this newsletter's printing, most teams have not competed in sectionals.

Spring sports sign ups have begun with varsity and JV practices starting on March 13th. Please sign up using the sign-up link on the athletic calendar.

Sports physicals for next school year will be taking place on May 17, 18, and 19. Your students will be given an 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 notifications on all of your favorite Wolverine sports teams.

Be Loud... Be Proud... Be Positive...

Mr. Dustin Allen
Athletic Director

Bolivar Richburg Central School
Presents



Friday, April 14 & Saturday, April 15
7:00 P.M. BRMS Auditorium

Tickets: General Public \$7, Children 12 & Under= Free

Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.

Book By: Michael Stewart Music By: Charles Strouse Lyrics By: Lee Adams Originally Produced By: Edward Padula

Presented by Arrangement with Tams-Witmark, A Concordia Theatricals Company

Say Hello to "Bye, Bye, Birdie!"

On April 14th and 15th (Friday and Saturday night) at 7:00 p.m., Bolivar-Richburg Central School will be presenting Bye Bye Birdie. With a dedicated cast and crew of more than 50 students, a fantastic orchestra comprised of students and adults from around the local communities, and a host of volunteers, this hilarious and quirky Tony Award winning musical with catchy songs and energetic dances will surely not disappoint.

Bye Bye Birdie *has been entertaining audiences for more than 60 years.* Set in 1958, Bye, Bye Birdie, the musical, tells the story of a talent agent, **Albert**, and his girlfriend, **Rosie**, trying to save Almaelou Music Company after their star client, Conrad Birdie, gets drafted into the army. Their plan involves a trip to Sweet Apple, Ohio where Conrad will bestow one last kiss on a randomly chosen fan, Kim MacAfee, but having a celebrity in town will shake up relationships, families, and feelings.

The concept for this musical is based on the fame and army induction of **Elvis Presley**. **Conrad Birdie** is a veritable copy of Elvis in character, but also in the way Elvis was able to affect his fans, particularly his female fans. The rock star character's name, "Conrad Birdie," is also a word play on the name of Conway Twitty. He would later have a long career as a country music star, but in the late 1950s he was one of Presley's rock 'n' roll rivals.

The show's director, Ms. Andrea Harris, shared, "I am ecstatic to be part of the team presenting this musical. It is a show that is close to my heart as it was the show that opened me up to the wonderful wide world of musical theatre. It is my hope this will in turn ignite a passion in some students toward the performing arts here at BRCS."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and students 13 and over. Children 12 and under are free. We look forward to seeing you on April 14th and 15th @ 7:00 p.m. as our second year of musical theatre retuning to BRCS makes it to the stage.

Do you have a business and want to run an ad in our program? Want to support your child or another student you know with a message?

Consider the following ways to do so:

	Business	Personal
Full page	\$100	\$50
Half Page	\$50	\$25
Quarter Page	\$25	\$10

*One Sentence Message (Usually a page of them):
\$5.00 For each sentence. Limit 3 in total.*

Program Full Page: 5 ½ by 8 ½



Elementary News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have made it half-way through the school year and again, it has gone quickly! However, we don't want to rush the second half as we feel we still have so much we want to accomplish!

We look forward to seeing continued academic and emotional growth in each of our students. Our new intervention block has allowed every child to get instruction at their independent level in addition to the grade level instruction within the classroom. This program change has allowed teachers to fill in necessary gaps, making academic growth more achievable for all. Our new PBIS system, PAWS, continues to teach behavioral expectations across varied settings. It has been a joy to see teachers and students adopt this system. One thing that has impressed me most during this roll out is to see the selflessness students exhibit when purchasing from the weekly prize cart. Often times, students want to spend their red tickets on something they can share with their sibling(s) or to buy a "gift" for a family member's upcoming birthday or special occasion. So sweet!

Soon, students will be taking the NYS 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments (see dates and reminders below). We always want our students to strive to do their best on these assessments as they are another valuable tool that guides change to our instruction so that it is the best it can be for our students. As you may know, NYS has begun their rollout of Computer Based Testing (CBT). Our 4th grade students will be the first to take their NYS assessments on the computer this Spring. We recently completed a simulation with this grade level and the majority of students felt very comfortable with this platform.

As always, we appreciate your continued partnership with BRES! Please continue to communicate with your child's classroom teacher. We are here to support you and your

child(ren) and open lines of communication help to develop stronger relationships between school and home.

Upcoming NYS 3-5 Testing Dates:

ELA: April 19-April 21

Math: May 2-May 4

Science: There will **not** be an administration of the Grade 4 Science Test this Spring. This is to support the transition to the new Grade 5 Elementary-level Science Test measuring the new NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards, which commences in Spring 2024.

*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 17: Superintendent's Day- No school for students

*April 3-7: Spring Recess

Mrs. Duke
Elementary Principal

Kindergarten News

Miss Hackett, Mrs. Stutzman, and Mrs. Windus/Miss Steiner

We've been having fun learning in Kindergarten! We have started reading and writing words in kindergarten—it is such an exciting time of year!

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. We have learned about presidents and America's symbols like the flag and monuments. We compared our president to a king and queen and discussed what it means to have liberty and justice.



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 our teen numbers.



Full Day Pre-K News

Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell

Greetings from the full day Pre-K classes! We have been super busy in full day Pre-K! The students have worked hard on writing their names as well as identifying their names. They are learning to identify their classmates' names. The students are working on learning the letters in their names by building, writing, and painting their names.

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! Thank you to all of our families who made a gingerbread with their child at home and sent in for the hallway decorations! It was so nice to see all the different gingerbread while we learned the Classic Tale: "The Gingerbread Man."

In January and February, your child learned all about "Animals." The students learned the name of many animals, how animals' body parts help them 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 telling 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.



Second Grade

Ms. Livingston, Miss Gerard,
Mrs. O'Neil, & Miss Bradley

Second graders continue to work hard every day!

In reading, students have heard and learned about The War of 1812, Westward Expansion, and the Civil War. 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, as 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!



Fourth Grade Science & Social Studies

Mrs. Bentley

Fourth graders have been very busy! In Social Studies, we are learning about the thirteen colonies and the American Revolution. Students are learning about how the United States became the United States!

Also in Social Studies, we have completed landmark projects! The students were given the task, over ten weeks, to create any landmark/landform in New York state. They were able to use any material to build their project. They turned out amazing! Be sure to check the Bolivar-Richburg school Facebook page for some pictures!



In Science, we completed our animal and plant unit. We are moving into learning about different types of waves. We will do a lot of experiments with sound waves, light waves, and so much more! Also in science, Mr. Fechter from BOCES came to snowshoe with us for the day! Each kid bundled up, tried on a pair of snowshoes, and trekked through the fields by the school. In the upcoming weeks,

we will be going to the Challenger Learning Center in Allegany, NY. We will work with electric circuits, explore space, and build contraptions! This last half of our year will be very busy, very hands-on, and very fun...and we are ready for it!

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 will soon be wrapping up this unit by completing an Engineering Design Challenge where the students are tasked with creating a water filter to produce clean and clear water. I can't wait to see their creative ideas!

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 5th graders have been practicing writing and reading ancient Maya glyphs. Ask your child to show you some of the writing!

Congratulations to our PAWS winners Graci-Lyn DeGroff, Carter Lamb, Raelynn Bieglow, and Ethan LaFleur.



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 April 19-21.

Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Wyatt Pastor and Zachery Carman. To be selected, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits.

Please continue to support your child at home each night by checking their agenda, red folder for homework assignments/important notes, and making sure their iPad is charged. 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!

Elementary Guidance News

Mrs. Angela Schryver

Spring testing is just around the corner! We are working hard to prepare our students 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.

*State Testing Just
Around the Corner!*
NYS ELA Grades 3-8:
April 19th-21st
NYS Math Grades 3-8:
May 2nd- 4th

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.

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG 3-YEAR OLD SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

In order to identify all children who will enter our 3-year old program in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2023. Your child must be 3 years of age on or before December 1, 2023. This information is necessary when we initiate program sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name _____ M/F Date of Birth _____

Mother's Name: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street 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: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Child resides with: _____



BOLIVAR-RICHBURG KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who **DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2023. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2023. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. **Students currently attending the Pre-K 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: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street 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: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Child Resides With: _____

Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School
PO Box 158
Richburg, New York 14774

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2023, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2023. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2023. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this 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: _____
First Maiden Last

Street Address: _____
House # Street 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: _____
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM _____

Child Resides With: _____

Please check one: ☐ Prefer half-day program ☐ Prefer full-day program

Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School
PO Box 158
Richburg, New York 14774

Middle/High School News

As we inch slowly towards Spring, and we look forward to the new life that the changing seasons bring, we continue our progress here at BRCS. I want you to know that there is a growing movement of positive change. With the decreased presence of cell phones, and the implementation of vape detectors in our bathrooms, we have seen a significant drop in discipline. To be exact, we have cut our referrals almost in half from last year's total. This is a testament to the resiliency of our students and the support that we receive from our parents and community members.

I would love to see this pocket of positivity grow and thrive. I have had parents ask me, "How can I help?" If you truly want to be a part of this movement, here are five great ideas:

1. **Focus on your happiness!** Studies have shown that happy kids come from being around happy adults. Take some time for yourself during the week. Focus on your physical and mental health. By doing so, you will have more positive energy for your kids. Try to take a night off of technology, play some games with your kids, and JUST HAVE FUN!
2. **Teach them how to handle conflict and build positive relationships.** You're tired and the kids are being loud. You look up from your phone and yell, "Knock it off!" Does it work? Do they magically quiet down and behave? Probably not. Yelling breeds more yelling. Instead, try something new. Take some time to explain why you're asking them to keep it down. Give them small tasks to help build positive habits. Simple things like helping with dinner, cleaning their rooms, or taking the dogs out. Praise them for their help and try to teach them empathy by listening to them as they talk about their day.
3. **Be positive and teach optimism!** Is your teenager defiant, angry, full of anxiety, battling depression? Try to help them reframe. As the famous adage states, "Life is 5% what happens to us, and 95% how we choose to handle it." Reframing helps to change the narrative we feed ourselves. Instead of "Ugh, today is going to be terrible...I have a test 1st period," help your son or daughter understand that this is an opportunity to see what they know, and what they need help with moving forward. Better yet, the test is first thing in the morning, so you have the rest of the day to enjoy your friends at school!
4. **Expect effort, not perfection.** This one goes out to all helicopter parents—praise the effort, not the achievement. We see this in both sports and academics. Students who are consistently praised and applauded for their intelligence or natural talent quit taking risks and have a greater chance of developing into a perfectionist. Conversely, if you highlight and praise the EFFORT, students understand that failure is a part of the process, and realize that calculated risk-taking is beneficial to growth and critical thinking.
5. **Create a child who takes ownership of their actions.** We know that the human brain doesn't fully mature until 25 or 26-years-old. This inevitably leads to many poor decisions, mistakes, and "getting into trouble," each of which are normal parts of life as a teenager. A night of detention, or a day in ISS is not a life sentence. It is a learning experience. Part of that lesson is to take ownership for your actions, and learn from your mistakes. This process does not take place if you are not truthful. If you lie, or try to "cover" for yourself or a friend, you are creating habits of being dishonest. Similarly, if you as the parent are convinced that your child isn't in the wrong, or the school is "out to get them," your child loses that opportunity to take ownership and learn from their mistakes.

My continued hope is to work together as a district and a community to do what is best for our students. This is an endeavor that has no end and will take extreme commitment and hard work. My promise to you is to never give up. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have ideas moving forward, please do not hesitate to call me directly at 585-928-2561.

Thank you for reading!

Respectfully,

Jeff Margeson
Secondary Principal



High School Guidance News

December 2022 - February 2023

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, etc.

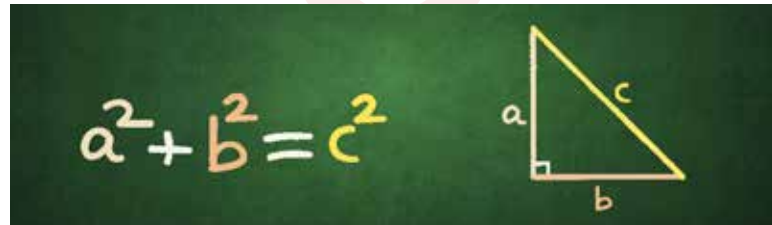
- Utilize the parent portal **every day** to monitor your child's homework completion, attendance and grades. The Guidance Office is glad to help set up accounts, reset passwords, etc. with the portal, which is a helpful tool. You can even add it as a mobile device phone app and it is then at your fingertips to check! BRCS's PowerSchool app code is CRKT.
- 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 ON 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!

Eighth Grade Math

Mr. Hyson

We are now past the halfway point of the school year. I encourage you to be active in watching your student's grades to monitor their progress as the year progresses towards June. In class we are heavy into our geometry units dealing with scatter plots, the Pythagorean theorem, and transversals. Please be sure to email me if you have any questions and/or concerns.



Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner



Thank you to all who came out to our Senior Citizen Dinner in December! Our National Honor Society students were grateful to serve, and our music department provided musical entertainment! Stay tuned for information about another event later this spring.



Grades 8-11 to Select Courses for the 2023-2024 School Year

During the months of March through May, all 8th through 11th graders will meet in-person 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. 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. Miss Scott will be meeting with current 8th and 9th graders to create their schedules. She can be reached at cscott@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. The current course description booklet can be found here: www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/302.

Spring College Fairs for Sophomores & Juniors

View the following link for information for the Spring National College Fairs and how to register to attend virtually or in person: www.nacacfairs.org

The St. Bonaventure University Penn York College Fair has been moved from the evening, when it was always held in the past, to the morning on Tuesday, March 14. All juniors have been mailed an invitation and permission slip for this event. We will be busing interested students over from 8:45 to 11:00 a.m. and back for this event.

JUNIORS, PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REGISTER FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS AS NUMEROUS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE REPRESENTED. THEN IT WILL BE TIME TO REGISTER FOR SPRING COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE VISITS!

College Selection Tips for Juniors

Please watch your "Guidance Info for Juniors" Team for a lesson coming soon entitled "College 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 and our Guidance Info for Juniors Microsoft Team 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 at the following link: www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/773.

On this page 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 November 3, seniors received a lesson on how to search for scholarships step by step 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 recommendation 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 test opportunities were canceled or restricted for health safety reasons. Currently, 84% of colleges have gone "test optional" for the current senior class. 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.

We have given the practice Pre-SAT already this year to any interested sophomores and juniors free of charge that wish to familiarize themselves with the test time limits and style of questions. This spring, a practice Pre-ACT exam will be given to any interested sophomores or juniors free of charge. Sign up in the Guidance Office! It is recommended to check colleges of interest websites to see if SATs/ACTs are required to apply or not. SUNY public colleges are test optional for current seniors, but it has not yet been announced if current juniors will or will not be required to submit these test scores with their college applications.

Students should register for these tests online 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 may be able to give them 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 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. **PLEASE CONTACT MRS. BEAN IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR HELP. ALSO, ANY LOCAL COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE WILL ASSIST WITH QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.**



COMING SOON!

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





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 or activities in a timely and safe manner. This includes showing up to each home or stop 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

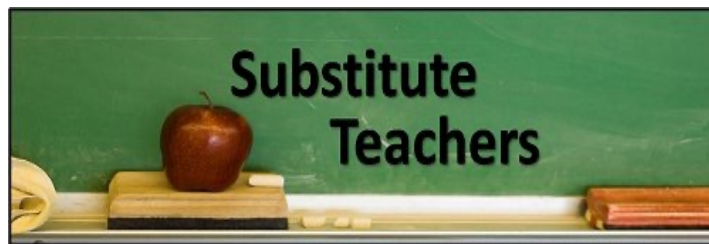
How to Apply

Please click on the "Employment Opportunities" under the "District Tab" of the Bolivar-Richburg webpage (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, Superintendent



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 (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, Superintendent



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
Aaron Duell

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



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.



Phone Number or Address Changes?

Please contact the Guidance Office at 585-928-2986 if you and your children have a 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 for possible health or safety precautions to stay in communication with you!



Transportation Requests

Parents are reminded that written requests for transportation to non-public schools must be received by April 1, 2023, to be eligible for the 2023-2024 school year.

Please send requests to:

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

