



# Hurricane Watch

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools

Summer 2021

***Tradition. Pride. Excellence.***



**Superintendent & CEO  
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

The 2020-21 school year officially ended on Monday, June 7th, concluding a year that brought forth many challenges. Through it all, the Brooklyn City Schools community displayed resilience and relied upon each other to face those obstacles together. As a result, the District was able to develop a comprehensive plan to educate our children in the safest way possible while maximizing the amount of in-person instruction and ensuring the continuation of co-curricular

opportunities. This included the start of all-in (5 days/week) instruction beginning at the end of February, successful completion of all athletic seasons, live concerts for our Fine Arts Department, and in-person musical by the BHS Drama Club. Our success over the past year is a testament to the strong partnership between the District and our families. Thank you for your steadfast support!

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for their hard work, determination, and accomplishments this school year! Our graduates were recognized in a wonderful outdoor Commencement ceremony at Brooklyn Stadium on Sunday, June 6, 2021. The outdoor venue provided parents, families, and staff the opportunity to celebrate our students in a safe and socially distanced manner. The Brooklyn City Schools community is encouraged to view our 2021 Commencement spotlight inside the latest edition of the *Hurricane Watch* newsletter. On behalf of the District, congratulations once again to the Class of 2021 and best wishes for continued success in their future plans!

## **Programming & District Updates for 21-22 School Year**

Looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year, the District will transition back to a "pre-pandemic" schedule and students will return to school in an in-person format. Virtual meeting opportunities for parent engagement and convenience will continue to be provided next school year. In early August, your child's building principal will send an update regarding the start of school events and activities.

The recently launched Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy (BDLA) will provide qualifying students in grades 9-12 both in-person and remote learning formats. This hybrid learning option features the District's engaging curriculum and programming opportunities while meeting each student's unique learning needs. Interested families can learn more and complete an online application by visiting [www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us](http://www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us) and selecting the *Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy* tab at the top of the homepage. Please visit our website for regular updates concerning the start of the upcoming school year. In addition, there will be limited opportunities for students in grades K-8 to utilize remote learning. All questions regarding these options should be directed to building principals.

## **Portrait of a Graduate**

Beginning in January 2021, a committee composed of administrators, teachers, classified staff, representation from the Board of Education, and parents met together to identify the characteristics Brooklyn graduates will possess upon graduation. A total of six competencies were finalized in the District's *Portrait of a Hurricane* document, which is available for viewing on our website, [www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us](http://www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us). The *Portrait of a Hurricane* will also be visibly posted throughout the entire Brooklyn City Schools campus, including every classroom, at the start of the 2021-22 school year. In doing so, students and staff from K-12 will be reminded on a daily basis to pursue these competencies in all aspects of learning. The *Portrait of a Hurricane* will also play a role in the District's ongoing strategic planning process and embodies the *Tradition, Pride, and Excellence* of the Brooklyn City Schools.

## **Conclusion**

This special print edition of the *Hurricane Watch* newsletter also features a message from the Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education. The community can also review a financial update from District Treasurer Colleen Aholt. For regular updates from the Brooklyn City Schools, please visit our website, [www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us](http://www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us) and follow us on social media.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

**Dr. Theodore Caleris**  
**Superintendent & CEO**  
**Brooklyn City Schools**



*Congratulations to the Brooklyn High School Class of 2021!*

[www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us](http://www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us)

Stay connected with us!



# Congratulations Brooklyn High School Class of 2021



## Class of 2021 Speakers

**Sashelle Carter**

**Gianna Gallardo**

**Jamari Walker**

## Top 10% of Class by Cumulative GPA (sorted alphabetically)

**Andrew Badza**

**Izabella Hotz**

**Jacob Peña**

**Audrey Badza**

**Joseph Lukanc**

**Jessica Strimpel**

**Karolina De Jesús-Pastrana**

**Kevin Mei**

**Zachary Villard**

**Alan Fernandez**

**Hailey Nguyen**

## Earned Associate College Degree while at BHS

**Abriella Bartczak**

## RECOGNIZING OUR RETIRING TEACHERS AND STAFF

The Brooklyn City Schools would like to take a moment to recognize all teachers and staff who recently retired for their hard work, selfless dedication, and contributions on behalf of our students and the District. Your efforts and sacrifice every day made a lasting impact in the lives of our students and their families! THANK YOU and best wishes in your retirement!

**Mary Ellen Ryan**

**Len Piechowski**

**Kathy Linger**

**Rob Kelber**

**Gary Plucinsky**

**Barb Hastings**

**Debbie Kolai**

**Sandy Victor**

**Jane Cammann (2019-20)**

**Elizabeth Burke**

**Jeanne Rini (2019 - 20)**

**THANK  
YOU!**





## District Financial Update



**District Treasurer**  
**Colleen Aholt**

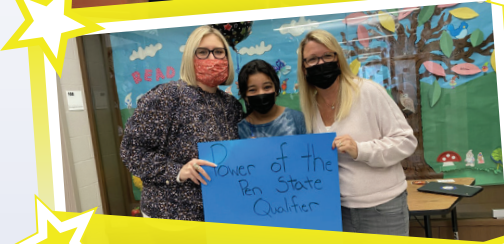
The Brooklyn City Schools continue to place a high importance on fiscal stability and wise stewardship of public funds. As always, the District remains grateful to the community for its support of three levies over the last 18 months or so, which has greatly aided in stabilizing the financial picture for the BCS in the short-term. During the current fiscal year (FY 2021), the District has received various grants and funding which have been used to supplement existing state and local funds and that have helped address the financial difficulties related to the ongoing pandemic. The District made upgrades to the existing broadband infrastructure through a Broadband Grant totaling \$15,595. COVID-19 monies include a Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Grant of \$54,471 which helped purchase Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. masks, hand sanitizer). ESSER (CARES Act) funding of approximately \$390,034 and ESSER II (CRRSA Act) of approximately \$1,541,071 are being used for preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 nuances and requirements. ESSER II will address learning loss, salaries/benefits for appropriate employees, and renovating and purchasing new furniture to promote social distancing and other safety protocols. The District has also achieved transportation cost savings due to the pandemic.

As always, the Brooklyn City Schools encourages you to visit our webpage online for more financial information. In fact, the most recent Five-year forecast, one of two which is required to be issued to the state each year, is posted for your review. As we wind up the 2020 - 21 school year, I thank the Brooklyn Schools family for their support. It has been a pleasure representing Brooklyn as your Treasurer.



## Celebration of the 2020-21 School Year

The 2020-21 School Year featured numerous challenges, but through it all, our students and staff showed resilience and positivity to overcome those obstacles and thrive! Congratulations on a successful year and have a safe and fun summer!





Brooklyn City School District  
9200 Biddulph Rd  
Brooklyn, OH 44144

PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT NO. 647



## Board of Education



**Bonnie Bartczak**  
*President*



**Rocky Neale**  
*Vice President*



**Rick Cyngier**  
*Member*



**Jim Oper**  
*Member*



**Rob Slattery**  
*Member*

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

On behalf of the entire District, congratulations on the 2020-2021 School Year, one which presented a blend of new challenges, and one which we can all communicate, was successfully and safely, completed by our entire school family. While the ever-changing environment of a global pandemic certainly prompted a new dynamic, the Board of Education salutes the administration for making sound decisions and leading, our staff, for remaining flexible and creative in their respective learning methods, and our parents and families, for demonstrating the necessary flexibility and patience. Of course, the Board commends our students for coming to school each and every day, whether in-person or remote, prepared to learn and achieve. The Board of Education also recognizes Dr. Theodore Caleris, who in his first year, was able to successfully navigate the churning waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has effectively re-instilled a Hurricane Pride in our entire school community, based upon *Tradition, Pride and Excellence*. The addition of Colleen Aholt in the Treasurer's Office has greatly helped to stabilize the financial nature of the District as well. Thank you to the community for your continued, dedicated support. The Brooklyn City Schools will continue to strive for excellence in our education and be responsive, transparent and accountable with our citizens. Enjoy your summer.

-The Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education

