



Hurricane Watch

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

Winter 2022

Tradition. Pride. Excellence.



Superintendent & CEO
Dr. Theodore Caleris

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

The Brooklyn City Schools have experienced an excellent start to the second semester as our students and staff are focused on achieving a strong finish to the school year. I am proud to share that there have been many recent examples of 'Hurricane Pride' on display throughout the district. Our winter sports teams have experienced successful seasons, filled with individual and team accomplishments, including playoff appearances for our boys and girls basketball, and hockey teams. PK-7 families enjoyed a wonderful night of food and activities at the recent Family Math Night event held at Brooklyn School. Finally, the Brooklyn High School Drama department delivered a spectacular performance of Matilda the Musical for its annual Spring production.

Facility Study Results Update

In the fall of 2021, the Brooklyn City Schools contracted with GPD Group to conduct a facility study to assess district facility conditions and needs. The results of the study were presented before the Brooklyn Board of Education at the regular board meeting on January 18, 2022. More information regarding the facility study is featured in this Winter edition of the *Hurricane Watch* newsletter.

Strategic Planning Committee Continues Progress

The district's Strategic Planning Committee has made considerable progress over the course of four meetings towards the development of an action-oriented plan that will address learning challenges and promote student achievement and growth. Anticipated for completion in the spring of 2022, the final strategic plan will include the identification of core values, new mission and vision statements, areas of focus, targeted goals, and action steps to achieve each stated goal. [For more information, please visit the district's Strategic Planning page.](#)

Upcoming Events to Keep the Community Informed

Brooklyn City Schools will be hosting two important upcoming community engagement events. The **2nd Annual Hurricane Town Hall Community Update** will take place on Wednesday, April 6th, from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Brooklyn Community Room (Brooklyn High School Room 173), and

will feature important updates from the Superintendent, district administration, and building principals. On Thursday, June 9th, the district will host its annual State of the Schools presentation from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Board of Education Office. The **State of the Schools presentation** will highlight key accomplishments from the 2021-22 school year, provide updates on district finances and capital improvements, and share other important news.

Building Highlights and More Featured in Latest Newsletter

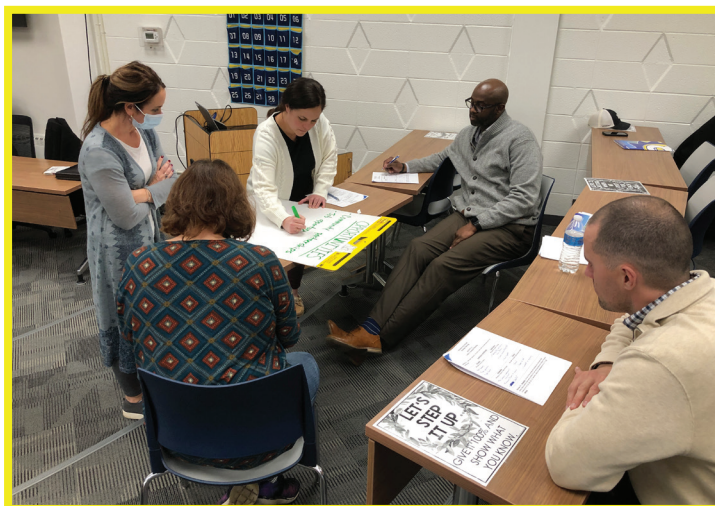
The Winter 2022 edition of the *Hurricane Watch* newsletter features highlights of student learning and related events across the entire district campus. An important Financial Update from District Treasurer Colleen Aholt is also available for review by the Brooklyn community. For additional news and updates, please be sure to follow the district on social media and visit our website at www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us. Thank you for supporting the Brooklyn City Schools.

GO HURRICANES!

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Caleris

Superintendent & CEO



The Strategic Planning Committee is currently developing an action-oriented plan that will address learning challenges and promote student achievement.





Facility Study Results Presented to Board of Education

The results of a recently completed facility study conducted by GPD Group to assess district facility conditions and needs was presented at the regular meeting of the Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The study is part of an ongoing strategic effort to ensure that facilities are properly maintained and upgraded. Following Ohio Facilities Construction Commission guidelines, a comprehensive review of the entire district campus, including Brooklyn High School and Brooklyn School (PK-7) was conducted by GPD Group. Areas of assessment included, but were not limited to, heating, roofing, electrical, ventilation/air conditioning, plumbing and fixtures, structure walls and chimneys, overall site conditions, technology, and windows.

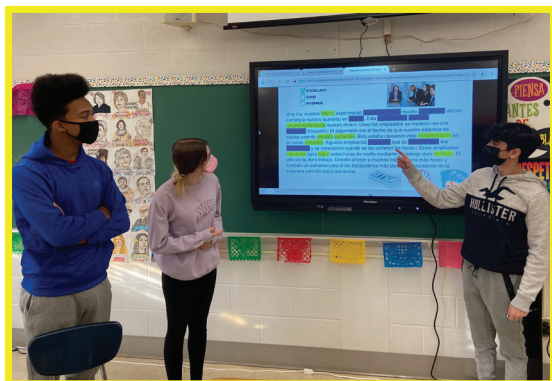
During the presentation to the Board of Education, representatives from GPD Group explained the findings for each area of review at the Brooklyn High School and Brooklyn School (PK-7) buildings. A detailed Priority List outlining the cost to complete repairs and upgrades for each area of review was also presented. GPD Group then provided a comparison of the total costs for renovation and new construction to the Board of Education and concluded with a Question-and-Answer session. All stakeholders in the Brooklyn City Schools are encouraged to view the Facility Study results presentation by [visiting the Board of Education YouTube channel](#).



The recent facility study is part of an ongoing strategic effort by the district to ensure that facilities are properly maintained and upgraded.



New Promethean Boards Create Expanded Learning Opportunities for Students



Students taking Spanish courses at the High School have used the new Promethean Boards to present as peer teachers.

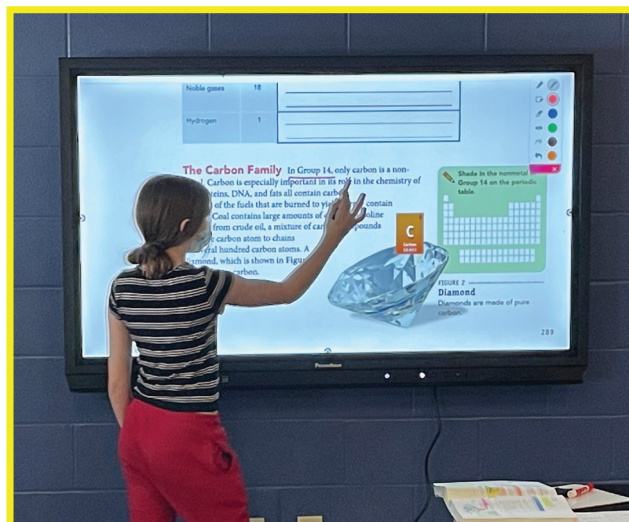
examples and make peer corrections. Students in Spanish 1 delivered a presentation after researching various Winter, Christmas, and New Year traditions celebrated in Spanish speaking countries throughout the world.

Brooklyn School currently has four new Promethean Boards which are empowering staff and students to go beyond the traditional classroom. In Mrs. Ralph's classroom, students were able to identify the families of elements from the periodic table by making annotations and using the writing tools on the board.

Overall, the introduction of the Promethean Board has generated increased student engagement with lessons, promoted higher level thinking, and provided opportunities for peer-to-peer learning. Students and teachers alike are excited to use the new classroom technology and look forward to exploring new ways of learning during the rest of the school year!

The introduction of an innovative technology into several classrooms in the Brooklyn City Schools is creating expanded learning opportunities for students. Featuring an interactive interface and easily accessible apps, tools, and files, the new Promethean Boards are a significant upgrade from screens and digital projectors that enables teachers and students to capture and crop images, draw, and annotate over content, and much more.

During the first few weeks of the new year, students in Mrs. Holko's Spanish classes have used the board to present as peer teachers and interact with their classmates on practice activities. Students in Spanish 4 presented vocabulary stories they had created and demonstrated their vocabulary use in context for the class. Spanish 3 course students worked together in small groups to complete a grammar maze activity as well as demonstrate grammar



Brooklyn School students are able to make annotations and demonstrate learning using the various writing tools.



District Financial Update



District Treasurer
Colleen Aholt

The Brooklyn City Schools values the continued support of the community and is committed to maintaining the financial stability of the district. This commitment is reflected in the implementation of an ongoing cost savings plan over the next four years. Examples of cost savings achieved by the district include making early payments to take advantage on discount savings and evaluating job vacancies for streamlining opportunities. As a participant in the Suburban Health Consortium which pools health insurance coverages with other school districts, the Brooklyn City Schools can stabilize health insurance rates and keep cost increases under control. In other positive news, the district recently received a bus grant and will be considering the purchase of three new buses for the Transportation department.

In May of 2022, the district will be releasing an updated Five-Year Forecast (FY2021) which will include the financial impact of the new Fair School Funding Plan which was passed by the Ohio Legislature in June of 2021. The new school funding plan takes into consideration the local share of property taxes and will have a positive impact on the Brooklyn City Schools. The forthcoming Five-Year Forecast (FY 2021) to be released in May will update financial estimates for the Fair School Funding Plan listed in the November 2021 document with actual amounts. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, thank you for your continued support and partnership with the district.



Brooklyn Instrumental Students Shine at 2022 OMEA Competition

Now entering its seventy-fifth year, the Brooklyn Instrumental Music Department holds a rich tradition of pride and excellence. The program's legacy of strong musicianship continued with impressive performances by Brooklyn students at the 2022 Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Adjudication held at North Ridgeville High School on Saturday, January 29, 2022. Preparations for the event began at the end of the marching band season (late October/early November) and provided participating students the opportunity to collaborate and work towards a common goal. Mr. Sean Sullivan, Director of Bands for the Brooklyn City Schools, was present and aided as necessary at most rehearsals, enabling students to take ownership of their performance, establish routines, and grow as musicians. Student soloists benefitted greatly from the opportunity to practice frequently with Nancy Sullivan, piano accompanist, and mother of Mr. Sullivan. The students' hard work and diligent preparation showed during the final performances, as all Brooklyn participants received "Excellent" or "Superior" ratings in all events. Congratulations to the student musicians listed below for their exceptional performances at the 2022 OMEA Solo and Ensemble Adjudication!



All student musicians received "Excellent" or "Superior" ratings in all events at the 2022 OMEA Competition.

Soloists:

Sienna Jackson, Clarinet Soloist
Josef Ethridge, Alto Saxophone Soloist
Brandi Betke, Flute Soloist

Mixed Clarinet Ensemble:

Sienna Jackson
Savanna Coyle
Isabella Lottig
Katrina Gasper

Mixed Woodwind Trio:

Brandi Betke
Angela Ameres
Katrina Gasper



Brooklyn Celebrates Family Math Night



Brooklyn PK-7 families enjoyed an evening of food and age appropriate math games at Family Math Night on "Twos-day", February 22nd.

Approximately fifty Brooklyn School families attended an evening of math games, food, and other fun activities at Family Math Night hosted by the Brooklyn City Schools and Brooklyn PTA on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. The special "Twosday" themed event was a celebration of the number two in recognition of the palindrome date of 2-22-22. Families began the evening by enjoying pizza, cookies, and other refreshments provided by the Brooklyn PTA in the cafeteria. Afterwards, families rotated to different classrooms to participate in a variety of math games and activities for grades PK-7 coordinated by Brooklyn teachers, staff, and student volunteers. A special thank you to the Brooklyn PTA for their generous support of this year's event. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, thank you to all Brooklyn families in attendance for helping to make Family Math Night a success!



8th Grader Malak Chafki Wins Scholastic Art and Writing Award



8th grader Malak Chafki joined a prestigious group of students from across Northeast Ohio to have artwork recognized at the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Competition.

Congratulations to 8th grader Malak Chafki who was recognized for her impressive oil pastel drawing at the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing competition! Now in its 98th year, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for young artists and writers in grades 7–12. The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the Greater Cleveland Region, which includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake County schools. Judges evaluated over 3,000 pieces of artwork and writing samples based on the criteria of originality, technical skill and emergence of a personal vision or voice before selecting the finalists. Malak's artwork along with those from regional student artists in grades 7-12 was displayed at The Cleveland Institute of Art's Reinberger Gallery. The Brooklyn City Schools proudly congratulates Malak on her award-winning artistic performance!



Theatre Classes Deliver Performance for First Graders

Brooklyn's first grade classrooms were treated to a wonderful performance of *The Mystery of the Gumdrop Dragon* by students in the High School's Musical Theatre and Stage Craft classes on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, in the Auditorium. Under the guidance of instructor Kim Cipriani, members of the Musical Theatre class served as the cast for the play, and spent the semester auditioning, directing each other, rehearsing the script, and creating their own costumes. Composed of students in grades 9-12, the Musical Theatre class studies the history of theatre including noteworthy writers, choreographers, directors, and actors. Students are also given the opportunity to practice acting techniques and character development in preparation for the final performance. Led by instructor Chris Kaspar, the Stage Craft class used their talents and knowledge to create the stage set and props. The first graders enjoyed the impressive performance of *The Mystery of the Gumdrop Dragon* which served to highlight the wonderful performing arts opportunities in the Brooklyn City Schools. Congratulations to all participating students for their fine performances and stage designs!



Students in the High School's Musical Theatre and Stage Craft classes performed "The Mystery of the Gumdrop Dragon".



Mini Canes and Varsity Cheerleaders Deliver Halftime Performance



Brooklyn School "Mini Canes" cheerleaders and varsity cheerleaders performed together at halftime of the varsity boys basketball game on January 5th.

During the week of January 4th, the Brooklyn Hurricanes varsity cheerleading team held a "Mini Canes Cheerleading Camp." "Mini Canes" cheerleaders from Brooklyn School learned several new cheers and had the unforgettable opportunity to perform at halftime of the varsity boys basketball game on Wednesday, January 5th. During their performance, the "Mini Canes" did an outstanding job and received loud cheers from family and community members in attendance. The varsity basketball team defeated visiting Independence HS with a thrilling 81-74 victory in overtime. It was a great night to be a Hurricane! Congratulations to all participating students for their superb performances!

