



Hurricane Watch

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

Summer 2022

Tradition. Pride. Excellence.



**Superintendent
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

By now, summer 2022 is in full swing, and on behalf of everyone in the Brooklyn City Schools, I hope you are enjoying a safe and relaxing summer. The purpose of this newsletter is to share with the community all of the great and exciting endeavors in which our students and staff participated during the final few weeks of the '21-'22 school year. Among the most significant events was our Commencement ceremony, which took place on Saturday, June 4th. Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2022, and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

The rest of the Brooklyn City Schools finished the school year on Monday, June 6th with a variety of fun activities and final learning experiences. The Brooklyn City Schools encourages you to visit our website on a regular basis for valuable updates and great stories regarding student and staff achievements. Readers will see a glimpse of such stories throughout this publication as well.

At the Regular Board of Education meeting on June 7th, 2022, the Brooklyn Board of Education voted unanimously to ratify a new three-year contract with Brooklyn Teamsters Local 436 representing all of the school district's classified employees. My sincere thanks goes to the Teamsters Local 436 Leadership, all of our classified employees, the administrative negotiating team, and the Brooklyn Board of Education for finding common ground that brought us to what I believe is another positive step for our employees and our school community. This agreement is another testament to our dedicated Board of Education and employees who give so much to serve our students, families, and school community!

Please be sure to review inside a Treasurer's Report, Board Report and other various updates. You play a critical role in helping the district invigorate its: Tradition...Pride...and Excellence.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Dr. Theodore Caleris
Superintendent of Schools



Representatives from the Brooklyn Fire and Police Departments, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, and Ohio Highway Patrol attended the unveiling of the new student created First Responders mural inside Brooklyn High School on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

HIGH SCHOOL MURAL CLASS HONORS BROOKLYN FIRST RESPONDERS

The dedication, sacrifice, and bravery of Brooklyn's first responders, both past and present, is now prominently honored at Brooklyn High School thanks to the efforts of student-artists in the school's Mural class. Situated on the wall and staircase located inside the main lobby, the impressive First Responders mural features the official badges of the City of Brooklyn's Fire and Police Departments, as well as the badges for Emergency Paramedics, Ohio Deputy Sheriff, and Ohio State Highway Patrol. Under the direction of instructor Mr. Chris Kaspar, students began work on the mural at the start of the second semester. Using free-hand technique as well as transparencies displayed on the wall using an overhead projector, students diligently worked on the mural until the last week of the school year. Participating students included Amanda Adkins, Alyanna Benz, Emily Gerry, Caley Hall, Maceo Maddaluno-Pytel, Jenna Roth, Giada Santin, and Brandi Betke. All the above talented student-artists had previous experience working on other school murals.

On Tuesday, June 7th, an informal mural dedication ceremony was held with representatives from each first responder organization in attendance. Brooklyn student representatives Emily Gerry and Brandi Betke shared about the entire process of creating the mural. The first responders were extremely impressed with the students' artistic work and expressed their deep appreciation for the recognition.

During the 2022-23 school year, the names of all Brooklyn High School graduates who went on to careers as first responders will be displayed under the stairs to honor their service. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, congratulations to all participating student-artists for their remarkable mural design, and a special thank you to all past and current first responders for their service to the community!



Congratulations Brooklyn High School Class of 2022



Class of 2022 Speakers

Daylun Armstrong

Emily Gerry

Elizabeth Ta

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

Daylun Armstrong

Emily Gerry

Laila Schwin

Ashley Chong

Lean Jallad

Elizabeth Ta

Elizabeth deKoning

Salaam Jallad

Jenny Tran

Tyler Elzholz

Maria Lukanc

John Wilson

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!

Farin Bloom, *Intervention Specialist*

Linda Ethridge, *District Attendance and Records Secretary*

Dr. Paula Hughes, *Computer Science and Engineering*

Linda Koltiska, *Food Service*

Janice Kriausky, *Athletic Aide*

Mark Tanski, *8th Grade Social Studies*

**Forever a
Hurricane!**



District Financial Update



District Treasurer
Colleen Aholt

As a demonstration of the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility, the Brooklyn City Schools has achieved cost savings in several concrete ways. Office workflows have been adjusted to efficiently bring the Education Management Information System (EMIS) position into the district while grant funding has been reevaluated to optimize financial spending. Additionally, position vacancies have been evaluated for streamlining opportunities while still maintaining current district operations.

In May 2022, the Brooklyn City Schools released an updated Five-Year Forecast Financial Report. The primary purpose of the document is to engage the Board of Education and community in the long-range planning and discussions of financial issues facing the district. The current report shows that the district has a positive cash balance throughout the financial forecast. Other items of importance include the positive impact of federal ESSER funds on the district's General Fund, with the federal funds needing to be obligated by September 2024. The current Five-Year Forecast also includes a renewal levy that will be placed on the ballot in November 2022 to maintain current operations and fiscal stability. This issue is not a tax increase and will renew approximately \$2,254,000 annually for the next five years for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit. The district will be sending out additional communications regarding the **no new taxes** renewal request in the future. To view the entire Five-Year Financial Forecast, please visit www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us, and select the Treasurer page located under the Departments heading. Thank you for your continued support of the Brooklyn City Schools.



District Finalizes Strategic Plan

Since launching in the fall of 2021, the district's Strategic Planning Committee has worked towards the goal of developing an action-oriented plan that will address learning challenges and promote student achievement and growth. The committee is composed of individuals representing all stakeholders in the Brooklyn City Schools, including administrators, teachers, classified staff, representation from the Board of Education, parents, and community members. Throughout the planning process, the committee has demonstrated collaboration, creativity, and a united focus on helping students and the district succeed. The final strategic plan includes the identification of core values, new mission and vision statements, areas of focus, targeted goals, and action steps to achieve each stated goal. The district presented the final strategic plan at the State of the Schools address on June 9th and plans to share through in-person and online formats with the community next school year. For more information, please visit the district's Strategic Planning page at www.brooklyn.k12.oh.us.



Brooklyn City Schools

VISION

Brooklyn City Schools will be the model of educational excellence and community connectivity through practical, diverse, and innovative approaches to learning.

MISSION STATEMENT

To educate, inspire and foster pride, unity, and respect.

New Mission and Vision statements are part of the district's new Strategic Plan that will be shared with the community in the coming school year.



Track Resurfacing Project at Brooklyn Stadium



Last renovated in 1996, the resurfacing of the track at Brooklyn Stadium began in early July and is expected to be completed by mid-September 2022.

Brooklyn Stadium has witnessed many exciting and memorable track and field events over its proud history. In addition, many community members utilize the outdoor track to practice a healthy and active lifestyle outside of district events. As part of an ongoing district capital improvement initiative, the Brooklyn City Schools has contracted with Vasco Sports Contractors to resurface the athletic track at Brooklyn Stadium. The first phase took place from July 5th – July 15th and will be followed by a second phase starting after August 22nd. The resurfacing project is expected to be completed by mid-September of 2022. Last renovated in 1996, the ongoing track replacement will help to ensure that the track surface is kept in optimal condition for students and the greater community to enjoy.



District Continues Progress with Capital Improvements Initiative



Ongoing carpet and classroom furniture replacement for grades 4-7 and at Brooklyn High School are part of planned district capital improvement projects.

As part of a strategic effort to ensure that facilities are properly maintained and upgraded, the Brooklyn City Schools contracted with GPD Group in the fall of 2021 to conduct a facility study to assess building conditions and needs at Brooklyn High School and Brooklyn School (PK-7).

- 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.

Initiated over the past two school years, the Brooklyn City Schools is in the process of completing capital improvement projects across the entire district campus to provide a learning environment that is safe and gives students opportunities to succeed. As the district plans for a busy and productive summer, here is a list of tentative projects planned for completion for the 22-23 school year:

- **Brooklyn School and Brooklyn High School:** Purchase of new replacement classroom furniture for grades 4-7 and Brooklyn High School.
- **Athletic Facilities:** Anticipated track replacement at Brooklyn Stadium; tentatively to be completed by end of summer/early fall.
- **Athletic Facilities:** Construction of a new Pavilion at Brooklyn Stadium; completed with the partnership of the Brooklyn Athletic Booster Club and Polaris Career Center.
- **Hurricane Alley:** The district will be completing the repair and repaving of the Hurricane Alley Driveway located at the Brooklyn Stadium Complex this summer; completion of the project is slated for this July.
- **Auditorium:** The district will be replacing the carpeting in the Auditorium and various classrooms throughout the district.
- **Roof Repair and Maintenance:** In an effort to continuously repair and maintain building roof surfaces, the district will be maintaining several of these areas this summer.

The Brooklyn City Schools will continue to provide regular updates on progress related to the above capital improvements during the upcoming school year.



New Stadium Pavilion Constructed Through Community Partnerships



The new pavilion at Brooklyn Stadium was constructed by students from the Polaris Construction Trades Program and financially supported through a donation from the Brooklyn Athletic Boosters Club.

The Brooklyn City Schools community will be able to enjoy a brand-new pavilion at Brooklyn Stadium during the fall of 2022 thanks to a partnership with Polaris Career Center and the Brooklyn Athletic Booster Club. Students from the Polaris Construction Trades Program began work on the pavilion during the spring and finished shortly before the end of the school year. The free-standing pavilion will improve the function and aesthetics of the Brooklyn Stadium complex. Funding for the project was made possible through the generous financial support of the Brooklyn Athletic Booster Club. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, congratulations to all participating students for their outstanding work and thank you to the Polaris Career Center Construction Trades Program, various local business partners, and the Brooklyn Athletic Booster Club for their contributions and support.



Brooklyn Schools Congratulates Power of the Pen State Qualifiers



Congratulations to 7th grader Grace Paul (left) and 8th grader Malak Chafki (right) on being named Power of the Pen State Qualifiers!

The Brooklyn City Schools proudly congratulates eighth grader Malak Chafki and seventh grader Grace Paul on qualifying for the 2022 Power of the Pen State Competition! The event took place at Otterbein College in Westerville, OH on May 12th-13th. During the competition, Malak and Grace competed against other Ohio student qualifiers in their grade level. The Power of the Pen competition is an interscholastic creative writing program for Middle Schools and features three extemporaneous rounds of writing during which students are asked to write a response to an open-ended prompt.

Grace and Malak advanced from the Regional Competition, which was held remotely at Brooklyn School on Saturday, March 12th. The six regional qualifiers from Brooklyn (three each from 7th and 8th grade) were the most to ever qualify in school history! The Power of the Pen is advised by Brooklyn School Gifted Intervention Specialist (Grades 3-7), Kathleen Mack. Participating students met for forty-five minutes after-school every Thursday to practice specific writing skills. Students then worked on a writing prompt during the following week. Congratulations once again to state qualifiers Malak Chafki and Grace Paul for their noteworthy accomplishment!



Robotics Team Proudly Represents Brooklyn at Polaris Competition

The Brooklyn Middle School Robotics team displayed their strong preparation and skills at the annual Polaris Palooza Robotics Competition held at Strongsville Middle School on March 16th. Anthony Villanueva, Ryan Hilcu, Jonathan Changeri, Rocco Spiewacki, Ida Chen, Youseff Elouardighi, Angel Torres, Jeremiah Medina, and Adam Cowper worked as a team to compete against other area schools in various events. Brooklyn earned a fourth-place finish in the Dragster event which required them to construct a robotic car and have it travel as far as possible in a straight line on a four-foot-wide track over a three second period. The combined distance of two runs determined the winner of the event.

Brooklyn's students met almost daily over a six-week period to prepare for the event using concepts, knowledge, and skills gained from the Automation and Robotics course taught by Polaris instructor Mr. Ron Goodwin. During the class, students learned about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems while using the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects in a team-based format. Congratulations to the Brooklyn Middle School Robotics Team for demonstrating collaboration and skill in their impressive performance at the 2022 Polaris Palooza Robotics Competition!



The Brooklyn Middle School Robotics team delivered a strong performance at the 2022 Polaris Palooza Robotics Competition.



Brooklyn School Celebrates Literacy with One School, One Author Program



During the month long One Author, One School program, Brooklyn School students, staff and families read one of several selected books authored by Katherine Applegate.

Continuing the annual tradition of the One School, One Book program that began in 2017, this year's observance at Brooklyn School focused on a specific author to reach all students at their individual reading level. On Monday, May 9th, the entire school community learned that the mystery author was Katherine Applegate. Students and staff in Pre-K thru 7 each received a book written by the author. Brooklyn School families were also asked to participate in the One School, One Author program by reading the selected book with their child for fifteen minutes each night over several weeks, helping to support literacy while promoting a worthwhile family activity. In-school activities included classroom discussions and engaging learning experiences, as well as a weekly trivia contest where students had the opportunity to win prizes.

As in previous years, a related Community Scavenger Hunt was held at Ridge Park Square with a different participating location chosen as a clue spot each week. Students who found all four clues and returned a completed flyer to school received a prize. A special thank you to Ridge Park Square for their participation and generous financial support for the One School, One Author program. Thank you also to Intervention Specialist, Suzy Marquis and Media Specialist, Wendy Smith, for their efforts in coordinating this exciting celebration of literacy for the entire Brooklyn School community!



First Ring Student Leadership Members Deliver Research Presentation



Brooklyn students in the First Ring Student Leadership Institute presented the results of their research project before fellow peers and advisors.

The Brooklyn City Schools is proud to offer a variety of co-curricular opportunities for students to develop valuable leadership skills, including participation in the First Ring Student Leadership Institute. The two-year program provides high school sophomores and juniors from school districts surrounding the Cleveland Metropolitan School District the opportunity to become agents of positive change in their schools and communities. For the 2021-22 school year, Brooklyn High School Sophomores Mayhem Crowley, Jackson Diller, Tyler Morgan, Santana Sammons, and Idajia Simpson were nominated by Principal Brian Hare to participate in the program. Under the direction of faculty advisor Julie McGarey and experts from the Cleveland State University Center for Urban Education, the students worked as a team to identify and conduct research on an issue in their school or community.

The students' research focused on determining if Brooklyn students found ICE Block or Intervention, Collaboration, Enrichment period during the school's block schedule beneficial. Using a Google survey, the research team obtained feedback from all ICE Block classes and even interviewed Superintendent Caleris for feedback about their project. On May 13th, the Brooklyn students joined other

participating schools to present their research findings and recommendations at St. Michael Woodside Event Center. Brooklyn's group recommended student representation from grades 9-12 on the ICE Block committee to obtain student input on ways to improve the class period moving forward. Congratulations to all participating Brooklyn students for their strong commitment to making a positive impact in their school community!



Brooklyn High School Celebrates Memory of Former Student with Memorial Bench Dedication



Donated by the Polaris Career Center Welding Class with financial support from Mr. Frank Filippou and designed by BHS junior Halie Beane, the memorial bench celebrates the memory of former BHS student Thanasi Filippou.

The care and commitment of the Brooklyn City Schools community was displayed in a powerful way during a heartfelt memorial bench dedication ceremony to celebrate the memory of former Brooklyn High School student Thanasi Filippou, on Thursday, May 26, 2022. A beloved member of the Class of 2006, Thanasi passed away unexpectedly during his senior year. His family has maintained close ties with the Brooklyn High School staff, as his father, Mr. Frank Filippou, occasionally brings baked goods for the staff as a gesture of his appreciation for the support they provided Thanasi and the rest of the Filippou family.

The bench was donated by the Polaris Career Center Welding Class with financial support from Mr. Filippou and designed by BHS junior Halie Beane, who is also enrolled in the Welding class. After hearing an announcement from Brooklyn Art Instructor Mr. Chris Kaspar about the planned creation of a bench honoring the memory of Thanasi, Halie felt moved to volunteer her talents as a fellow Hurricane. Over the course of one and a half weeks, Halie used CNC machining to create impressive decorative metal plates to place on the bench. The back rest portion of the bench features the Hurricane logo with Thanasi's initials located inside, while the three plates on the seat portion spell out "B.H.S." in recognition of the high school.

and staff. Haile Beane helped to unveil the bench and took a moment to share about the significance of the designed features. Wearing a Brooklyn Hurricane's baseball hat featuring his son's name and uniform number, Mr. Filippou graciously thanked Haile for her work and expressed his deep appreciation to the entire Brooklyn City Schools community for their care and support over the years. Afterwards, Mr. Filippou took time to greet and catch up with Brooklyn High School staff members, including those who were formerly classmates of Thanasi.

A special thank you to Halie Beane and the Polaris Welding Class for their generous support in helping to celebrate the memory of Thanasi Filippou, a proud member of the Brooklyn Hurricane family.

Brooklyn High School Students Participate in Community Service Day



Brooklyn HS students engaged in service projects at various residential and community locations as part of Community Service Day on May 31st.

Brooklyn High School students rolled up their sleeves and helped to clean and beautify various neighborhood locations during Community Service Day on Tuesday, May 31st. The city-wide event was made possible through a collaboration with other civic organizations including Keep Brooklyn Beautiful and Laurel Garden Club. Students in grades eight through eleven worked at various residential and community locations which had previously signed up to participate in the program, including, Brooklyn Recreation Center, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Senior Center, Brooklyn Pointe, and Brooklyn Acres. Participating students enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Brooklyn residents and give back to their community. A special thank you to Andy Celcherts from Keep Brooklyn Beautiful and Barb Paulitzky from Laurel Garden Club for their assistance in coordinating the Community Service Day event. The district would also like to thank our staff and parents for supporting our students and promoting the importance of service to the greater community.

Celebration of the 2021-22 School Year

Congratulations to our students, teachers, staff, and families for a successful 2021-22 school year. Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and enjoyable summer!





Brooklyn City School District
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On behalf of everyone in the Brooklyn City Schools, the Brooklyn Board of Education takes great pride in congratulating the students and the staff on successfully, and safely, completing the 2021-2022 school year. Students in all grades continued to take great pride in their learning and pursued excellence at every step in their academic journeys. We commend you. To our staff, the Board of Education offers its sincerest gratitude. Thank you for being supportive despite the need to pivot, and for continuing to mentor our students. Finally, our parents and families deserve a round of applause as well, as they serve as the vital backbone that upholds our school family. To the Class of 2022, congratulations on successfully completing the requirements of this school district, and for your commencement on Saturday, June 4th. All the best in your future endeavors!

Finally, the Brooklyn City Schools has placed a renewal levy on the ballot in November 2022. This issue is **not a tax increase** and renews funds from a levy that is set to expire in December 2023. The proposal will renew approximately \$2,254,000 annually for the next five years for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit. The Brooklyn City Schools will share more information regarding this no new taxes renewal request in November 2022 with the community during the summer and fall of 2022. Thank you for your continued support of the Brooklyn City Schools and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

~The Brooklyn City Schools Board of Education

