

Briarcliff Manor

Union Free School District



SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

On the Ballot
for 2023-2024

THE BUDGET

- Proposed Budget: **\$57,719,409**
- Budget-to-Budget Increase: **2.56%**
- Tax Levy Increase: **0.49%**
- Complies with the State Tax Levy Cap

VOTE

May 16, 2023 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Todd Elementary School
Budget Vote and Board Candidate Election





Message from District Leadership

Dear Briarcliff UFSD Families:

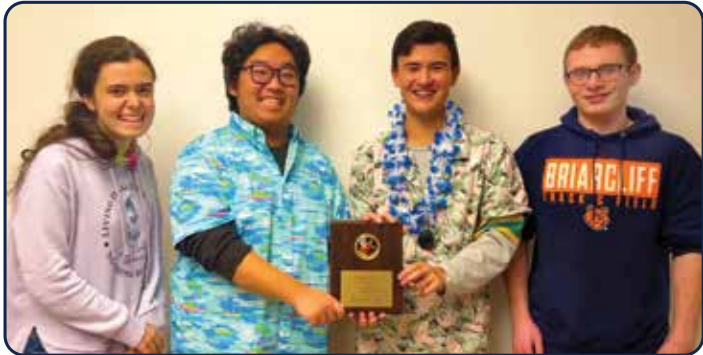
The Briarcliff Manor School District emerged from a global health crisis stronger than ever. As we pivoted to regular operations this past year, rather than return to pre-pandemic academic programming and support services, faculty and staff actively sought ways to improve upon our classroom instruction and the resources necessary to help students succeed. As we moved through the 2022-2023 school year, we leveraged new knowledge and capabilities to improve the student experiences through engagement in the full complement of educational activities. We improved student outcomes through new literacy and Next Generation standards, we better supported students' social and emotional needs, and we better engaged with parents as partners in our mission to create knowledgeable, confident, and capable young adults.

As we set our sights on the 2023-2024 school year, our work together continues. In collaboration with the Board of Education, the District's leadership team has developed a budget plan that reflects our educational priorities and will improve our classroom environments. The plan will provide for increased building security. It will further our commitment to K-12 students' social and emotional well-being. It will expand opportunities in professional development and increase teacher capacity to create meaningful, engaging, and authentic classroom learning and assessments. And, it will maintain optimal class size at the early elementary grade level as enrollment at Todd begins to rise.

What will remain unchanged is the District's commitment to our students and their families. Through a wide array of educational programs and supports for students complimented by a robust and evolving professional development program for teachers and staff, we endeavor to create learning environments that surround students with opportunities to grow and flourish academically, intellectually and emotionally. Because of what we do for all students, each of our schools has gained regional and national recognition for educational success. That said, however, it remains our firm belief that school success is best measured one student at a time.

Thank you to our families and parent volunteers for your support along the way. With your help, the District will continue to provide a broad array of educational activities and a warm, supportive and joyful environment for students to learn and to grow.

The proposed budget would ensure that our students continue to be engaged, challenged, supported and prepared to meet the challenges



Capital Project News



- Phase 2 bidding has been completed.
- Renovation of the Maresca Center and High School Library will begin over the summer and continue through the 2023-24 school year.

of the 21st century. Working closely with our building principals to address the goals and priorities of each of the three schools, while maintaining our overarching District philosophy, the Board of Education is presenting a budget that provides for:

- Installation of security glazing enhancement at all three schools.
- Maintaining early elementary class size as Todd experiences increased enrollment.
- Addition of a full-time music teacher at the Middle School.
- Year 2 of the new reading program at Todd will continue and expand into writing.
- Supports the final phase of providing classrooms and educational spaces with new (dynamic) furniture.
- Continued expansion of a high school engineering program.
- Increased guidance and social and emotional support coordination K-12.

Working below the New York State mandated tax levy limit, the Board of Education has adopted a budget of \$57,719,409, which represents a 0.49 percent increase to the Tax Levy. The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 16th. Please remember to exercise your civic responsibility and vote!

In addition to the information provided in this newsletter, the District has created a more detailed Budget Book for your perusal. This resource represents the District's commitment to working collaboratively with the Board of Education, the community and our staff in developing the proposed school budget. The Budget Book can be found on the District website or by following this link or QR:

bit.ly/B_23-24BudgetBook



If our priorities are in the right place and we remain committed to the success of every student, we can be confident about our future as a school community. This year's budget proposal takes into consideration the academic, emotional and practical needs of students as well as the District's fiduciary responsibilities. Mindful of each of these critical elements, we hope to create a sustainable path for renewal, improvement and continued success into the 2023-2024 school year and for years to come.

Very Sincerely,

Dr. James Kaishian
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Haberman
Board of Education President

Budget/Expense Summary

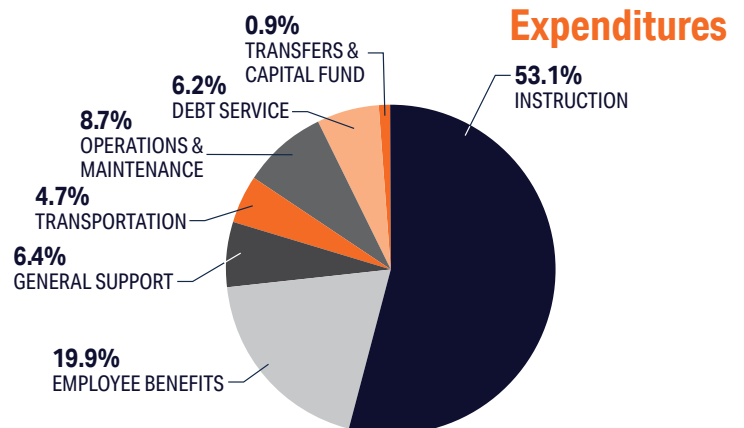
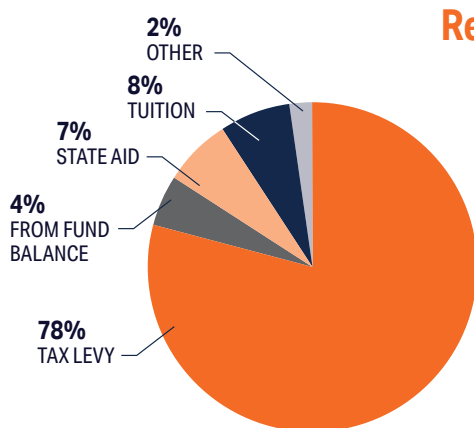
Category	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed Budget
Salaries & Benefits	\$37,167,518	\$37,672,825	\$ 39,102,435	\$40,860,244
Equipment	\$671,270	\$760,920	\$1,992,465	\$1,352,257
Supplies	\$1,163,617	\$961,920	\$831,487	\$829,734
Tuition	\$1,616,514	\$1,483,443	\$1,098,210	\$836,674
Contractual	\$6,154,211	\$6,833,336	\$7,105,502	\$7,476,742
BOCES Services	\$2,674,399	\$2,132,456	\$2,012,688	\$2,267,570
Debt Service	\$3,566,033	\$3,314,484	\$3,372,622	\$3,601,188
Transfers to Other Funds	\$68,300	\$232,899	\$115,000	\$95,000
Capital Projects	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$650,000	\$400,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$53,381,866	\$53,692,283	\$ 56,280,408	\$57,719,409

Revenue Summary

Category	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed
State Aid	\$4,120,454	\$4,112,436	\$3,839,013	\$4,219,691
County Sales Tax	\$350,000	\$690,000	\$690,000	\$730,000
Tuition & Charges for Services	\$3,979,002	\$3,914,211	\$3,826,281	\$4,902,356
Interest Earnings & Rentals	\$97,000	\$69,480	\$69,480	\$299,050
Other Miscellaneous	\$195,410	\$187,225	\$193,225	\$177,926
Interfund Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL OTHER REVENUES	\$8,741,866	\$8,973,352	\$8,617,999	\$10,329,023
TAX LEVY	\$43,055,000	\$43,696,931	\$44,898,025	\$45,018,025
ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	\$1,585,000	\$1,022,000	\$2,764,384	\$2,372,361
GRAND TOTAL	\$53,381,866	\$53,692,283	\$56,280,408	\$57,719,409

0.49% Tax Levy Increase

2023-2024 Budget Revenues/Expenditures Breakdown



BHS Highlights & Accolades

The **Class of 2023's Valedictorian** is **Tevin Kim**. **Salutatorians** are **Madeline Rohde** and **Annabelle Kung**.

Joey Berger - clarinet, **Tevin Kim** - viola and Alternate **Mirabel Solomon** - percussion were accepted into the **2022 NYSSMA All-State Winter Conference**. Together with their teachers they traveled to Rochester, NY in December to perform in concert at the NYSSMA Winter Conference at the Eastman Theater.

The following students won the **College Board National Recognition Program Award**:

Desmond Saw: NAARA (National African American Recognition Award);

Mirabel Solomon: NHRA (National Hispanic Recognition Award);

Suraya Chalabi: NAARA, NHRA

National Merit Finalists are **Tevin Kim**, **Annabelle Kung** and **Ryan Wancier**.

Ninth grader honor choir singer **Ava Wu** was selected to participate in the **American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) 2023 Conference** in February in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Senior **Mia Townes** received the **Heisman High School Scholarship**

Senior **Jason Starr** won the **Milton Fisher Scholarship** and was named **Regeneron STS Scholar**. He was also awarded the Westchester County Board of Health 2023 J.R. Tesone **Youth Public Health Service Award** by the Westchester County Board of Health.

The following students have won the annual **HOBY essay contest** and will represent Briarcliff at the annual leadership conference.

Abigail Bell - winner; **Sophie Tanios** - first runner up; **Riya Raina** - second runner up.

BHS science research student, **Nick Gornisiewicz**, was accepted to Regeneron's highly selective four-year paid internship program for college students.

Freshman **Ava Wu** represented BHS in the Junior Honors Choir of the **ACDA National Conference**, and performed at Cincinnati's famous Music Hall.

Briarcliff's **Academic Challenge Team** won first place in the A division of the M.A.C.C. tournament against 11 schools from Westchester and Connecticut.

Senior **Shannon Lee** won honorable mention in the **Scholastic Awards** for two pieces: her

poem "*Never, Never*" and dramatic script "*People Like Us*."

Junior **Joseph Berger** received an honorable mention in the **2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** for his poem "*The Unrequited Promise*."

Members of **BHS band and orchestra** went to see the New York Philharmonic.

Senior **Coby Rinke** placed first in his poster category at the **JSHS Symposium**, (Junior Science and Humanities Symposium) which took place at the University at Albany.

Members of the Briarcliff **Gay-Straight Alliance club** attended the **20th annual Prideworks Conference**.

The school held performances of "*Henry IV*" and "*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*."

Students in **Karen McCarthy's AP Seminar class** had a field trip to **Pace University's Mortola Library** where they enjoyed full access to the college's research databases and library, which allowed them to conduct college-level research.

Drama students put on "*Page to Stage*" performance at North Castle Public Library and showcased original one-act plays.

Music students in **Michael Fraioli and Devon Toland's classes** had a trip to SUMMIT at One Vanderbilt, a 93-story skyscraper near Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan and got to see 30,000 square feet of mirrors.

The following students were recognized at the **Westchester Science & Engineering Fair Awards** ceremony: **Shafin Thahseen** - American Psychological Association Award; **Noah O'Neill** - NASA Earth System Science Award; **Theodore Racz** - U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize; **Coby Rinke** - United States Air Force Award; **Maddie Rohde** - BASF Expanding Knowledge in Science Award; **Nitya Shukla** - BASF Expanding Knowledge in Science Award; **Jason Starr** - 2nd Place in the Behavioral & Social Science category.

Junior **Noah O'Neil** and seniors **Coby Rinke**, **Jason Starr**, **Madeline Rhode**, **Margot Flores**, **Nicholas Gornisiewicz**, **Nitya Shukla**, **Shafin**



Thahseen and **Theodore Racz** competed in the **Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF)**.

Ninth grader **Ariana Thomas** recently participated in **Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra's concerto competition** held for high schoolers in Westchester and played the piano. After two rounds of auditions, Ariana won fourth place, which provided her the opportunity to perform with the orchestra.

Senior **Daniel Sugrue**, who is also a student at PNW BOCES, was awarded **Firefighter of the Year** at the Briarcliff Fire Department.

The **Visual Arts Department** held its annual **Art Salon at Sleepy Hollow Country Club**, showcasing painting, drawing, digital and darkroom photography, sculpture, ceramics, digital design and film shorts, all created by students.

Sophomore **Haley Berger** won third place in the **Sixth Annual Student Essay Contest**, sponsored by "Lifting Up Westchester," a non-profit agency committed to helping individuals experiencing homelessness and hunger to achieve self-sufficiency.

The following students won the **Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Circle Awards** for student work:

1st place - Traditional Fiction: Junior **Sofia Choudhri** - "*A Room with Many Small Beds*"

1st place - Humor: Senior **Caitlin Bombassei** - "*The Masseur*"

1st place - Portfolio Illustration - Briarcliff Alum **Sarah Renz**

Certificate of Merit - Photography - Single Artistic photograph - Senior **Tevin Kim** - "*Power*"

Members of the **BHS Coding Cafe Club** and students in **AP Computer Science classes** participated in the **Siena College High School Programming Contest**. One of the all-girl teams won third place in the Green Level Competition and four of the eight teams scored in the top 10 on the leaderboard.

Briarcliff Middle School

- Eighth graders went on a trip to Ellis Island and took part in a special research project called "Finding Your Roots," in which they studied an immigrant group.
- Seventh graders visited Teatown Reservation.
- Professional storyteller Jonathan Kruk visited seventh graders to tell the tale of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."
- Eighth grader Avni Chandra won the 2021 PTA Reflections Contest Award for her essay. She was one of 12 students in New York State to win.
- Sixth graders had a field trip to see "Wicked" and had lunch at Ellen's Stardust Diner.
- Students learned about Dia de la Muerte in late October. Seventh graders created "ofrendas" and sixth graders had a special day that included the movie "Coco" and enjoyed churros y chocolate.
- Seventh graders raised over 100 brook trout in Jessica Loprieno's science class, as part of the "Trout in the Classroom" program.
- The Student Council held the Souper Bowl.
- Students had Mix-it-Up Day, Student Council Half-Way Day, Red Ribbon Week, Gratitude Spirit Week and Kindness Week



- Members of the Mathcounts Club scored in the top 5% nationally.
- The school had a Heart Health Ice-Skating Trip and the International Club had a trip to the Culinary Institute of America.
- Students had Computer Science Career Exploration in Sixth Grade Science Enrichment, the STEM Club Participated in the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest and the Writer's Club had a virtual author visit with Jen Calonita.
- Students had the Litterless Lunch Initiative and the Student Council Talent Show.
- An art show, featuring art and computer art made by BMS students, was held at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library.
- Student council organized spirit days throughout the year. This included the



hugely popular Ugly Sweater Day on December 23.

- The school received three 3D printers as a grant from the BMEF. Students used the printers to create various items in Design and Modeling class.
- Fifth graders had orientation at BMS and participated in a variety of language-arts-related activities to help them choose which language to study, Spanish or French. They also saw a concert at the high school.

Todd Elementary School

- Todd students participated in the National Circus Project assembly. They watched a circus performance and tried their hands at various circus-related activities.
- Author Lauren Tarshis came to visit.
- Students celebrated the Big Apple Crunch.
- All students participated in the Hour of Code event.
- Second graders took a trip to Tarrytown Music Hall
- Author Jerry Palotta came to visit.
- Fifth graders put on the play "Descendants."
- Motivational speaker and athlete Chris Poulos visited Todd and performed bicycle tricks as he spoke about his journey to becoming a world champion athlete during a Kindness Assembly.
- Kindergartners and first graders celebrated the 100th day of school.
- All students attended a fire safety program, given by volunteers from Briarcliff Manor Fire Department and Ambulance Corps.
- The school celebrated World Read Aloud Day with in-person readings by staff members, virtual readings by authors, and reading with their "buddies" from other classrooms.



- Kindergartners and second graders had a "Forces and Motions" assembly and learned about the laws of physics.
- Musician Dave Ruch visited fourth graders in an interactive assembly that included songs about Colonial times in English, Dutch and Iroquois
- Fifth graders had a Day in Clay and made African masks.
- Students participated in the "Recess Reboot" program and learned how to have a better recess through cooperative play.
- Ramzi World Dancers performed dances from around the world for students in the entire school.
- Students and families attended a Multicultural Event sponsored by the PTA to celebrate diversity and unity.



Briarcliff Athletics Highlights

Fall Season

Varsity Cheerleading

- Jenna Cascino – All League
- Clare Honsberger – All League
- Alexandra Shulman – All League

Varsity Girls Cross Country – Scholar Athlete Team

- Suraya Chalabi – All League
- Devin Franks – All League
- Zoe Franks – All League
- Lauren Isbell – All League
- Caroline Pastore – All County/All League
- Liana Randazzo – All League

Varsity Boys Cross Country – Runner Up for Section One Championship/League Champions/Finished 3rd in County Meet/Scholar Athlete Team

- JV Boys Cross Country – County Champions
- Miles Chamberlain – All County/Qualified for States/All League
- Luke Dennis – Luke Dennis/All League
- J.P. Kuhn – All League
- Kyle Phillips – All League
- Coby Rinke – All League
- Alex Rosenbluth – All League
- Kornel Smith – All County/All League

Varsity Football

- Henry Cavanagh – All League Honorable Mention
- Adam Harris – All League/Selected to Play in Exceptional Senior All Star Game/Defensive MVP
- Chris Harper – All League
- Alex Kirshenbaum – All League Honorable Mention
- Luca Meola – All League/Selected to Play in Exceptional Senior All Star Game
- Ben Raphael – All League
- Desmond Saw – All League

Varsity Field Hockey – Scholar Athlete Team

- Lily Shafiroff – All League

Varsity Boys Soccer – League & Section One Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

- Brandon Beck – Coach of the Year
- Emilio Abud-Chalita – All League
- Alexander Josey – All League
- Ethan Klar – All State/League MVP/All Section/All League
- Sebastian Lai – All League Honorable Mention
- Justin Plank – All Section Honorable Mention/All League
- Miles Prosperino – All State/All Section/All League
- Nathaniel Rohde – All League
- Jason Rosenbaum – All League Honorable Mention
- Toby Young – All League



Varsity Girls Soccer – League Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

- David Villalobos – Coach of the Year
- Bailey Apter – All League Honorable Mention
- Karina Bar – All Section Honorable Mention/All League
- Gabriela Chioccola – All Section/All League
- Gemma Fante – All League Honorable Mention
- Mar Rivera Font – All League Honorable Mention
- Talia London – All League Honorable Mention
- Ava Makaron – All League
- Sora Marable – All Section/All League
- Nico Vargish – All League

Varsity Girls Swimming/Diving – Conference Champions & Section One Runner-Up/Qualified for States/Scholar Athlete Team

- Alexis Kung – Qualified for States/All League/100 Back/35th Federation/32nd Public HS
- Annabelle Kung – Qualified for States/All Section/All League/100 Fly/6th Federation/5th Public HS
- Katie Lynch – Qualified for States/All Section/All League/200 IM/29th Federation/26th Public HS

Varsity Girls Tennis – League Champions/Scholar Athlete Team

- Haley Berger – All League
- Alessandra Giardini – All League
- Julia Iwai – All League
- Georgina Janos – All League
- Diana Jones – All League
- Rhea Karnani – All League
- Ava Swidler – All League

Girls Volleyball – Scholar Athlete Team

- Mia Townes – All League

National Letter of Intent Signers

- Luca Meola – Providence College – Men's Lacrosse
- Dylan O'Malley – William & Mary University – Men's Baseball
- Dylan Zednik – Bucknell University – Women's Soccer

Winter Season

Briarcliff has 13 Student-Athletes Moving on to Play Collegiate Athletics

Varsity Girls Basketball – NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team

- Varsity Boys Basketball – Scholar Athlete Team
- Cooper Plank – All League
- Jason Rosenbaum – All League/All Conference

Varsity Girls Basketball – Scholar Athlete Team

- Caroline Barbalato – All League/All Conference
- Catherine Carrafiello – All State/All League/All Section/Con Ed Scholar Athlete Award
- Adrianna Scanga – All League/Isabel Costa Award
- Ava Makaron – All League Honorable Mention
- Nico Vargish – All League Honorable Mention

Varsity Bowling – Scholar Athlete Team

Varsity Cheerleading – Scholar Athlete Team

- Harrison Competition – 1st Place Game Day Division
- UCA Regionals (Long Island) – 2nd Place Traditional Coed Division, 2nd Place Game Day Division
- North Rockland – 1st Place Game Day Division, 3rd Place Traditional Coed Division
- Eastchester – 1st Place Game Day Division, 2nd Place Traditional Coed Division
- Mahopac – 1st Place Game Day Division, 2nd Place Traditional Coed Division
- Scarsdale – 1st Place Game Day Division, 3rd Place Traditional Coed Division
- UCA Nationals – Game Day Preliminary Finalists, Traditional Coed Semi Finalists, top 20 in the nation
- Total – Five – 1st Place/Four – 2nd Place/Two – 3rd Place

Varsity Ice Hockey – Scholar Athlete Team

Varsity Ski – Scholar Athlete Team

- Kate Kaplan – Qualified for States/Most Valuable Player

Varsity Boys Squash

- Qualified for Nationals

Varsity Girls Squash

- Qualified for Nationals/Team Runner Up

All-County / All-Section Athletes (They also made it to the State Championships)

- Kornel Smith – 1000M
- Will McLay – 55M
- Rian Kelmendi – Shot Put

Varsity Boys Swimming/Diving – Scholar Athlete Team



Varsity Boys & Girls Track – Scholar Athlete Team

- All-League Athletes
- Will McLay – 55M/300M / 4x200M Relay
- Suraya Chalabi – 55M / 4x400M Relay
- Karina Bar – 55 High Hurdles
- Alex DiMartino – 55 High Hurdles / 4x200M Relay
- Miles Chamberlain – 600M / 1600M / 4x800M Relay
- Kornel Smith – 1000M / 1600M / 4x400M Relay
- Sophie Tanios – 1500 Race Walk / 4x800M Relay
- Marc Arroyo – High Jump
- Ann Pastore – High Jump
- Rian Kelmendi – Shot Put / Weight Throw
- Nicole Einhorn – 4x200M Relay
- Angelina Meng – 4x200M Relay
- Niamh Dooley – 4x200M Relay
- Caroline Collins – 4x200M Relay
- Dan Chioccola – 4x200M Relay
- Paul Torosian – 4x200M Relay
- Max Horgan – 4x400M Relay
- Edmund Tsou – 4x400M Relay
- Hudson Ludwig – 4x400M Relay
- Phoebe Safian – 4x400M Relay
- Anisa Chalabi – 4x400M Relay
- Devin Franks – 4x400M Relay
- Kyle Phillips – 4x800M Relay
- JP Kuhn – 4x800M Relay
- Michael Cherubini – 4x800M Relay
- Zoe Franks – 4x800M Relay
- Nina Nowakiwskyj – 4x800M Relay
- Caroline Pastore – 4x800M Relay

NATIONAL MEET QUALIFIERS

- Sprint Medley Relay consisting of Will McLay, Max Horgan, Miles Chamberlain, and Kornel Smith
- Sophie Tanios in 1500M Race Walk
- Michael Cherubini in the 400M (Freshmen Division)
- Kornel Smith in the 1600M
- Will McLay in the 55M
- Tristan Tsou in 55M and 400M (Middle School Division)

School Records set this Season

- Kornel Smith in the 1000M (2:29.53)
- Will McLay in the 55M (6.51)
- Boys Sprint-Medley Relay consisting of Will McLay, Max Horgan, Miles Chamberlain, and Kornel Smith (3:39.73)

Briarcliff Celebrates Teaching Assistants

If teachers are the walls of the school, teaching assistants are the pillars. Ask any teacher at Briarcliff Manor School District and they will tell you that their jobs are exponentially easier because they have a teaching assistant in their class.

Here's to indispensable, inspirational teaching assistants at Briarcliff, showing us how it's done.

Kathy Galante

Kathy is a teaching assistant in Algebra 2 and helps students one-to-one in and out of the classroom setting. If someone is absent, she will pull them aside to help them catch up on the material they missed. Before an exam she makes additional review sheets to help students study for the exam and works on problems with them before all exams. She even helps students who are not in her class and is very generous with her time as this is not an 8-3 kind of job for her. She will do anything it takes to help students succeed, even if it means going above and beyond. Very friendly and outgoing, Kathy has an upbeat and positive demeanor.

– Michele Bendlin and Amanda Schwartz, Math teachers at Briarcliff High School

Zach Rose

"Zach is a very nurturing, hands-on teaching assistant who is very helpful with students. His help enables students to reach their full potential. He is always upbeat and pleasant to be around and to work with."

– Jamie Mandel, Introduction to Film teacher at Briarcliff High School

Eleonora Luis

"Eleonora is a retired kindergarten teacher who worked in New York City for many years. She loves being in a classroom and wanted to continue to work with children. Her expertise is apparent: she can anticipate students' needs and assist in all areas. The three of us are constantly brainstorming and bouncing ideas off each other. She is extremely intuitive, dependable and helpful. We are so lucky to have her."

– Alyson Tully and Kim Andrews, First Grade teachers at Todd Elementary School

Gyongyi "Georgie" Meggyes

"I'm lucky to have Georgie with me in science class – she is always ready for whatever lesson or activity we might have planned. She encourages discussion in small groups or one-on-one, and she will come around and ask students to elaborate on what they are writing, or point out to what they may be missing. These "side conversations" spark students' curiosity, tap into a deeper level of thinking for them and enrich the entire class setting – it's almost like she conferences with students 'on the fly.' She will also ask me ahead of time what the lessons are going to be and then she will read ahead of time, highlight some things and use that when she is with the students. This allows them to see extra details and it would not be possible if she wasn't looking at the material and learning on her own. Sometimes I walk into the team room and catch her reading the science book during her lunch break – she is constantly learning new things."

– Jessica Loprieno, Science teacher at Briarcliff Middle School

Rob Swanson

"Rob has a calming presence in the class. He's compassionate, one of those people with a huge heart. He has a good sense of people and knows how to connect to the students – he knows when to speak softly to a student who might be struggling with something, but he also knows when to gently discipline students. He is also a smart guy, has a lot of general knowledge and can talk to anyone about anything. The students listen to him and like and respect him. He really cares about them and he's very modest and very reliable. Just an all-around good guy and a nice person to have around."

– Chris Quinn, Social Studies teacher at Briarcliff Middle School

Marissa Ammon

"Marissa works with a student who is non-verbal in special education class as a one-to-one. On the weekends, she makes work boxes for that student – these are boxes that have tasks for the student to complete. Marissa is very sweet natured and loving – you can see it in her face; she has a special connection with her. She is always keeping her engaged because she is not at an independent level, and always makes sure the student brings with her the iPad that has an app that enables her to speak."

– Jenn Woods, Special Education teacher, Todd Elementary School

Lauren Pesce

"It is obvious Lauren enjoys working with young students. She is very engaging because she has a lot of energy and a great sense of humor. She spontaneously makes a lot of jokes and always keeps things light. Students' faces light up when she is with them – they love the specialized attention she gives them."

– Jeanne Dal Piaz, Kindergarten teacher at Todd Elementary School

Darlene Bathon

"Darlene is a kind, compassionate, thoughtful and extremely hardworking person. She is always willing and asking to go above and beyond when it will benefit any student in the class she is supporting. She brings a caring and loving approach to working with some of our most fragile students here at BMS. She is extremely patient with students and really tries to understand situations from their perspective. When students are in crisis or need help, Darlene is always there to support and guide them. Beyond that, she is often preemptively looking ahead at students' days to see what might be a struggle for them. She then brings this to the attention of teachers and clinical staff to help make sure students have a smooth and stress-free day. Along with her unwavering support for our students, any moment she has free time she is helping to support the eighth grade team by consulting about students, helping to set up lessons and so much more."

– Austin Perry, Math and Special Education teacher at Briarcliff Middle School

Erika Zirman

"Erika is a Special Education Teaching Assistant substitute. She is super tuned-in and understands special ed students' needs. She has a lot of experience so even though she is a lot younger than I am, I can learn a lot from her. She does not have an impatient bone in her body and can handle anything – I know I can always lean on her. She models kindness and respectful behavior as can be seen in her interactions with students and colleagues."

– Jenn Woods, Special Education Teacher at Todd Elementary School

Dina Dawoud

"Dina has a great personal connection with every student in the class. She knows each student and understands their unique personalities. Dina's gentle demeanor helps students feel comfortable approaching her when they need help, whether academically or in social settings. Dina facilitates student learning and encourages each student in small groups and during whole group instruction. Dina is very instinctive and knows what to do before it needs to be done. Dina is always there for students when they need her and is an asset to our classroom."

– Kristina Irwin, First Grade teacher at Todd Elementary School





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“ENGAGE, INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE”

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VOTING INFORMATION

Budget Vote & Board Candidate Election May 16, 2023

To vote on May 16, 2023 you must be:

- A United States citizen.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.
- A registered voter of the district and or a registered voter of Westchester County whose name appears on the list supplied by the Westchester County Board of Elections as having voted in a national, state or county election during the past four calendar years.
- For information please call District Clerk at (914) 432-8130.