

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG Central School



March 2024

Mark Your Calendar

**Superintendent's
Conference Day**

No School
March 15, 2024

Spring Recess
No School

March 29 - April 8, 2024

ELA Exams
Grades 3-8
April 10-11, 2024

Math Exams
Grades 3-8
May 7-8, 2024

Science Exam
Grade 5
May 14, 2024

Science Exam
Grade 8
May 15, 2024

9th Annual BRCS Middle School Spelling Bee



On December 21, twenty-five middle school students competed in the school level Scripps National Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the Bolivar-Richburg Central School 2023-24 Spelling Bee Champion, 6th grader Alison Dunn! We are very proud of you!



HOBY

Congratulations to Starlyn Kisel and Adalyn Griswold for being selected to attend the HOBY leadership conference this spring at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. Danika Loucks and Halie Copenhaver have been selected as alternates.

HOBY is a well-respected leadership academy for sophomores that has been held yearly for around 70 years. It is a great honor to be selected to attend.

We are so proud of these young people for being motivated to continue to become strong young leaders in their school and community!

Bolivar-Richburg Central School

Message from the Superintendent

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

It is hard to believe that we are in the third quarter of the school year already! A lot has been accomplished since our first day of school back in September, but we still have plenty to keep us busy as we move into the second half of the academic year.

One thing we will all notice this spring is progress on our Capital Improvement Project. Important work is being done in the elementary building, the middle/high school building, and the bus garage. Work has already begun both inside and outside of our facilities and we will keep you up to date on what's happening throughout the spring and into the summer. As you can imagine, the busiest time of year for school construction is always July and August when the contractors have access to our buildings without student attendance. We are looking forward to all the improvements and will be sharing the progress with you as it takes place.

As we head into the last four months of this school year, we also have a lot of student activities to look forward to! From our All County Music Festival participation to our school musical and other music department activities, spring sports, school trips, and countless field trips, March, April, and May are certainly a busy time of the year! Keep in mind that we have Spring Recess from March 29 through April 8. To stay on top of all the BRCS news and activities, be sure to visit our website at www.brcs.wnyric.org.

Also taking place this spring is the ongoing search for the District's next superintendent. The posting for the position has been made public and the Board will be receiving applications during the month of April. Interviews will take place in May and a decision will follow shortly after the interviews are complete. Bolivar-Richburg is a great school district, and the next superintendent will have a wonderful community to work with as they take the reins this summer!

Thank you for your support and commitment to BRCS—if you have any questions that I can help with, don't hesitate to give me a call!

With our children in mind,

Chuck Leichner

Interim Superintendent of Schools
Bolivar-Richburg CSD

Visit our
Superintendent
Search Webpage



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 22, 2024. Petitions will be filed for three full three-year expired terms.

- 1. Expired term of Jude Auman for three (3) years.**
- 2. Expired term of Erin Baldwin for three (3) years.**
- 3. Unexpired term of Michelle Clark for one (3) 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

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.



Elementary Physical Education

Mrs. Auman and Mr. Pettit

Our annual Kid's Heart Challenge (KHC) 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 their heart healthy. All students will be introduced to the life-saving skill of hands-only CPR. Each day, students have learned about the KHC heart heroes and their heart healthy missions.



Students in grades K-2 will be working towards becoming jump rope ninjas. They will be learning how to jump rope and will be challenged to level up by completing consecutive jumps and earning colored belt certificates. Jumping rope is a great way to exercise your heart! We can't wait to see how many students make it to black belts. Our Pre-K friends will be practicing their jumping and landing skills without a rope.

Up next...STEAM building blocks. Students will have to work together to create structures with given dimensions, then use teamwork to be the first ones to knock over their opponent's build.



Bolivar-Richburg Junior Senior High School
Presents

The Addams Family

A New Musical

Book by
MARSHALL BRICKMAN
and RICK ELICE

Music and Lyrics by
ANDREW LIPPA

Based on Characters
Created by Charles Addams

Orchestrations by
Larry Hochman

March 22 & 23
7:00 p.m.

BRCS Auditorium | \$7 Admission

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@BRWolverines
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The Sentinel

Follow our online student newspaper, The Sentinel, on Instagram at @brcssentinel



Elementary News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we welcome the signs of spring, it is hard to believe that we only have a few more months together. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our elementary students so far and look forward to what the remainder of the year brings!

Soon, students will be taking the NYS 3-5 ELA, Math, and Science Assessments. We continue to roll out Computer Based Testing (CBT) at BRES. This year all 4th and 5th grade students will be assessed using this format, with 3rd grade included in the Spring of 2025.

Preparations for the assessments don't just happen in the weeks leading up to the big day. Instead, consider adopting these daily habits to ensure student success year-round:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep each night and a hearty breakfast each morning (breakfast is free for all students)
 - Encourage your child to put forth their best effort daily.
 - Review completed work sent home; go over topics, vocab, math facts, etc.
 - Communicate with your child's classroom teacher regularly.
 - Continue to read, have dialogue, and encourage creative writing.
- A strong understanding of language has a positive impact on a student's performance across all content areas.

Upcoming NYS 3-5 Testing Dates:

ELA Assessment: April 10th & 11th

Math Assessment: May 7th & 8th

5th Grade Science: May 14th

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 15th: Superintendent's Day - No school for students

*March 29th - April 8th: Spring Recess

Mrs. Duke

Elementary Principal

Elementary Technology News

Ms. Loucks

Greetings from the Elementary Technology Room. I have been a Teaching Assistant in the district for 13 years and I am looking forward to continue working with all of the students at BRES in this new exciting position as the Technology Teacher.

I am planning so many engaging and fun things, some of which we have already started. In addition to building computer basics and procedures, typing skills, internet safety, and learning software programs, we will be coding and participating in many different forms of robotics. The students have really enjoyed the challenges that have been incorporated into programming and coding with Ozobots, Beebots, and SpheroBots. Coding lessons provide students with educational and career benefits. Additionally, when children learn to code, there is research to suggest that it will help them with other skills such as organization, perseverance, problem solving, and even confidence. But shhh...don't tell them, because in my class we are learning all of that, but having fun while doing so!

I am really looking forward to further building the technology program here at the elementary school and filling any possible technology gaps there may be for our students moving into middle school. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about what we are doing in my class!





Kindergarten News

Mrs. Broughton, Mrs. Stutzman, and Mrs. Kasperski

We've been having fun learning in Kindergarten! We 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." Students learned the names 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, such as birds, insects, fish, and mammals. Students also worked on practicing telling stories, learning nursery rhymes, rhyming, alphabet letters/sounds, drawing, 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.

First Grade News

Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Ordway, Miss Gerard, Miss Johnston

First graders have been hard at work the last few months!

In reading, students continue to learn different vowel spellings and sounds. Students have learned about the diphthongs oi, oo, aw, and ou and the sounds they make. They are continuing to practice and apply all of the vowel sounds and spellings they have learned to their reading! First graders have read different fables and read about adventures that a grandma has with her grandchildren. Along with working on becoming better readers, students have been working on improving their listening comprehension, as well. They have learned about astronomy, the history of the Earth, and the human body.

In math, students have been learning different strategies to help them add and subtract within 20, often making a ten or taking from ten to help them solve. They continue working on counting to or beyond 120. First graders are currently working on measuring objects using different items, such as centimeter cubes, large and small paper clips, toothpicks, and craft sticks. They will realize that how long the unit is changes how many they need to measure. Students have also worked on comparing items: which one is shorter, longer, etc. Coming up, students will be exploring two-digit numbers and begin learning strategies to add and subtract two-digit numbers!

We recently started celebrating a weekly "star student!" The star student gets to share information about themselves along with pictures and have special privileges throughout the week. Each student will have the opportunity to be the star student.

Happy Birthday to all those students who celebrated a birthday in December, January, and February!



Third Grade

Mrs. Louser

This quarter has flown by with a lot of exciting things happening in third grade! Throughout the quarter, students learned about different cultures through our studies in ELA. They also worked hard to continue to develop their vocabulary and comprehensions skills. In math, students learned to find the area of various figures and started learning about fractions. Students solved a crime on FBI Day and determined that Mrs. McClellan was the guilty suspect by using their math and ELA skills to analyze a crime scene and put together evidence. As you can see, third grade is an exciting time. We look forward to the next quarter as well as the rest of the school year!

Mrs. Hackett

This has been a quick and amazing second quarter in third grade! In ELA, we have grown so much. We have learned to break down any length text, and increased our comprehension. You should be very proud of their hard work and accomplishments. In math, we have finished learning about multiplying and dividing, measuring area of figures, and started learning about fractions! Again, students are doing a fantastic job! As the students put it, the best day so far has definitely been FBI day! Students really enjoyed acting as agents and engineers to arrest Mrs. McClellan. We are looking forward to more fun days in the future!



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 10 and 11.

Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Aleehia Faulkner, Benton Brant, and Bailey Garrey. 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 the 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!

Fifth Grade Math

Ms. Ferris

It is hard to believe that we just hit the halfway mark of this school year! We just wrapped up our unit on adding and subtracting mixed numbers that have different denominators. Next, we are going to work on multiplying and dividing mixed numbers, still with different denominators. Although these skills are completely new to the students, they are doing great! This year, our New York State test will take place on May 7 and 8. We are working very hard to prepare! We are looking forward to getting through these days full of sickness and moving on to warmer weather!

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 are looking forward to tracking weather and how weather can affect our water cycle.

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 recipients: Jillian, Zoey, Sophia, and Robert!



Math Intervention

Ms. Perkins

This year in K-1 math intervention, we are using the Number Worlds Math Intervention Program. This program focuses on number sense; we practice counting objects, counting up and down the number line, identifying the number that comes before or after a given number, and recognizing numerals. Number sense is a person's ability to understand, relate, and connect numbers and is the foundation on which we build our understanding of math. The QR code links to some great ways to incorporate math into your family's life. You can practice number sense in many ways at home:

- Count how many steps it takes to get to the car
- Count the number of people in line at the store to find the shortest line
- Count silverware and dishes to set the table
- Look at the house numbers when going for a walk (are they getting bigger or smaller?)
- Practice putting parts together (i.e. There are 6 grapes and 4 strawberries, how many fruits?)
- Practice taking a whole apart (i.e. There are 6 cookies and we ate 2, how many cookies are left?)
- Bake cookies

Mrs. Walters

When a teacher presents information to their class, usually some will get it easily and be ready to move on. However, others will struggle. Thus, the purpose of Academic Intervention Services (AIS).

At the beginning of February, we will be in a new intervention cycle. Qualifying for the AIS math program is based on teacher recommendation from daily work, scores from the I-Ready winter diagnostic test and daily homework.

Remedial education tends to focus on giving strong basic or foundational knowledge to students so they can succeed in the future. The skills obtained through remedial improve academic performance and persistence in the long run.

If you feel your son or daughter could benefit from the extra math instruction, feel free to contact us.

Mrs. Perry

We blinked and this school year is half way over. As we look ahead to the second half of the year, one of the things that could help your student(s) finish strong is to have a solid foundation of knowledge and strategies to knowing the single-digit multiplication facts. There are so many ways your child can practice these facts. Flashcards might seem a bit old-fashioned, but they've been used and effective for years. Flashcards can be store-bought, homemade, or even a game on-line. There are also so many games out there for kids to play to learn their multiplication facts as well. One simple game that kids like to play is to use 2 dice to roll 2 numbers to form a multiplication equation to solve. If your child needs number dice 1-9, please have him/her stop in to see me; I have many that I will share. Let's finish this year strong!



Family Math



100 Ways to Build Number Sense

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG 3-YEAR OLD SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

In order to identify all children who will enter our 3-year old program in September 2024, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2024. Your child must be 3 years of age on or before December 1, 2024. This information is necessary when we initiate program sign-ups in the spring. We will use the 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 2024

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2024, 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, 2024. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2024. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use the 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 2024

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2024, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2024. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2024. 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

This month's message is one of progress and positivity! We are gearing up to welcome in the Spring season – a season of rebirth, renewal, and reflection. These same ideas are echoing through the hallways here at Bolivar-Richburg, and I would like to take this time to shine the spotlight upon them!

We were analyzing some data tied back to state testing the other day in one of our school-improvement meetings, and we came across some findings that I felt were important to share with our B-R community. Our area BOCES covers both Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. Within those counties, there are a total of 24 school districts. Many of our pre-COVID state tests scores were in the bottom 75% of the BOCES service area. Since COVID, we have seen a steady increase in those rankings, putting us consistently in the top 25-50% in the majority of all grade-level testing. We are even seeing pockets of B-R classes ranked in the top 5% of all 24 schools!

Discipline is another important component connected to student achievement, so I was analyzing trends and patterns related to the daily running of our B-R Middle/High School. In the 2021-22 school year, Disciplinary Referrals (think detention write-ups), averaged upwards of 80 a month. In the 2022-23 school year, that number dipped to 65 a month. At the time of this writing, we were down to 43 referrals a month. We continue trending in the right direction as January came in at 33!

Why are we seeing these improvements? It starts from the top down. We have a Board of Education who has doubled-down on their commitment, focusing heavily on student achievement. We have District leadership who has stabilized and steadied the boat. But most importantly, we have teachers and staff who have answered the bell. We have a renewed focus, propelled by a positive approach to our students. Our hallways are beginning to show life of our culture and climate change, and I hope you can see a difference in our students. I know that I can!

In closing, I will always share and celebrate our success as a district and as a community. But, I also promise to keep one eye on our future. These numbers are promising, and they prove we are moving in the right direction, but here at Bolivar-Richburg, we will always continue to raise the standards. We will resolve to increase the work ethic of our students, providing them with the very best guidance and education we possibly can. I thank you as parents, guardians, and community members for supporting us and being part of this process. This is a concerted effort of everyone on the team, and I'm privileged to be a part of it!

Please feel free to call if you have any concerns...or better yet, stop on in for a chat!

Respectfully,

Jeff Margeson

Secondary Principal

National Honor Society Inducts New Members



This year's inductees (from left to right):

Row 1: Teegan Sibble, Addison Hackett;

Row 2: Aaliyah DeGroff, Nadia Baldwin, Hannah Mascho, Brena Walp;

Row 3: Natasha Metz, Sommer Beckwith, Raegan Giardini, Eleanor Smith, Samuel Martin;

Row 4: Caleb Greeson, Landon Barkley.

On Monday, January 22, 2024, thirteen students were inducted into the Bolivar-Richburg Chapter of the National Honor Society. To be eligible, juniors and seniors at Bolivar-Richburg must maintain a 91% or above cumulative high school average in addition to meeting high standards of character, leadership, and service. As a traditional part of the ceremony, the seniors in NHS dedicate a floral centerpiece to a person who demonstrates the ideals of the National Honor Society. The students chose Mrs. McDonnell, BRCS School Board President to receive this year's centerpiece.

Earth Science

Ms. Renyck

The second semester of Earth Science will include topics such as the geologic history of Earth, weather & climate, and astronomy. A reminder to parents/guardians that your child needs to complete 1,200 successful lab minutes in order to qualify to sit for the Earth Science Regents exam to gain a Regents credit in Science this year. If your child is in danger of either failing Science for the year or short on lab minutes, I've made note in the second quarter comments on your child's report card.

Student performance on the Regents exam generally matches the child's test/quiz average. Please keep an eye out for a letter from me regarding your child's exam average so that we can discuss ways to help them improve before June comes around. I'll only be sending letters to those in need of extra assistance.

It's been a pleasure working with this group of students, and I look forward to the second semester with them.



High School Guidance News

December 2023 - February 2024

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!**

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 applying for financial aid. Mrs. Bean presented financial aid info to seniors in Economics class in January. On January 24, Robin Harrington, Senior Admissions Officer from Alfred State College, presented to interested families at BRCS on the "New Better FAFSA," which is a shorter and simpler form than in the past. However, the software and formula rollout has experienced some glitches, so there may be a delay this spring in seniors receiving their financial aid award letters from colleges. Please contact Mrs. Bean in the guidance office for help. Also, any local college financial aid office will assist with questions you may have.

College Selection Tips for Juniors

Juniors and parents/guardians: in the "Guidance Info for Juniors" Microsoft Team, there is a detailed lesson entitled "College Selection Tips" that was presented to juniors during English classes and was also given out to juniors on paper to review with family members.

Mrs. Bean will assist with the college search process during individual scheduling appointments and any time students and families request assistance with this process. Juniors also updated their resumes in Xello and began creating their LinkedIn accounts as well as we focus on future college, military and career plans.



Grades 8-II to Select Courses for the 2024-2025 School Year

During the months of March through May, all eighth through 11th graders will meet individually 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 we 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. Mrs. Michelle Robinson, School Counselor, will be meeting with current eighth and ninth graders to create their schedules. She can be reached at mrobinson@bolivarrichburg.org or at 585-928-2406. A course description booklet will be available on the Guidance Website soon and linked in the Microsoft Team 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Our local scholarship applications are linked electronically on our Guidance website, which can be accessed at: www.brcs.wnyric.org/scholarships. Here 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 29, seniors received a lesson on how to search for scholarships step by step at our "Snacks and Scholarships" Day. This lesson is also posted on the scholarship webpage. Seniors are encouraged to get an early start on completing scholarship applications since they often 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!**

Spring College Fairs for Sophomores & Juniors

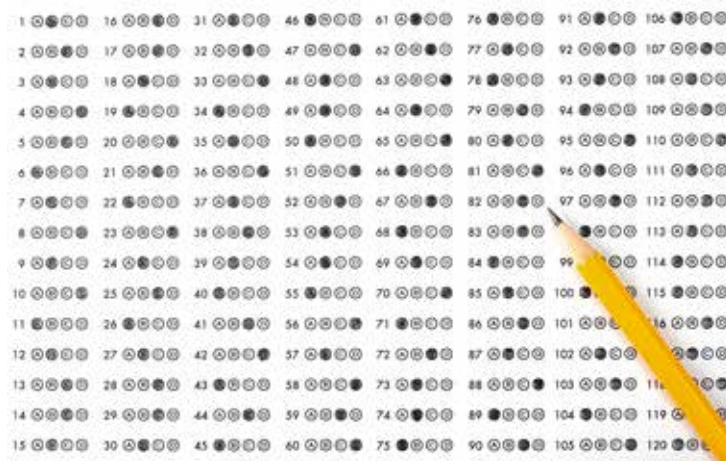
The following link has all of the information for the spring national college fairs and how to register to attend virtually or in person: www.nacacfairs.org

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 19. All juniors will be invited to attend this event. We will be busing interested students over from 8:45-11:00 a.m. and back.

JUNIORS, PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REGISTER FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS AS NUMEROUS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE REPRESENTED.

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.



COMING SOON!

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



Bolivar-Richburg Central School
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715

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Aaron Duell, Vice President
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Erin Baldwin
Jarrod Bell
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Jessica Mitchell, School Business Administrator

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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 change that needs 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 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, 2024, to be eligible for the 2024-25 school year.

Please send requests to:

Charles Leichner, Superintendent
Bolivar-Richburg Central School
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715

