

Belfast

Central School District

“a school dedicated to excellence”



www.belfastcsd.org



Thank you, Mr. Roche
You will be missed!

It is hard to believe how quickly the 2019-20 school year is going, in just a short time the holiday season will be behind us.

Hopefully, you were able to catch one of the Seussical performances in early November. I am always amazed at the amount of talent we have in a small school. Thanks for your continued support of our fine arts programs.

Our winter sports season has started, please check the district’s web page for upcoming basketball games. I know that our athletes would love to look up in the stands and see them filled with cheering fans.

As we enter the cold, dark days of winter I hope that all of you take the time to take care of yourselves.

Since I am retiring in January this will be my last article for the District Newsletter, and I need to take some time to thank everyone for their support over the years. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the families of the BCS community and my time as an administrator at Belfast. I wish everyone the best, Go Bulldogs!

As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

~ Mr. Roche, 5th - 12th Grade Principal



Annual Senior Citizen’s Luncheon

December 10, 2019

The Belfast Central School Board of Education and Administration would like to invite Senior Citizens from our school district to a holiday luncheon. Belfast students will provide entertainment while we celebrate the holiday season as a community. **Please reserve your spot for the luncheon by December 6 by calling 585-365-9940.**

*Hors D’oeuvres served at 12:30 PM
Lunch served at 1:00 PM*

Please park in the Sherman Street Lot, and enter at the Auditorium door.

Belfast Children's Christmas

Times are tough and money is in short supply for many.

As the holiday season approaches, please reach out if you are in genuine need of help. We would like to help those that are really struggling to provide for their kiddos. You can contact Jane Foster Home to School Coordinator at BCS (585-365-2646, ext. 2210) or Robin Owens (585-307-8724).

Also, if you are able to help with this project by donating new toys, clothes or money, please contact Robin Owens (585-307-8724) or Annette Kish (716-474-9760). Monetary donations can be sent to: Belfast Children's Christmas, PO Box 116, Belfast, NY 14711.

Thank you to all the folks who have helped year after year to make this a success!

2019 Christmas Tree Lighting in the Park

DECEMBER 8 @ 6:30 PM

Followed by caroling, hot chocolate, cookies, and Santa Claus in the Town Hall

To place an ornament on the Memorial Tree and have your loved one commemorated during the ceremony, please call or text 716-777-1021 by December 1st.

Be sure to include: name of person(s) memorial ornament honors name of person(s) giving ornament.

(Remove ornaments from the tree or retrieve from the Town Hall by January 8th.)



Holiday Food Distributions

• **Thursday, December 12, 2019**
3:00pm-5:00pm

- No income eligibility. - Numbers are limited.

Reservations are required.

Call today to reserve your meal:
585-268-7605 ext. 1404 or 1001

Location: **Belmont Fire Hall**
80 Schuyler Street
Belmont, NY 14813

~For your health and the health of others, please do not arrive before 2:00pm, and please dress for the weather.

Family Gift Giving

It is that time of year again! Community members would like to host the 8th annual Family Gift Giving event for our students here at school. This will take place at the Belfast Town Hall Monday, Tuesday, and possibly Wednesday December 16-18. We are asking for any donations of gently used or new gifts for any family members (brothers, sisters, parents, etc.) or even wrapping paper/gift bags. Students PreK-6 have a chance to come "shop" for their family members and get their gifts wrapped to take home for Christmas presents. Our kids enjoy this each year. If you have any items you would like to donate or if you would like to volunteer to help wrap, please contact one of the following people: Gail DeRock (585) 307- 4171, Ethel Denning (585) 365-2282, or Lisa Denning (585) 610-7779. Thank you for your support! We will open it up to Belfast families Tuesday evening from 4-6pm.



Quick Reminder

Parents/guardians – if your income information changes due to seasonal lay off, etc., please complete a new verification form.

2019-20 New Free and Reduced Lunch Form

With the start of the CEP (Community Eligibility Program) grant that allows all students to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, the annual free and reduced lunch application is no longer required. However, many grants offered to school districts require some form of income eligibility guidelines to verify that our district is eligible for various funding opportunities. With that in mind, we are requiring all families to fill out the much shorter version of the free and reduced application included below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Lingenfelter at 585-365-8289.

List all occupants within your household below (parents, students and other occupants whether related or not):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please choose your annual household income range below:

_____ \$0 - \$20,000	_____ \$50,001 - \$75,000
_____ \$20,001 - \$35,000	_____ \$75,001 - \$100,000
_____ \$35,001- \$50,000	_____ \$100,001+

Please return the form either with your beginning of the school year paperwork to your child's homeroom teacher or send it to the Superintendent's office, attention Gina Larrabee.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and

to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal state or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or

Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, state or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

Order Your 2020 Belorea Yearbook Today

STUDENTS NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

HOMEROOM TEACHER: _____

Online ordering available at: YBPAY.com

Lifetouch School Code: 7765220

\$35.00 until Jan. 1, 2020 (\$40.00 after Jan. 1, 2020)



*Please complete the information and return with payment to your homeroom teacher or Mrs. Atherton or Ms. Brace.



-Thank you from the 2020 Yearbook Staff



From the Superintendent

Construction is underway! The BCS Board of Education approved contracts for the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) at a special board meeting on October 22, 2019, and the general contractor began working on the project over Thanksgiving break.

Because of the District's ability to grant early access, the new main entrance, with a secure vestibule, and office area is the first part of the project to be under construction. The contractors will have the work area roped off and the doors by the gym will still be able to be utilized. Spectators coming to basketball games will be able to enter the building through the doors by the gym, the new entrance, and off of the playground area.

Construction in the auditorium area will begin immediately after our holiday concerts in December, with planned completion to be the first week in May. It is our goal to use the newly renovated auditorium for spring concerts, the elementary musical, and

graduation in the Spring on 2020. Construction in the new parking area will begin as soon as the weather breaks. Contractors will work to renovate bathrooms while school is in session, beginning in December. The new nurse's office and any other work will be completed during the summer of 2020, and the goal is to have the work completed before school starts in the Fall of 2020. We are very excited for the changes to the building, but we ask for your patience as offices and facility access will be in motion as work is completed.

Dr. Butler



From the desk of Mrs. Hess, PK-4 Principal

Last May, over 20 teachers from BCS and neighboring districts participated in a Math & Movement professional development training. Math & Movement uses multi-sensory learning approaches to teach students valuable skills to succeed in math. Math & Movement recognizes that students learn through different styles, which is why their exercises include teaching with visual, auditory, and kinesthetic elements aligned with state standards. Learning through movement helps build student confidence and boosts test scores. The learning process is more effective and easier when students exercise their bodies and minds simultaneously through educational math games, helping students retain more information. This, in turn, increases students' test scores, self-confidence, and retention rates. Best of all, kids love to learn this way! BCS was fortunate enough to be able to purchase several Math & Movement mats through a grant that will allow our teachers to expand their teaching methods and for our students to reap the benefits of incorporating movement into their learning. In January, BCS will be holding a Math Family Fun Night where we will have representatives from Math & Movement present to provide many fun, engaging experiences for our BCS families. Stay tuned for details!



Mrs. Hazelton's and Mrs. Borden's classes using our new Math & Movement mats!

Calendar of Events

December 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 -Scholastic book fair	3 -Scholastic book fair	4 -Scholastic book fair	5 -Scholastic book fair -K-6 concert @ 6 pm	6 -Scholastic book fair	7 -SAT
8 -Tree Lighting in the Park @ 6:30 pm	9 -PTO mtg. @ 5:30 pm	10 -Senior Citizen's Lunch @ 12:30 pm -BOE mtg. @ 5:30 pm	11 -7-12 Concert @ 6 pm	12	13	14 -ACT
15	16 -Woody's Supper Club -Family Gift Giving starts	17 -Family Gift Giving	18 -Family Gift Giving	19	20	21
22	23 -Christmas Recess No School	24 -Christmas Recess No School	25 -Christmas Recess No School	26 -Christmas Recess No School	27 -Christmas Recess No School	28
29	30 -Christmas Recess No School	31 -Christmas Recess No School	1 -Christmas Recess No School	2 -Christmas Recess No School	3 -Christmas Recess No School	

PLEASE CALL FOR SAFETY!

In order to better protect our children, Belfast Central School is asking **PARENTS** to take a very important step in helping us to keep your child safe. Please call the school if your child is at home sick or absent from school for any reason. Our policy is to account for the attendance and absence of every child. We want to make sure that every child who leaves home for school arrives here safely, therefore **PLEASE** call **365-2053** if your child will be absent. Thank you again for helping us to keep your children safe.



Is your child eating breakfast or need a snack for later?

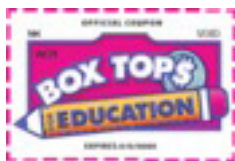
As you know, Belfast Central School offers **free breakfast** to every student PreK-12. But is your student taking advantage of this? We've noticed a trend in the 7-12 students who aren't doing so. We have a Breakfast Cart for this group of students that has a hot breakfast (on the menu), a variety of cereals, cereal bars, juice, fresh fruit and milk daily. Many mornings we offer a second hot breakfast item or other grab n go items. Even if your child is not hungry first thing in the morning, they can always grab a cereal bar and a juice and save it for later in the day. They make a great snack before or after practice, a game or a concert. Remember, it's hard to concentrate on an empty stomach!



Did you know....

Our school receives 10 cents from every box top given to the school!! This money helps to keep the cost of the BCS Yearbook down. And like many other things, box tops are going digital. For now, we can accept both digital and those cut from the packaging. But soon, only digital will be accepted. Over the summer, participating brands have begun to change their packaging from the Traditional Box Top tops clips to the new Box Top label. Please read over this month Box Top information sheet to learn how you can help.

See this Clip it!



See this Scan it!



BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE NEW APP OR UPDATE YOUR EXISTING

APP:



Artic Adventure Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair returns! Students can visit the fair in the auditorium foyer anytime during the school day between December 2nd – December 6th, to purchase books. The fair will be available for students and family members to visit during the K-6th Winter Concert on December 5.



KIDS CLUBS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

What 's coming up in December:
ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT
COMMUNITY SERVICE CAROLING
HOLIDAY CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
AND MORE!

To get information on how to sign up call
(585) 268 - 5213

FAFSA It's never too early!

Seniors should be well underway in the college application and financial aid process! Filling out the FAFSA is easier than ever thanks to the IRS data retrieval tool! Simply go online to fsaid.ed.gov to obtain your FSA ID. This serves as your electronic signature! Then go to fafsa.gov and begin filling out the financial information. There is information that applies to the STUDENT and a separate set of information for the PARENT. Make sure you are working on the right section! If you list at least one school in New York state on your FAFSA, you will be eligible to apply for NY State aid using the TAP application which you will be directed to at the end of the FAFSA.

Financial aid for the 2020-21 school year (this year's seniors) is based on your 2018 income taxes, so there is no need to wait until the Spring to apply. Apply now!! If students need help with applications or financial aid, please see Mrs. Heaney in the Guidance Office!

1st Graders visit the Challenger Center

This month our first graders were lucky enough to travel to the Challenger Center. The kids took part in hands on math and science activities throughout the day. They were actively engaged in problem solving activities. It was a wonderful experience!



SKI CLUB

Bring on the snow!!

The Belfast Ski Club is gearing up for some new adventures on the slopes. Any student in grades 4-12 is welcome to join. Students who purchase lift passes receive a free lesson each time that they go with the school. If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Hamer or Ms. Miller at Belfast Central School.





The purpose of the Natural Helpers program is to teach students how to work through smaller problems with their peers by independently making healthy choices, while seeking adult support for larger concerns. The program was developed in 1979 and has trained millions of adolescents.

Lucy Simzer, one of the newest Natural Helpers, was excited about the skit to practice the helping skill. Finn Heaney, also a sixth grader, was enamored of the lunches served by Chef Fusco and his students during the two days of training.

Zane Cartwright, a veteran natural helper, said, "Natural Helpers is important to me because learning to practice empathy is a skill needed throughout our lifetime."

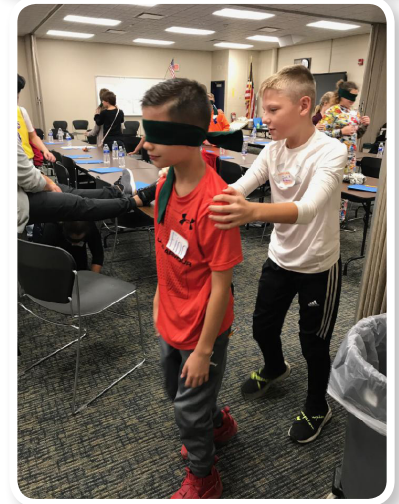
Natural Helpers

Eight energetic sixth graders were selected to participate in Natural Helpers training on October 31 and November 1 in Belmont at the BOCES campus.

Additional children from grade 6 participated in a smaller training on October 29. On-going training will be available for grade 6 to grade 12 students throughout the school year.

As an evidence based series of exercises and learning tools, the premise that youth generally tell their friends about their concerns is the cornerstone in this suicide prevention program.

Sarah Burdick, BOCES school social worker at BCS, enjoys the opportunity natural helpers provides for improving school culture.



The PTO is always looking for new members!

Please join us!



PTO Meeting Schedule: 5:30pm in the Conference Room near the Gym.
Childcare is provided!

- December 9
- January 13
- February 10
- March 9
- April 6
- May 11
- June 8

Upcoming Events:

- March 7 - *Craft and Vendor Show*
- March 7 - *Chicken BBQ*



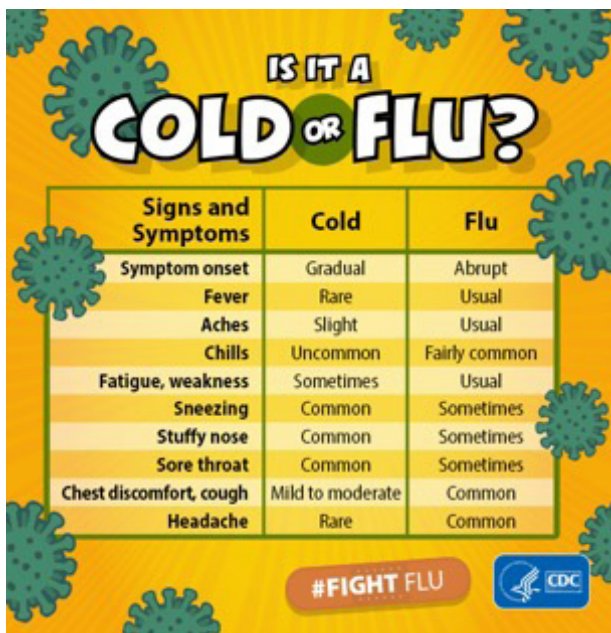
Nurse's Corner

Happy December! Since we have been seeing lots of colds and viral stuff going around I thought I would remind everyone the difference between colds and the flu. If you have not gotten your flu shot, you should! Call your pediatrician and have your child set up to get one!


The weather is changing and getting colder. If you or your children are in need of warmer clothes (hats, scarves, gloves) please let me know.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable Winter Recess and New Year!

Amy Giboo RN
School Nurse
585-365-2646 x2205
agiboo@belfastcsd.org



Signs and Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU 

Math Day

Our first and second graders traveled to Houghton College to take part in Math Day. Practicum students from Houghton designed math centers and activities to help our students work on math skills. Students worked in small groups at the centers. They also were able to go on a brief tour of the Houghton campus.

What a great experience for all involved!



The Happy Faces of the Middle School!





Boys' Modified Soccer

We had a challenging but fun season. While a lot of the boys used this season to learn the basics of soccer, some were returning players that had lots of patience and were resourceful teammates. Most of the team were enthusiastic about learning a new skill, while others were mastering something they have known all their lives. I am proud of how we ended our season. We came together as a team, and used the skills we developed to win.

Coach Tallman

Girls Modified Soccer

This year the Girls Modified Soccer team had a great season finishing with a record of 10-1. The girls had a successful season opener over Fillmore winning 3-0. Their next contest would be a tight battle, with Cuba-Rushford taking the 2-1 win handing the girls their only loss of the season. From that point on the Lady Bulldogs would go on a nine game winning streak to finish their season. The team finished with 38 goals scored by seven different players and only allowed 5 goals against. We had a tough team that played well together. The team as a whole made huge improvements. Thank you for a great season!

Coach Duane Powers



Girls Varsity Soccer

As a first year coach I was excited to start, and with the amount of talent that was on the team I was hopeful for a good season. Ultimately injuries were our biggest battle. Although the season was a struggle, we remained a team and that is what is important. All sports teams have struggles, and all teams have good years and not so good ones. Our injuries will heal, and we will return next year with a renewed spirit. I want to thank the Girls' Varsity Soccer team for your efforts, and wish them all well. See you next year!

Coach Weaver



Boys' Varsity Soccer

This year the boys' soccer team ended up with a record of 12 wins, 6 losses and 2 ties. They started off the season by being Co-Champs in the Belfast tournament.

The team entered sectional play as the number six seed. The team defeated Whitesville in the first game. Then they played the #3 team Houghton and beat them 4 to 2. They then took on the #2 seed Northstar and beat them 1 to 0. That set up a championship with #1 Scio. The team fell a little short in this game losing 4 to 1.

We had some boys make All-Stars this season. Jason Drozdowski, Hunter Enders and Caleb Caiazza were All-Stars for the Belfast Tournament. Andrew Blocho, Matt Weaver, Hunter Enders, Jason Drozdowski and Caleb Caiazza were All-Stars for the Allegany County Division Two. Caleb was also voted as the

league's Most Valuable Player. Matt Weaver, Hunter Enders and Caleb Caiazza were picked as alltournament players during the sectional tournament.

This team was a pleasure to coach and be around all season. Their dedication and work ethic was amazing. For the four Seniors, the team and I would like to thank you for everything you have done during your soccer career. We want to wish you the best in your future. The rest of the boys obtained a lot of experience this year and I will be looking forward to working with them next year.

The team and I would like to give out a big Thank You to everyone who supported the team this year.

Coach Sullivan



Girls' Volleyball

Belfast and Genesee Valley merged Girls' Varsity Volleyball this fall for the first time ever! BCS had two players on the team, which went to the Section V D2 semi-final sectional game. The girls from both districts work hard to become a 'team' under Coach Jake Bannerman. The team won the annual volleyball tournament sponsored by Genesee Valley and were a powerhouse in Allegany County. Congratulations on a great season!



1 King Street
Belfast, NY 14711

www.BelfastCSD.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Josie Preston, President
- Randa Harrington, Vice President
- Becky Backer
- Cecy Curcio
- Chris Enders
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- Patricia Krotz



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ECRWSS

Or Current Resident

**Boxholder
Belfast, NY 14711**

IMPORTANT BCS TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Superintendent's Office.....	365-9940
Principal's Office	365-8285
Business Office	365-8289
Guidance Office	365-8297
Bus Garage.....	365-2609
Nurse's Office	365-2053
Special Education Office.....	365-8847
Preschool.....	365-8088
Automated Attendant	365-2646
Fax.....	365-2648
Website.....	www.belfast.wnyric.org

Teaching and Non-Teaching substitutes needed!

Please go to the Belfast Central School website at:
<https://www.applitrack.com/caboces/onlineapp/>
for an application, or stop by the greeter's desk at the rear of the building to pick up an application.

Please remember our school safety tip line.
This line remains at **365-2053** and may be used for anonymous calls for reporting student safety concerns.

Board of Education Meetings

Belfast Central School Board of Education Meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month
5:30 PM
Conference Room located near gymnasium

