

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE WOLVERINES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Early Dismissal for Students:

Elementary: 11:15 a.m. &
Middle/High School: 11:30 a.m.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

12 Noon-6:00 p.m.
November 25

Thanksgiving Recess

November 26-29

Christmas/New Year's Holiday Recess

December 23-January 1

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

January 20

Lunar New Year

January 29

Mid-Winter Recess

February 17-21

Superintendent's Conference

March 14

Spring Recess

April 14-21

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD WINNER

Raegan Giardini was overwhelmingly selected by the BRCS faculty and her senior classmates for the prestigious Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award for best exemplifying the outstanding qualities of **DEPENDABILITY**, **SERVICE**, **LEADERSHIP** and **PATRIOTISM** in her school, home, and community.



Dependability:	truthfulness, honesty, punctuality
Service:	cooperation, helpfulness, responsibility
Leadership:	personality, self-control, initiative
Patriotism:	unselfishness, loyalty to American ideals

Local political representatives will honor her this spring at the DAR ceremony. Congratulations, Raegan! We are so very proud of the amazing lady wolverine, role model, student, classmate, friend, athlete, leader and volunteer that you are. Raegan plans to attend college to become a Physician's Assistant, where she will continue to do good for others in the world.

BRCS Holiday Dinner

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District will be hosting a
Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner
at the Bolivar Building Cafeteria on
Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

To make reservations, please contact the Superintendent's office
at 585-928-2937 by **November 29, 2024.**

SCHOOL CLOSED NOVEMBER 26-29 FOR THANKSGIVING RECESS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeff Margeson, Superintendent of Schools

Hello Wolverine Faithful!

“Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.” This quote from A.A. Milne, the author of Winnie the Pooh, is a reminder that, through the hustle and bustle of our crazy lives, sometimes it’s the simple act of giving thanks that can push us through the hard times.

I make it a daily priority to try and “zoom out” and give myself some perspective on what we have and where we’re going here at Bolivar-Richburg. We are blessed with a Board of Education who truly makes decisions based on what our students need to succeed, both in the short-term, as well as in their future endeavors. We have two fantastic Principals who have built a team of professional learners to support them in their instructional goals. We have four beautiful buildings and grounds, made even better by the hard-working people who always seem to have a smile on their face. I think of our bus drivers who are the first employees our kids see, our cafeteria team who keep our kids healthy and fed, our office staff who keep the building running, and our coaches who dedicate their free time to enhance the educational experience. Lastly, I am thankful for our amazing faculty and staff who come to work each and every day with one goal in mind: to make sure this generation will grow and mature to be even better than the ones who have come before them.

We are still building our team and we are still looking for ways to improve. In saying that, I want to thank all of our parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members for your patience and support. You play such a critical role in our success and we can’t be as efficient and effective without you!

I am humbled and honored to have the chance to lead this great school. My hope is that you share in that enthusiasm and that you will continue on this journey with us. Please take some time this holiday season to “zoom out” and fill your heart with some of Piglet’s gratitude!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

Respectfully,
Jeff Margeson, Superintendent



POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Parents of 6-12th grade students who have not yet set up a PowerSchool parent portal account or need assistance resetting their current accounts, please feel free to contact your child’s counselor at 928-2406 (Mrs. Robinson grades 6-9) or 928-2985 (Mrs. Crandall-Bean, grades 10-12) to obtain directions along with your child’s portal codes. The portal allows you to view online, 24-7, your child’s current grades, attendance, and lunch account balances. Parents and guardians have the ability to add all of their students to one single portal account. Students are all given their own student account when they begin grade 6 and are encouraged to self-monitor their own academic progress. Our goal this year is to have 100% of our 6-12 students and parents using portal accounts. Currently we have 84% of families connected to the portal. We hope you will take advantage of this great tool that can be very helpful to stay up-to-date on grades, attendance and homework assignments. By clicking on a teacher’s name in blue print in the portal, parents can email teachers questions they may have.

There is also a PowerSchool phone app that parents and students can use. This free app can be obtained through the App Store or the Google Play store. **The BRCS school code is CRKT.** Many students and parents use the portal phone app to stay on top of their academic information, as it is a wonderful communication tool!

PHONE NUMBER, CUSTODY, OR ADDRESS CHANGES?

Please contact the Guidance Office at 585-928-2986 if you and your children have a phone number, custody, guardianship, e-mail address, emergency number, or address change that needs to be made in our PowerSchool student information system. Thank you for helping us keep our information as up-to-date as possible.



Dear Parents and Gaurdians,

I hope this message finds you well as we enter the holiday season! December is always an exciting time at our school, filled with continuous learning and festive celebrations.

It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the middle of the school year. While reflecting upon all that we've accomplished, it is exciting to think about what the second half will bring. We are so proud of the students' growth thus far. Take a moment to ask your child about what they've been learning in the classroom—they love sharing their accomplishments!

This year, BRES is tackling attendance. School attendance is a powerful predictor of student achievement, with missed school days meaning missed learning. Throughout the school year, we will educate students on the benefits of being in school and will reward those in attendance with random attendance initiatives. We do understand that students will miss for sickness or the occasional appointment, but please be sure to send in a note for the absence to be excused. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this attendance initiative, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Elementary Main Office to discuss this further.

Important Reminder:

As temperatures drop, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play as teachers try to get outside as often as possible. Warm coats, hats, and gloves are essential for outdoor recess. If you need assistance with winter clothing, please reach out to the Elementary Main Office and we'll be happy to help.

Upcoming Dates:

- December 18: Holiday Concert, Grades K-2 at 9:30 a.m. & Grades 3-5 at 6 p.m.
- December 23 - January 1: No School, Holiday Recess
- January 20: No School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season!



FULL DAY PRE-K NEWS

Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell

We had a great start to the school year in PK-4! In September, we did a lot of name activities as well as getting to know each other activities. It was so much fun getting to know all the students. Our first reading unit was about the five senses and "all about me." The students learned about naming the five senses as well as the corresponding body parts. The students had so much fun painting and creating life sized cut outs of themselves! This month, the 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. In the next couple of months, we will be working on Classic Tales such as "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Elves and the Shoemaker," and "The Gingerbread Man." In math we have been working on numbers 1-5, sorting objects by color, shape, and size, and we have been identifying groups that are the same and different. Thank you to the Richburg Fire Department for coming in to talk about fire safety and showing us the fire trucks and ambulance. We learned so much!





HALF DAY PRE-K NEWS

Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Julie

Our first 10 weeks in the Pre-K3 classroom have been full of fun, adventure, and learning! We started right in with learning our classroom routine, practicing following directions, interacting with our peers in a kind manner, and learning how to use the many centers, toys, and manipulatives that are available for use in our classroom. The children have enjoyed stories, painting, dancing, singing songs, pretending in the house center, sliding and riding tricycles in the gym, and best of all making new friends. We are looking forward to a great year!





KINDERGARTEN NEWS

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

In kindergarten, we have been having a lot of fun learning. We have been getting to know each other and playing with friends. We've been making fall crafts and doing fun fall activities. We started off the year listening to and singing nursery rhymes. We heard fables that taught us life lessons such as "slow and steady wins the race." We heard some of our favorite stories and learned about characters, setting, and plots. Then we learned all about our five senses. We enjoyed investigating the world around us using our senses. We used our five senses to investigate pumpkins and then took our experience a little further by visiting Pumpkinville! We have learned about Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims, as well as Native Americans. We learned about their feast and even had one of our own! We look forward to more events where we can all grow, explore, and have fun together this year!



3RD GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Hackett



Our class has grown in size and so has our stamina! Students can now read for 25 minutes at a time, type for longer periods of time, and work in groups on task! We have made great progress in ELA and math. We are looking forward to the holiday season and doing many more fun things together!

4TH GRADE ELA

Mrs. Bell

The fourth graders are off to a busy start to the school year. We have already completed one module and are in our second module. Students worked with many comprehension skills including the main idea, inferences, summarizing, and writing multi-paragraph essays while learning about Native Americans. They also made their own wampum belts and explored the Ganondagan Museum in Rochester where they were able to see real Native American artifacts and explore a real longhouse. We are now working in our second module and learning about the Colonial Era as we explore new comprehension skills over the next couple of weeks. The students have been learning how to summarize and write strong RADD's and they are doing great with them. The next few months will be busy with the holidays, so be sure to check out the next newsletter to see what fun things we do over the next couple of months.



4TH GRADE SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Kristin Bentley

We have had a lot going on in 4th grade science and social studies! Our first two social studies units went pretty quickly so that we could learn all we could before going to the Erie Canal and to the Ganondagan Native American Historical Site! They were such fun trips, and I am so glad that the kids get to see things outside of our small area! We will be going into the colonial era in our next unit!

In Science, we have been talking all about the earth and got to see some examples of it at the Rochester Museum of Science! We have talked about everything from natural disasters to fossils! It is one of my favorite units because we get to see and do so much! I had so many kids bring me in rocks to see. They saw all different types of rocks and minerals in class, practiced weathering on a cookie, went through the rock cycle using Milky Way and Starburst, and made their own amber fossil magnet! In our next unit, we'll have live crayfish delivered and dive into learning all about plants and animals!

We have also had the pleasure of having Mr. Bucholz, from BOCES, who came in for a few environmental lessons and is planning on more throughout the year. Be on the lookout for pictures on ParentSquare when he comes! I also want to make sure to tell you how awesome our marking period projects were this year. The students had to research a scientist and create a poster about them. I had all sorts of inventors researched, from inventing make-up to discovering radium! I always love to see who the kids are interested in! The next project will be our New York project where they get to build a landmark or landform from New York. I cannot wait to see them!

FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Hillman

We have had a busy, productive, and fun start to this school year. Fifth graders have been hard at work in science learning about matter with our science unit, "Chemistry in the Kitchen." We have conducted many exciting experiments to find evidence to prove matter is made of particles too small to be seen. We have mixed several different substances to figure out if we can make something new. Ask your child to share with you what happens when you mix Alka-Seltzer and water!

In social studies, we have been flying through our geography unit. We started by identifying the continents of the world and parts the Western Hemisphere. The students all worked hard to conduct research and present to the class information about a country in the Western Hemisphere. These projects turned out amazing! Soon we will start learning about ancient civilizations.

Congratulations to Jessa Gaeta who was our PAWS recipient! Keep up that PAWS worthy behavior!

FIFTH GRADE ELA

Mrs. Smith

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing! We have been reading the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Set in the early 1930s, twenty years after the Mexican Revolution and during the Great Depression, *Esperanza Rising* tells the story of a young Mexican girl's courage and resourcefulness when at the age of thirteen she finds herself living in a strange new world. Esperanza, whose name means "hope" in Spanish, must rise again, into a resourceful and responsible young woman. My hope is that this novel teaches us the value of human rights, to persevere when faced with obstacles, and to treat others with dignity and respect!



Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Dorothy Sorensen and Hunter Myers. In order to be selected, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits.

FIFTH GRADE MATH

Ms. Ferris

We are off to a great start in 5th grade math! So far, we have learned how to use all operations when working with decimals, how to convert units, and are now working on dividing by two digits.

Congratulations to the two PAWS recipients from my homeroom, Duke Allen and Bailey Stives!

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season!

MEET WALLY THE WOLVERINE! STUDENTS AND STAFF VOTE FOR OUR MASCOT'S NEW NAME



On November 5th, an Election Day event was held across the district where students and staff came together to choose an official name for our Wolverine mascot.

The naming process began with input from students in both the Elementary and Middle/High Schools, who submitted a variety of name suggestions. The Student Council then selected the three most popular names for the final vote: Wally, Wanda, and Wrigley.

On Election Day, elementary students cast their votes in person with help from Student Council members, while Middle and High School students participated electronically.

Elementary principal, Mrs. Duke, commented, "The Wolverine mascot has been used historically for many initiatives district wide. We are excited that the current students of BRCS had the opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite name. In doing so, we hope this fosters greater affinity for the mascot for years to come!"

With Mr. Britt overseeing the tallying process, the Student Council carefully counted every vote. After a close race, the winning name was announced: Wally the Wolverine!

Scan the QR code to watch our Election Day video coverage.



GUIDANCE NEWS: COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION—MORE BIG CHANGES COMING TO THE FAFSA

FEDERAL FAFSA: In the past, the FAFSA federal financial aid application portal (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) has opened on October 1st. This portal is how students qualify for free federal grant money and federal student loans. Last year the FAFSA application was completely overhauled and shortened from 100 to 36 questions, but it had some major computer glitches. This fall, the new “BETTER FAFSA” is supposed to launch on December 1st and is being launched with a small pilot group of applicants to work out the bugs before opening the portal to all. **AS SOON AS THE CHANGES ARE FINALIZED, WE WILL PRESENT THIS IMPORTANT INFO TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS. SO PLEASE WATCH FOR UPCOMING WINTER LESSONS AND PRESENTATIONS ON FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS AND SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES.** We plan to have an Alfred State expert come to assist families in completing the FAFSA and TAP applications during an evening event.

Two of the best resources for parents to find more information on this process are the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website: www.hesc.org and Federal Student Aid website: www.finaid.org. These two sites

are loaded with information for parents and are two of the very best and easiest to navigate. Further, these sites are not just for parents of seniors but also for parents of any students who are considering college.

Parents (or students) should not feel the need to pay for help with a financial aid form or for scholarship searches. Oftentimes the services that advertise to help you with these are frauds, or at the very least, a rip-off. They often promise students thousands of dollars in financial aid. The rule of thumb is, “If you have to pay, stay away!” We have provided the best free resources on our scholarship webpage for you to utilize. If you have very complicated finances, you may want your personal financial planner to assist with the financial aid process. But those are not typical instances for most people.

NYS FINANCIAL AID: TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)

Also, do not forget to complete the NYS TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Grant financial aid application online. TAP money is available for eligible New York State residents who plan to attend college within New York State. This link will take you the TAP application: [https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-scholarships/tuition-assistance-program-tap)

[scholarships/tuition-assistance-program-tap](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-scholarships/tuition-assistance-program-tap).

The TAP application window has not yet been posted. This link will allow you to enter a cell number or email address to be notified of when it opens: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-scholarships/tuition-assistance-program-tap/sign-tap-alerts/>.

Last year, New York increased the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1000 with a maximum of \$5,665 for qualifying applicants with financial need.

The New York State Excelsior Grant, which covers SUNY tuition costs for families earning less than \$125,000 per year, will have its application released next spring. Stay tuned for more financial aid info!

New York State also offers other scholarship and grants. Check them out at www.HESC.ny.Gov.

Important!

Do not assume you will not qualify for financial aid. Always consider completing the FAFSA and NYS TAP applications as you may qualify for free grant money or student loans with lower interest rates. You may also be required to complete these before colleges hand out their own institutional aid.

WEBSITES FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

Need help exploring colleges? Do you need to find out more about the financial aid process, finding a career, or touring a college virtually? Here are a few fantastic websites that will surely help both students and parents

www.mappingyourfuture.org
www.hesc.com
www.nymentor.edu
www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.knowhow2go.org
www.careercruising.com
www.finaid.com

We also will be utilizing our K-12 guidance software system called Xello to work on college and career planning.

START A NEW SCHOLARSHIP

If you are interested in inquiring about starting a new scholarship for graduating seniors of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District, please contact:

Susan Bokman
Director of Data and Accountability
sbokman@bolivarrichburg.org
585-928-2914

TIPS FOR PARENTS TO HELP STAY ON TOP OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOLING

These basic tasks will assist you in staying current and up to date regarding your student's grades, attendance, homework assignments, deadlines, social-emotional state, and information sent out to students from teachers, counselors and other staff.

- 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. You can even add it as a mobile device phone app and it is then at your fingertips to check! You can email teachers directly through the portal.
- Ask your child to share with you their Microsoft Teams login (user name and password) so that you can view what assignments and messages they have inside of Teams. This is where teachers may link 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.**
- Monitor your child's use of the Teams Chat feature to make sure they are utilizing it respectfully and responsibly.
- Contact your child's teachers and counselors if you need assistance.
- Help your child have a quiet, distraction-free learning space at home as much as it is possible.
- Assist your child in creating a school daily calendar with their paper planners or electronically in Teams
- "ROSES AND THORNS" DAILY CHECK-IN: Every day, check in and ask your child how their day was. What was the "rose" or best part of the day? What was the low point or "thorn" of their day? As counselors, we are currently flooded with students coming in needing to speak about stressors, anxiety, and depression this year. Family members taking some time each day to check in with your child about their day is a critical support that all students need. Do not assume that your child is coping well if they are quiet. Please talk openly and often about their school days.
- Utilize the new Parent Square software to message individual staff members as well as gain a lot of information about BRCS events.

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!

Email address: ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org

Guidance Office: 585-928-2985

JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS SCHEDULED

January Regents exams may be given throughout the state on January 21-24, 2025. Parents and guardians may call the Guidance Office at 928-2986 or students must see Mrs. Crandall-Bean at once to be sure that their name is placed on the test roster if they would like to retake a regents examination either to earn a passing score or to retest to try and improve scores on previously taken exams. There is no charge for a student to retake a regents exam in January. Please note that New York State regulations do not allow students to be admitted to a morning exam after 10:00 a.m. or to an afternoon exam after 2:00 p.m. In addition, no student may leave an exam before those same times. This regulation is in place to prevent students from sharing information about an exam.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING: ACT AND SAT TESTING

College-bound juniors are encouraged to consider taking the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring; seniors are encouraged to take one of these exams this fall. First, go to the your colleges of interests websites to see if these exams are required for admissions as many schools no longer require them. Many counselors feel the ACT is a fairer exam for students as it is based on student achievement. Colleges accept ACT scores equally to SAT scores. Registration documents for both tests are available in the Guidance Office and on the Guidance website to assist students with the online registration process. Registering online is relatively simple and convenient and will allow students to receive their test scores quickly. Students who normally qualify for free or reduced lunch can be given two fee waivers for junior and senior year for both tests to cover the testing fees. These can be requested in the Guidance Office and are limited in the number available.

Test optional—What does that mean? Due to COVID's indoor large-group gathering restrictions, many SAT and ACT exams were canceled or limited in test seats for health and safety reasons. **Therefore, 84% of colleges have remained "test-optional" meaning no SAT or ACT is required for college applications to their institutions.** Currently, all SUNY colleges are test-optional. However, again to be safe, it does not hurt to check colleges' of interest websites for their specific testing requirement and take at least one SAT or ACT exam in case it is needed in the future for college acceptance and scholarship contests.

COLLEGE REPS, FAIRS, AND VISITS

This year we were able to hold our annual ACCA College Fair at Houghton University on September 24. Forty-six BR juniors and seniors were able to speak with around 50 college representatives.

The Guidance Office is hosting many individual college reps in person in our office and some also virtually this fall. The list is available in Teams and is shared during morning announcements. Mrs. Crandall-Bean is glad to help students with college exploration applications and setting up in-person and virtual visits.

HOW TO ACCESS THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE WEB PAGE

Parents and students can access a large amount of information on the Guidance web pages. Start at the BRCS home page (www.bolivarrichburg.org). Then click on the pull-down menu at the top of the page titled "Departments." You will see links to the elementary, middle school, as well as the high school

guidance web pages, registration for new students, and for our school social worker, Sarah Burdick. Topics on the high school guidance site include: scholarships, financial aid, summer school, regents examination schedules, recommended websites, graduation requirements, course descriptions, summer camps, military resources, SAT, ACT, and driver's education information. The direct link is [## ALFRED STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS](https://www.bolivarrichburg.org/schools/middlehigh-school/middle-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

On October 17, forty-three juniors and seniors visited Alfred State College. They sat through an admissions overview providing them with basic information about applying and selecting colleges, toured campus, and ate lunch in the leadership building. Several students spent the day on the Wellsville campus shadowing in their classrooms of interest such as automotive technology, carpentry, culinary arts, and heavy equipment operations. Alfred State offers numerous degrees and programs and is close enough for our BR students to commute to and from and obtain a quality education at an affordable price.

78% of Alfred State's current students qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship and obtain free tuition!



high-school-guidance-office.

SCHEDULES FOR GRADE 6-12 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED. THE DROP PERIOD IS NOW OVER AND STUDENTS WILL REMAIN IN THEIR CURRENT COURSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. Any late course drops will now require a discussion involving the student, parent, and teacher, and must be approved by the building principal and teachers; approval may be denied.

SENIORS MAKE FUTURE PLANS

I have met with all seniors individually to review transcripts and make corrections to determine what specific courses and regents exams are still needed to be passed for graduation, discuss post-high school plans, and map out the tasks they need to complete for their college, military, and career plans.

Each student was given an individualized folder of tasks to complete for their specific post-secondary career, military, or college plan. Those students who are interested in college may have been given handouts about selecting and applying to colleges. **It is highly recommended that seniors try to complete their college application(s) by the end of Thanksgiving recess.** However, some programs require students to apply earlier to ensure that their program of choice is not filled to capacity. **Watch all application deadlines!**

Students are welcome to have their applications proofread in the Guidance Office prior to submitting them. Also, since most students are now applying online, it is vitally important that they let me or my secretary know each time they apply so that we mail or upload the student's official transcript. Colleges require an official transcript of high school grades and will not process a student's college application until they have received one.

Any parent who desires more information about the college selection process or financial aid can call Mrs. Crandall-Bean at school at 928-2985 or send an email to ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org.

The "Senior Fall To-Do List," "Basics of Financial Aid," and "Scholarship Searches" presentations can be found on the high school guidance website and will be pushed out to students in grades 11 and 12 in Microsoft Teams labeled "Guidance Info for Juniors and Seniors."

PARENTS - BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID "SCAMS"

In years past several students and parents have called about information they have received in the mail or phone calls they have received regarding college scholarships and financial aid. Usually, the sales pitch starts something like this, "Do you know that over two million dollars in college scholarships went unclaimed last year? We can guarantee you a scholarship for college!" Often times the e-mails or envelopes and the letters look like they have been sent from an official agency with words like "national," "exclusive," and "education" in their title. I say, buyer beware!

Quite often the scholarships and the financial aid assistance these companies offer as part of their service are routinely available for **free** right here at school or on many websites.

Furthermore, no one can promise you a scholarship because a legitimate scholarship is always competitive. Lastly, most financial aid that students receive for college will be generated from the FAFSA form or directly from the student's college.

My advice to parents is to exercise caution and call me before signing on to one of these "financial aid" businesses. A call or search online to the Better Business Bureau (703-276-0100) or the Attorney General (through the Consumer Protection Board, 800-697-1220) is another way to verify a company's reputation. More than likely, high schools and colleges can do just as much for you as one of these companies – the only difference is that we don't charge a thing. We in the Guidance Office can provide you with excellent resources for doing high-quality scholarship searches and have an abundance of information linked on the Guidance website under the scholarship page.

ASVAB CEP CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR JUNIORS

On Tuesday, November 19, interested juniors and seniors took the ASVAB, which will allow them to learn more about their academic strengths and weaknesses and how their aptitudes can affect their future career paths. The ASVAB can also be used as an entrance exam for enlisting in the military. On Friday, December 20, all interested students will then participate in a career exploration lesson. The ASVAB presenter will interpret test results for students. Students will also complete the FYI, which stands for "Find Your Interests" career interest inventory. This an excellent career exploration program, which is free to schools. We give the ASVAB on students' school laptops, which allows students to proceed with testing at their own pace and be dismissed as soon as they are done testing.

Parents of juniors, please be aware that the ASVAB test results will be released at the end of the school year to military recruiters because the ASVAB is the entrance exam used by military branches. If you do NOT want your child's scores released to the military, please notify us in the Guidance Office. However, please realize that the primary purpose of this program is for juniors to explore future career paths. This program's intention is not to lead students in any way, shape, or form necessarily toward a military career. These ASVAB scores, however, are active scores for students wishing to enlist in the future. If you have questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Bean at 928-2985.



The Sentinel, our electronic school newspaper, needs you! Please consider joining this club and help to spread the word about the amazing things BRCS students and staff are doing every single day. Come showcase your talents in creating and developing interesting stories, polls/surveys, opinion pieces, etc. Your participation is welcomed and appreciated. For more information, please contact Ms. Peterson and Ms. Schena.



OUTDOOR CLUB

Ms. Renyck and Mr. Thornton

The Outdoor Club is new this year. Our school district merged the Ecology Club with Science Club since there was appreciable overlap with the clubs' visions. By the time you read this, the Outdoor Club will have had taken two after-school trips: 1) to Moss Lake in Houghton and 2) to Pfeiffer Nature Center in Portville. Anyone interested in joining should send a message to Ms. Renyck through Teams chat, and she will add you to the list.

Students enjoying some outdoor time at Moss Lake this year:

CIRCUS NEWS

Save the date! The Circus is Coming to Bolivar on January 15. You won't want to miss this exciting time. Ticket information will be sent home and posted on the website closer to the event. Please come and support our Yearbook Club and have lots of fun!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

This years NHS and NJHS ceremony dates are already planned and on the calendar.:

NHS Induction Ceremony
Monday, January 13, 2025

NJHS Induction Ceremony
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Inclement Weather Alternate Date
Thursday, March 6, 2025

Guidelines for Selection of National Honor Society Members

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors awarded to a high school student. As part of the by-laws of the National Honor Society Constitution, each school district is required to publish its selection procedures annually. Bolivar-Richburg's selection procedures are as follows:

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

After the first marking period, each high school teacher receives a list of **juniors and seniors** who have met the scholastic eligibility requirement of having an 91% or higher average. This score reflects the student's cumulative high school average through the first quarter of the current school year. The teachers will evaluate students on the three other criteria necessary for selection: leadership, service and character. Teachers will only evaluate students with whom they have had direct contact.

During this process, each scholastically eligible student receives and completes a **Student Activity Information Sheet**. On it, students list their activities and extracurricular information for the Faculty Council to review. In addition, the Faculty Council asks that each candidate submit a written response to a writing prompt provided. The Faculty Council is a committee consisting of five high school teachers and is annually appointed. The principal (Mrs. Talbot) and NHS advisor (Ms. Schena) are **non-voting members** of the council. This body reviews each student's activity form, written statement, as well as faculty recommendations. Candidates receiving a majority vote (i.e. at least three votes) of the Faculty Council are inducted into our NHS chapter.

When students receive their Student Activity Information Sheet, it is imperative that students do NOT leave any section blank. In order to be inducted into the National Honor Society, students must meet all criteria necessary for selection – scholarship, leadership, service and character. It is impossible to tell if a student meets the criteria if a section is left blank.

All eligible candidates in the current Junior and Senior classes will receive information from Ms. Schena after the first marking period. If you have any questions about the National Honor Society please contact Ms. Schena, the NHS advisor, at: mschena@bolivarrichburg.org.

Also, this year all NHS and NJHS students will be expected to complete 10 hours of community service. Numerous opportunities will be provided to the students, but students are also encouraged to look for and complete community service activities that are important to them. A letter will be sent home and updates will be added to our website so stay tuned for more information. Please reach out to Ms. Schena with any questions at mschena@bolivarrichburg.org.

Our Fall Sports season has come to a close. A lot of our teams showed improvement throughout the season. Unfortunately, our varsity football season was cut short due to injuries and lack of players. Our volleyball teams advanced to the section V Class D1 quarter-finals. They also were Allegany County Division I champion and won the Allegany-Steuben tournament. Finally, our boys' soccer, girls' soccer, JV, and modified teams all worked hard throughout the year. Through their success we had five athletes make county all-star teams this fall. We had 24 seniors who played their last fall sports at Bolivar-Richburg.

I would personally like to thank all of our coaches and volunteers for their time and dedication. Also, a huge thank you to our extremely loyal fans who show up to support our athletes no matter where the games are being played. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate our athletes whose dedication and long hours of hard work are clearly paying off.

In closing, I am looking forward to an exciting Winter Sports season. Come out and support your Wolverines! We are BR!

For complete schedules please check out the Athletic Calendar on the school's website. You can also sign up to receive text or e-mail notification on all of your favorite Wolverine sports teams.



ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

For Most up to date schedules, please refer to the BRCS athletics calendar on our webpage. Schedules can and do change.

Boys' JV Basketball

11/29/2024	At Cuba-Rushford Tournament	4:30pm
11/30/2024	At Cuba-Rushford Tournament	TBD
12/09/2024	Oswayo Valley	6:00pm
12/11/2024	Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
12/13/2024	At Wellsville Tournament	6:00pm
12/14/2024	At Wellsville Tournament	TBD
12/17/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
12/20/2024	Portville Central	6:00pm
01/03/2025	At Portville Central	4:30pm
01/08/2025	At Jasper-Troupsburg Central	5:45pm
01/10/2025	Fillmore Central	6:00pm
01/14/2025	At Andover-Whitesville	TBD
01/16/2025	Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
01/22/2025	At Wellsville	6:00pm
01/27/2025	At Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
01/30/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
02/04/2025	Jasper-Troupsburg Central	5:45pm
02/07/2025	At Fillmore Central	6:00pm
02/19/2025	At Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm

Boys' Varsity Basketball

11/27/2024	At Andover-Whitesville	1:00pm
12/05/2024	At Portville Tournament	7:30pm
12/07/2024	At Portville Tournament	TBD
12/09/2024	Oswayo Valley	7:30pm
12/11/2024	Friendship-Scio	7:30pm
12/13/2024	At Wellsville Tournament	6:00pm
12/14/2024	At Wellsville Tournament	TBD
12/17/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:30pm
12/20/2024	Portville Central	7:30pm
12/21/2024	C-R At St. Bonaventure	5:00pm
01/08/2025	At Jasper-Troupsburg Central	7:15pm
01/10/2025	Fillmore Central	7:30pm
01/14/2025	At Andover-Whitesville	TBD
01/16/2025	Cuba-Rushford	7:30pm
01/22/2025	At Wellsville	7:30pm
01/24/2025	Hinsdale Central	6:00pm
01/27/2025	At Friendship-Scio	7:30pm
01/30/2025	At Genesee Valley/Belfast	7:30pm
02/04/2025	Jasper-Troupsburg Central	7:15pm
02/07/2025	At Fillmore Central	7:30pm
02/11/2025	Houghton Academy	7:30pm

Athletic Schedule continued on Pgs. 14 & 15

Boys' Modified Basketball

12/07/2024	Wellsville	11:15am
12/09/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:15pm
12/14/2024	Friendship-Scio	11:15am
12/17/2024	Cuba-Rushford	7:15pm
12/19/2024	At Andover-Whitesville	TBD
01/07/2025	At Hinsdale Central	7:15pm
01/11/2025	At Fillmore Central	11:15am
01/15/2025	At Wellsville	7:15pm
01/18/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	11:15am
01/22/2025	At Friendship-Scio	7:15pm
01/25/2025	Andover-Whitesville	11:15am
01/28/2025	At Cuba-Rushford	7:15pm
02/01/2025	Hinsdale Central	11:15am
02/03/2025	Fillmore Central	7:15pm

Girls' Varsity Basketball

12/03/2024	At Andover-Whitesville	7:30pm
12/10/2024	At Cuba-Rushford	7:30pm
12/13/2024	At Canisteo-Greenwood	6:00pm
12/16/2024	Oswayo Valley	7:30pm
12/18/2024	At Hinsdale Central	6:00pm
12/20/2024	At Olean	7:30pm
01/03/2025	Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:30pm
01/06/2025	At Campbell-Savona	7:00pm
01/08/2025	At Oswayo Valley	7:30pm
01/10/2025	At Avoca-Prattsburgh	7:15pm
01/15/2025	At Friendship-Scio	7:30pm
01/17/2025	At Fillmore Central	7:30pm
01/23/2025	Andover-Whitesville	7:30pm
01/27/2025	Campbell-Savona	7:00pm
01/29/2025	Cuba-Rushford	7:30pm
01/31/2025	Hinsdale Central	6:00pm
02/04/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:30pm
02/12/2025	Friendship-Scio	7:30pm
02/18/2025	Fillmore Central	7:30pm

Girls' JV Basketball

12/03/2024	At Andover-Whitesville	6:00pm
12/10/2024	Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
12/16/2024	Oswayo Valley	6:00pm
12/20/2024	At Olean	6:00pm
01/03/2025	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
01/06/2025	At Campbell-Savona	5:30pm
01/08/2025	At Oswayo Valley	6:00pm
01/10/2025	At Avoca-Prattsburgh	5:45pm
01/15/2025	At Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
01/17/2025	At Fillmore Central	6:00pm
01/21/2025	At Houghton Academy	6:00pm
01/23/2025	Andover-Whitesville	6:00pm
01/27/2025	Campbell-Savona	5:30pm
01/29/2025	Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
02/04/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
02/11/2025	Houghton Academy	6:00pm
02/12/2025	Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
02/18/2025	Fillmore Central	6:00pm

Girls' Modified Basketball

12/07/2024	Wellsville	10:00am
12/09/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
12/14/2024	Friendship-Scio	10:00am
12/17/2024	Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
12/19/2024	At Andover-Whitesville	TBD
01/07/2025	At Hinsdale Central	6:00pm
01/11/2025	At Fillmore Central	10:00am
01/15/2025	At Wellsville	6:00pm
01/18/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	10:00am
01/22/2025	At Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
01/25/2025	Andover-Whitesville	10:00am
01/28/2025	At Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
02/01/2025	Hinsdale Central	10:00am
02/03/2025	Fillmore Central	6:00pm

Boys' Volleyball

12/02/2024	Arkport-Canaseraga	6:00pm
12/04/2024	At Wellsville	6:00pm
12/06/2024	Portville Central	6:00pm
12/09/2024	At Allegany-Limestone Central	TBD
12/16/2024	At Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
12/18/2024	At Fillmore Central	6:00pm
01/02/2025	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
01/03/2025	At Portville Central	7:00pm
01/06/2025	Friendship-Scio	6:00pm
01/09/2025	At Arkport-Canaseraga	TBD
01/14/2025	Wellsville	6:00pm
01/15/2025	At Portville Central	TBD
01/17/2025	Allegany-Limestone Central	6:00pm
01/23/2025	Cuba-Rushford	6:00pm
01/27/2025	At Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00pm
01/29/2025	Fillmore Central	6:00pm
01/30/2025	At Friendship-Scio	6:00pm

Indoor Track & Field

12/13/2024	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
12/19/2024	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/03/2025	At RIT Gordon Field House	1:30pm
01/10/2025	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/17/2025	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/31/2025	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
02/06/2025	At RIT Gordon Field House	5:00pm
12/13/2024	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
12/19/2024	At Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/03/2025	At RIT Gordon Field House	1:30pm
01/10/2025	Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/17/2025	Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
01/31/2025	Houghton College Field House	5:00pm
02/06/2025	At RIT Gordon Field House	5:00pm

Varsity Wrestling

12/04/2024	At Campbell-Savona	6:00pm
12/06/2024	At Horseheads Tournament	TBD
12/07/2024	At Horseheads Tournament	TBD
12/13/2024	At Jamestown Tournament	3:30pm
12/14/2024	At Jamestown Tournament	9:30am
12/18/2024	Addison Central	6:00pm
12/27/2024	BR Duals	1:00pm
12/28/2024	BR Duals	11:00am
01/08/2025	At Alfred Almond	5:30pm
01/15/2025	At Canisteo Greenwood	5:30pm
01/23/2025	Letchworth	6:00pm
01/28/2025	Multiple Schools/ at BR	6:00pm
02/01/2025	At Avoca Invitational	9:00am

ACAA Cheer - Other Events Pending

12/17/2024	At Friendship/Scio	TBD
01/08/2025	BOLIVAR HOSTING	6:00pm
01/14/2025	At Fillmore	TBD
01/28/2025	At Canisteo-Greenwood	6:00pm
02/04/2025	At Fillmore	TBD

Modified Wrestling

12/05/2024	At Fillmore Central	5:30pm
12/10/2024	At Arkport	6:00pm
12/12/2024	At Wellsville	5:30pm
12/17/2024	At Campbell-Savona	6:00pm
01/07/2025	At Addison	6:00pm
01/14/2025	At Canisteo Greenwood	6:00pm
01/16/2025	At Alfred Almond	6:00PM
01/23/2025	Away vs. Multiple Schools	5:30pm

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
100 SCHOOL STREET
BOLIVAR, NY 14715

Board of Education:

Amanda McDonnell, President
Aaron Duell, Vice President
Erin Baldwin
Jarrod Bell
Michelle Clark
Kami Doane
Norene Ferris

Administration:

Jeffrey Margeson, Superintendent of Schools
Susan Bokman, Director of Data and Accountability
Sarah Cartmill, Director of Curriculum
Megan Duke, Elementary Principal
Jessica Talbot, Secondary Principal
Amy Ginnitti, School Business Administrator
Mary Snyder, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

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Olean, NY
14760

Current Resident

or Local Postal Patron



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 ParentSquare to notify families. Please contact the guidance office to update telephone numbers. Thank you.

CHESS CLUB

Ms. Renyck

The Chess Club held its second meeting after school on Thursday, October 24th in Ms. Renyck's room. Our next meeting will occur on Thursday, November 7th from 3:10 - 4:10 in Ms. Renyck's room. The late bus will be available for those who do not walk or who don't have a ride. If you'd like to stay up-to-date with Chess Club messages and meetings, please send a Teams chat to Ms. Renyck, and she will add you to the club's contact list. Chess Club meets on select Thursdays throughout the school year. Check our Teams page for specific dates.

