

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE WOLVERINES



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HELP CREATE WIZARD OF OZ SCULPTURE WITH ERIC JONES

Third graders at Bolivar-Richburg Elementary have been exploring Japanese culture and their love of things in nature. Throughout their research of Japan, students learned of the Sapporo Snow Festival and the importance of telling stories of history and traditions through art. To bring their lessons to life, local artist Eric Jones visited the school to create a snow sculpture with their help.

Mr. Jones' sculpture is inspired by The Wizard of Oz, which has a unique historical connection to Richburg. L. Frank Baum, the author of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, once lived in Richburg and drew inspiration from the local area for elements of his book and its famous movie adaptation.

Students assisted with collecting and packing snow for the sculpture. This hands-on experience allowed them to see how storytelling can take shape in art—even in the form of snow!

Watch a video describing the connection between Richburg and The Wizard of Oz by scanning the QR code.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Superintendent's
Conference Day**
March 14, 2025

Spring Recess
April 14-21, 2025

Memorial Day
May 26, 2025



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeff Margeson, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings to all of our Wolverine families and friends!

I want you to know how thankful I am for the opportunity to be the Superintendent here at Bolivar-Richburg! It has been a steep learning curve, but I want to assure you that we are building a fantastic team of hard-working and caring people for our students. Please, thank our Board members when you see them out and about because they have truly supported the vision and mission of this new journey.

I always want to celebrate our successes, but it is also my job to listen to our community members when there are things we can fix. I thank you for those of you who have shared your feelings and concerns with our team. We have a long list of ways we can improve, and I promise you that we are working hard to make these transitions possible. One concern that we have had over and over is, "Why do we have to drive to Cuba to pay our taxes each year?" That's a fantastic question, so we did some digging. I am happy to announce that, at our February Board meeting, we approved the opening of a tax collecting account here at our local Community Bank. Starting next school year, you can make the short trip downtown to see Brandy, Koko, and the ladies, and you will be able to pay your taxes here in the Village of Bolivar. I want to start showing our parents and community members that your opinions do matter, and that we are listening.

We might not always get it right the first time around, but we truly are here to help! I urge all of you to talk to your students, your neighbors, our faculty and staff, our administrators, and let's all work together to make sure that the next generation of Wolverines will be the best that we've ever produced!

I am here to listen and to help in any way that I can!

Respectfully,

Jeff Margeson, Superintendent



BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL 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 Amy Shelp, District Clerk, at ashelp@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 21, 2025. Petitions will be filed for three full three-year expired terms.

- 1. Expired term of Kami Doane for three (3) years.**
- 2. Expired term of Amanda McDonnell for three (3) years.**

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: Amy Shelp
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.



Dear Parents and Gaurdians,

I hope this message finds you well! It is hard to believe that we are past the mid-point of the school year. It has yet again been another year of student growth, school-wide celebrations, and memorable educational experiences. With only a few months remaining, I wanted to share some important dates and reminders.

Soon, students will be taking the NYS 3-5 ELA, Math, and Science Assessments. This year, all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are required to be tested using the Computer Based Testing (CBT) format. This is our third year using CBT at BRES and teachers and students are now much more comfortable with the platform. We encourage parents to talk to students about the importance of the NYS assessments, as they are used to drive instructional decisions and student support in grades 3-5.

NYS 3-5 Assessments:

- ELA Assessment: April 8th & 9th
- Math Assessment: May 6th & 7th
- 5th Grade Science: May 13th

As we prepare for the end of the school year, please remember that BRES typically runs a five-week summer program for grades K-5. More information will be released in May, but I wanted to remind you of this opportunity as you begin to make summer plans.

Looking ahead to next school year, I encourage you to consider one of our Early Childhood Programs if you have a young child at home. The 3-year old program is housed within our Early Childhood Building in Bolivar and is a half-day option, morning and afternoon. The 4-year old program is housed at our Elementary School in Richburg and half-day and full-day options are available. You can find the enrollment forms for each program at the back of this newsletter.

Important Reminders:

- March 14th: Superintendent's Day - No school for students
- April 14th-21st: Spring Recess

ALL KIDS BIKE PROGRAM COMES TO BRES

This fall, with the support of our administration and Board of Education, the All Kids Bike program was purchased with grant funding. This program offers a full curriculum, 24 student bikes, a teacher bike, helmets, and storage racks. The mission of All Kids Bike is to teach every child in America to ride a bike in kindergarten PE class. Riding a bike minimizes screen time, helps students develop physically and mentally, gives them greater confidence, reduces stress, and provides better focus.

BRES is one of the 1,300 schools nationwide that are part of the All Kids Bike program. Although the program is intended for kindergarten students, the bikes are suited for children ages 5-7, so we chose to expand their use from Pre-K to first grade to get as many students riding as possible. Throughout the 8 lessons, students are taught how to walk, balance, and stride with the bike in balance mode. Once in pedal mode, students are taught how to balance, pedal, and brake. As you can see from their excitement and smiles, the students are loving it!



Watch our students biking in a video here:



BOLIVAR-RICHBURG PRE-K 3 SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-K 3 in September 2025, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2025. Your child must be 3 years of age on or before December 1, 2025. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-K 3 sign-ups in the spring. We will use this 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: _____

Please check one: ☐ Prefer AM ☐ Prefer PM

Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School
PO Box 158
Richburg, New York 14774

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2025, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2025. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2025. 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

Kindergarten Sign-Up Form on Page 5.

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2025, 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, 2025. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2025. This information is necessary when we initiate 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 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

HALF DAY PRE-K NEWS

Mrs. Johnson and Miss Julie

We've been busy in Pre-K3! Each day children explore the world around them through structured and unstructured play-based learning opportunities. Students are learning to interact with their peers, learning to use language when dealing with conflict, and most importantly—learning how to be a good friend. Each day students are learning about colors, shapes, numbers, and exploring the letters in their names in fun, meaningful ways.

Through the last few months, our themes have included a Jan Brett author study, arctic animals, and winter weather. Our own Pre-K library helps to reinforce these themes with book choices in the classroom as well as books that students choose to “check out” each week. Thank you, Miss Julie, for being our classroom librarian.



FULL DAY PRE-K NEWS

Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell

Greetings from the Pre-K4 classes! We have been super busy in Pre-K4! The students have worked hard on writing their names as well as identifying their names. They are learning to identify their classmates' names, as well. 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." The 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 of animals, such as birds, insects, fish, and mammals. Students also worked on practicing telling stories, learning nursery rhymes, rhyming, alphabet letters/sounds, drawing, and 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 from 6-10.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Mrs. Broughton and Mrs. Stutzman

We've been having fun learning in Kindergarten! We started reading and writing words—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, and same. We love counting to 100 by ones and tens, especially with song. We are currently learning about our teen numbers.



THIRD GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Hackett

Time is flying here in the elementary school! In third grade we have started mastering our multiplication and division facts and are really getting a handle on fractions. We've learned about culture from around the world and now we are learning about wolves! We've had such a great time in school from camping day to investigation day. We've got some great events coming up in our room, so stay tuned for those!



FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Bell



Fourth grade Science and Social Studies has been in full swing. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year. In Social Studies, we have wrapped up our American Revolution Unit, which will take us into colonial times. This unit is a great setup for our trip to Mumfordsville in the spring! We also get to do some educational Minecraft with this unit!

In Science, we wrapped up our unit about animal adaptations and learned what plants and animals do to survive. This was the first year that almost every Paperwhite flower bulb bloomed, and really took off! Now, we are into our waves unit where we get to play with sound and light! With a science grant, I got some pretty awesome hands-on things for us to use in this unit, so I am very excited to have the kids try them out!

We visited the Challenger Center in January on one of our field trips where we tested circuits, built challenges, and did some hands-on learning centers! We have some other big field trips planned in the next few months, so stay tuned!

FOURTH GRADE ELA & MATH

Mrs. Bell

We've been very busy in ELA the last couple of months. We finished module 3, Revolutionary War, and are in the middle of module 4, Women's Suffrage. We've been working on many comprehension skills like main idea, theme, summarizing, and working with different genres. The students also expressed their opinions on the different sides of the Revolutionary War by making "Broadides" which were hung in the hallway for a few weeks. We practiced for the ELA state test and worked on many different skills and test prep strategies! The students ROCKED the state test and worked so hard. They should be proud of themselves! Way to go fourth graders!

In Math, we are in the middle of our last big module for the year—fractions! After that we will be working hard at reviewing all the things we have learned this year for our upcoming Math State Assessment from **May 7-9th**.

A couple of testing reminders for your students include getting a good night's sleep each night the week of the test, as well as getting to school on time so they have a chance to eat breakfast before we get started each day. We know they will do an excellent job showing us how much they have grown this year!

Please keep checking Parent Square for updates!

FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Hillman

Fifth grade 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 going to be 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!

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 8th and 9th.

Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Joshua Barrett, Ashton Allshouse, and William Cass. 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 their 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!



ELEMENTARY TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Loucks

The past few months in Tech, Pre-K and Kindergarten have been practicing their letters and numbers along with fine motor skills using ABC Mouse. This computer program allows the students to engage in content that reinforces spelling, literacy, and math through games and activities. Students really enjoy following along on their own personalized learning path where they earn tickets to purchase items for their virtual rooms.

Grades 1-5 have continued to work hard on improving their typing skills. We started using a new program this year called Typing Club with much success. This self-paced program uses a row-based approach to teaching the keyboard with embedded games to make learning fun and engaging. While typing, the hand-guided keyboard on the screen makes it easy for students to learn finger-key associations, ensuring that keyboarding becomes a

comfortable, automatic skill. Learning to type can improve writing skills, which are used in many other subjects/classes. The act of typing also hones a student's visual-motor skills, which can translate well to playing an instrument or handwriting. This program allows the students to earn stars, up to 5, for each lesson and shows them accuracy and speed. They have really enjoyed

seeing their own progress and having friendly competition with their peers during typing lessons this year!

Typing Club is only a fraction of what we do in Tech. The second part of class is always something engaging and fun! We have been using a variety of Robotics, manipulatives, applications, software, and coding. The students learn about everyday

technology by using programs on their own, and experimenting with project-based learning. These opportunities will help them to build problem solving and modern craftsmanship skills while allowing them to have creative expression.

It is so hard to believe we are half way through the year! I am looking forward to the rest of the year in Technology!



LEGO LEAGUE

Mrs. Loucks and Miss Dunham

This year, Lego League took two teams to the annual competition in Allegany on January 18. The “B-R Lego Beasts” and the “B-R We’ve Got the Legos” were made up of 14 third and fourth grade students who competed against 15 other regional teams made up of 3rd through 8th graders. The teams started practice right away in the beginning of the school year once a week and then twice a week as the competition grew closer. Collectively, the teams had to build the entire competition field to practice on. After that, each team needed to build a unique robot and program the robots by coding them, using the Lego Education SPIKE application to complete tasks within the playing field.

During the event, each team competed in three separate rounds where they had two and a half minutes to complete as many of the 20 challenges possible, side by side against different teams each time. In addition to the robotics portion of the competition, teams had to choose one of the three problems listed in the engineering book to research, create a project, then

present a solution to the problem. This is called the innovation project, and is a large portion of the scoring process and takes about 30 minutes to present to the judges.

Both teams did a great job, made some new friends, and learned a lot while attending the competition!



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.



TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

Parents are reminded that written requests for transportation to non-public schools must be received by April 1, 2025, to be eligible for the 2025-26 school year. Please send requests to:

Jeff Margeson, *Superintendent*
Bolivar-Richburg Central School
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that we are already past the halfway point of the school year! As I settle into my role as the Secondary Principal at Bolivar-Richburg, it has been an exciting and rewarding experience! We have amazing students and staff doing great work every day. I am so grateful that I was chosen to join this team!

Being a part of a school community that is the center of small-town life highlights the importance of education. Education provides the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to create positive change in the world. By investing in education, we invest in our future, empowering individuals to unlock their potential, fostering inclusive communities, and driving progress in every sphere of life.

As we move into the third quarter, we continue to invest in our students, their futures, and our communities by:

- Inducting students into our chapters of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society
- Recognizing our student athletes
- Preparing our students in grades 6-8 for the spring NYS computer-based testing in ELA, math, and science (grade 8 only)
- Adding new options from our business, science, and English departments that are sure to excite our students
- Preparing students for their Regents exams that are right around the corner in June
- Working to support the whole child by focusing on our students' social-emotional needs
 - o Our middle school staff continues to use our PBIS system to reinforce positive behaviors by awarding Wolverine Bucks for students to purchase prizes with
 - o We are making improvements to our advisement time by ensuring that students are assigned to teachers who can provide them with academic support and/or academic enrichment based on their needs
 - o Teachers are carving out time during advisement to focus on building relationships with our students

We want our students to have a connection to school that allows them to feel supported and welcome. By focusing on academics as well as social-emotional needs, we are investing in our students' futures.

E-SPORTS TEAM COMPETES AT FALL TOURNAMENT

The Bolivar-Richburg E-Sports team wrapped up their fall season with an impressive showing at their latest tournament, demonstrating great sportsmanship and teamwork. The team secured first place in *Mario Kart* and earned second place in *Super Smash Bros*.

In addition to the competition, BOCES representatives spoke to participants about an upcoming trip to RIT this spring, where students will have the opportunity to learn about designing gaming characters.



GUIDANCE NEWS: 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, and information sent out to students from teachers, counselors and other staff to your child.

- 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. You can even add it as a mobile app on your phone 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 login, or sign in together 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 notifications so that they are aware when staff are sending out not only assignments, but other important messages. IF NOTIFICATIONS ARE TURNED OFF, YOUR CHILD IS PROBABLY MISSING OUT AN 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 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!**

SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS FOR JUNIORS

This website has all of the information for the spring national college fairs and how to register to attend virtually or in person: <http://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 18, 2025. All juniors will be invited to attend this event. We will be busing interested students over from 8:45 to 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. In March, I will be going over the college and career selection process in English classes with sophomores and juniors, updating resumes, and exploring careers of interest. I will share those lessons out with parents and guardians on our guidance website and in ParentSquare.

There are several college visits coming up for grades 10 and 11 at the end of February and during the month of March. Visiting campuses is a critical way to learn about all they have to offer students.

PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGES?

Please contact the Guidance Office at 585-928-2986 if you or your children have a phone number, e-mail address, custody order, 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 to have for possible health or safety precautions to stay in communication with you.

FINANCIAL AID REMINDERS FOR SENIORS: THE NEW BETTER FAFSA

The rollout of the second year of the “New, shorter, better FAFSA” financial aid app has gone well! The programming glitches have been fixed and it should take most families less than an hour to apply for financial aid. 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 NYS 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 HS Guidance website. At this link you will find a lesson called “The Basics of Financial Aid” which provides some detailed step-by-step directions for completing financial aid. Mrs. Bean presented financial aid info to seniors in Economics class in December. **PLEASE CONTACT MRS. BEAN IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR HELP. ALSO, ANY LOCAL COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE WILL ASSIST WITH QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.**

SAT AND ACT UPDATE FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SOPHOMORES AND 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 who wish to familiarize themselves with the test time limits and style of questions. It is recommended to check colleges of interest websites to see if SATs/ACTs are required. 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 can 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Our local scholarship applications are linked electronically on our Guidance website, which can be accessed via the following QR Code:



On this page 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 December 2nd, 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 as often they 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!**



10TH AND 11TH GRADERS TO SELECT COURSES FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

During the months of March through May, sophomores and juniors 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 for students in grades 10 and 11. However, parents are more than welcome to set up an appointment to be present when I 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. A course description booklet will be available

on the Guidance Website soon and linked in the students' Microsoft Teams for grades 10 and 11 called "Guidance Info" to assist them in making wise choices regarding their course selections. The current course description booklet can be found by scanning the QR code shown to the right.



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

SUSTAINABLE LIVING & AGRICULTURE

Our Sustainable Living & Agriculture class joined students from Genesee Valley Central School for a tour of two local dairy farms. At Willow Creek Farm in Belmont, we saw robotic milking in action and observed an AI tech inseminating a cow. Then at Sunny Cove Farm in Alfred, we learned about their raw milk CSA and farm store. We also had the chance to interact with baby cows at both farms.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On Monday, January 13, the Bolivar-Richburg Chapter of the National Honor Society proudly welcomed seven new members. To earn this prestigious honor, juniors and seniors must maintain a cumulative high school average of 91% or higher while also demonstrating excellence in character, leadership, and service.

As part of a cherished tradition, senior members dedicate a floral centerpiece to someone who embodies the values of the National Honor Society. This year, the honor was given to Mrs. Sweeten, a Bolivar-Richburg math teacher retiring this year after more than 30 years of service.

Congratulations to this year's inductees: Emma Sisson, Danika Loucks, Jayna Thomas, Rylee Whiting, Starlyn Kisel, Hailey Copenhaver, and Azkadellia Mitchell (pictured left to right).



BOLIVAR-RICHBURG'S ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKER

Kyle Ingalls, a former BRCS student, CPA, and CFO of Buckingham Properties in Rochester, visited Mr. Emery's Career & Financial Management and Accounting classes as a guest speaker. It's always great to have alumni back to share their expertise with our students.



We are wrapping up a successful Winter Sports season!

The following teams will be recognized by New York State as Scholar Athlete teams: Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' Volleyball, and Competitive Cheer. These teams maintained a combined GPA of 90% or above during their seasons.

Our wrestling season just concluded. We had two individual champions in Tayvn MacDonnell, and Teegan Sibble. They also had athletes move on to super-sectionals. Teegan and Tavyn were both names MOW's of their respective tournaments.

In Boys' Basketball, Landon Barkley scored his 1000th point, becoming the 7th player in Bolivar-Richburg history to achieve that accomplishment. We have also seen successful seasons out of our Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams, Boys' Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Indoor Track and Field.

At the due date for this newsletter most teams have not completed in sectionals.

Spring sports sign-ups have begun with varsity and JV practices starting on March 17th. Please sign up using the signup link on the athletic calendar. Sports physicals for next school year will be taking place toward the end of May. Your students will be given opportunity during their gym classes to sign up for school sports physicals. These are provided to your students at no cost. You can also obtain a physical from your own physician at your own expense. Please provide a copy of this physical to the school nurse. If you do not want your child to receive a school physical for sports please contact the Athletic Office or Nurses Office and we will make note of this.

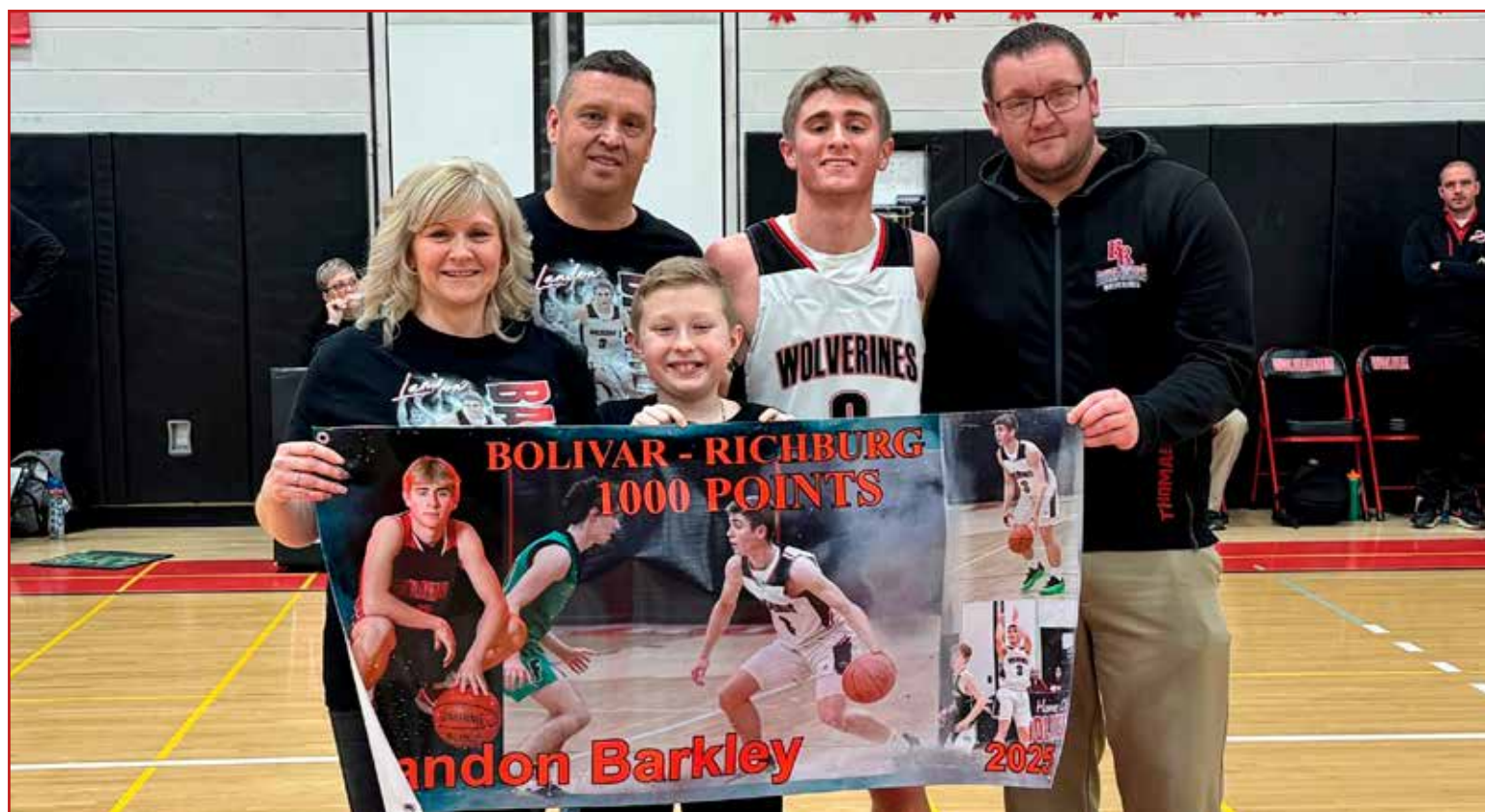
For complete schedules of the spring season, check out the Athletic Calendar on the school's website. You can also sign up to receive text or e-mail notification on all of your favorite Wolverine sports teams.



Be Loud... Be Proud... Be Positive...

1,000TH POINT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Landon Barkley on scoring his 1,000th point on February 4, 2025!



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

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HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

On Friday December 20, sixty-two 7th-12th grade music students had the opportunity to attend the Holiday Pops Concert by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus.

