



Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
A quarterly newsletter

Fall 2022

Girls Varsity Volleyball had a dazzling, history-making season

Become section champs.
Get to semi-finals. Win
regionals.

There it is. The goals the 2022 Girls Varsity Volleyball team set for themselves. The team wrote them down with a Sharpie on an old volleyball at the start of the season. Now with the season over, the team are section champions. Next year, they have another goal to strive for, winning regionals.



It was a first in school and team history, to become Section 1 Class C Champions.

[*Continue reading: Girls Varsity Volleyball had a history-making season*](#)

RSS fifth graders lend a hand to MOMS

Meals on Mainstreet program helps those in need

The blue Meals on Main Street mobile food pantry van was parked outside of the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School. Inside were boxes filled with produce that would need to be sorted before it could be delivered to those in need. Fortunately, there were several hands available to help — the entire fifth grade class.

Each class came outside to assist, sorting through all the produce—apples, pears, broccoli, bananas and more—and sorting items in large blue bins.



“We really appreciate your willingness to lend a hand,” Denise Cypher, program development manager at MOMS said. “It’s so nice to work in a field where you know you are helping people.”

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, the fifth-grade class had been bringing in non-perishable food items to be donated to MOMS, an endeavor organized by parent Katherine Hallissy Ayalla. Her older son,

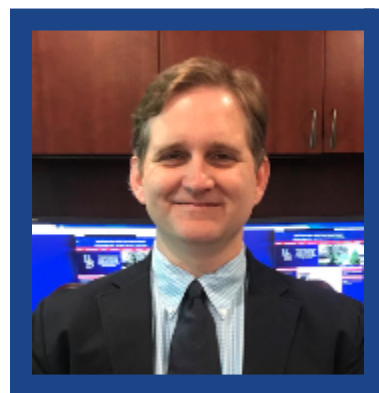
now at Blind Brook High School and Peter, her fifth grader, have been volunteering at the Port Chester-based food pantry with her for several years. She invited the organization to the school so students could learn more about how their donations will help those in the community and what exactly the organization does.

[*Continue reading: RSS fifth graders lend a hand to MOMS*](#)

A Message from the Superintendent

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone! The year has already been so busy and filled with so many wonderful opportunities and achievements amongst our students. It makes me excited to see what happens next!

I want to share my congratulations to the Girls Varsity Volleyball team for their amazing sectional win, becoming Class C champions for the first time in team history. The team worked so hard, and the community support was wonderful to see. Next year the team will be playing in Class D, and it will be fun to see where they go next.



Further congratulations are offered to the Blind Brook High School Drama Club for their wonderful performance of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The students did an amazing job and should be very proud of their part in the production.

The day before Thanksgiving was a busy one for students at the Blind Brook Middle School. Students and staff engaged in a day of community service for the first time. Seventh graders made blankets that will be donated to Toys for Tots, and our sixth graders made handmade cards to send to our troops. Both activities were thoughtful, and I appreciate their willingness to help the broader community.

Slowly but surely the construction at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School continues with the final touches being completed. This fall the official sign out front was put in place, the new entranceway into the school is open and our bus driveway is in full operation. We are planning to host a Grand Opening in the coming weeks and look forward to sharing with the community how amazing our elementary school building looks.

No doubt the coming weeks will be busy with school activities and holiday preparations. As always, thank you for your continued support of the work we and our students and staff do each day. I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season!

Dr. Colin Byrne
Superintendent

New RSS art space is perfect to inspire students

By the time Betsy Murphy got to her student-free planning period in the late morning at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, she had already taught three enthusiastic art classes. While students had cleaned up at the end of their classes, there were bits of paper on the floor, some paint smeared on the tables and a few bits of glue too.

“Your hands are messy,” one student had told her as she passed out pieces of colored paper to a kindergarten class earlier.



“You’re right, because I am an art teacher,” Ms. Murphy told the student.

Messes are all part of the creative process.

Continue reading: New RSS art space is perfect to inspire students

A Day of Giving: BBMS enjoys its first community service day

Traversing the halls of Blind Brook Middle School showed a cozy atmosphere. Not only were students, and some staff, dressed in uber comfortable clothes as it was “Pajama Day,” but many of them were engaged in a cozy craft — making blankets.

Students were participating in the school’s first Community Service Day,



held on the half day before the Thanksgiving break.

The day before a long break can be challenging, Principal Seth Horowitz said. Class time is condensed and it's difficult to delve deep into lessons. As an alternative, staff decided to find a way to keep students busy and active with an eye toward helping others. They decided that during each half day throughout the year, they would work on a community service project or projects.

This year seventh graders made no-sew blankets. The school's PTA had donated funds, Mr. Horowitz said, and he used the money to purchase bolts of fleece fabric.

Students then cut the material to a certain size before cutting three-to-four-inch fringes on each side. The final step was to tie the fringe pieces together so that the two pieces of the blanket stayed connected.

[Continue reading: A Day of Giving: BBMS enjoys its first community service day](#)

Junior Jellies enjoy mentoring program from the high school Jellyfish

It was just another creative day for the Junior Jellies. The what?

The Junior Jellies are a group of elementary students from the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School who once a week after school take over the Fab Lab at BBHS joined, of course, by another group of students, the Jellyfish.



[Continue reading: Junior Jellies enjoy mentoring program from high school Jellyfish](#)

Learning from the best

SCAD representatives inspire photography students

Photography teacher Paige Buonocore's students had special guests visit Blind Brook High School recently, an experience that inspired students' creativity.

Visiting students on Oct. 28 were representatives from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Assistant Director of Admission Emma Schutte and Ryan Debolski, SCAD Photo Professor in Atlanta, met with students in the Photo Portfolio, Advanced Photo Portfolio and Advanced Placement classes.



“SCAD is one of the best art schools in the country and is known for their expert and contemporary teaching,” Ms. Buonocore said.

Continue reading: SCAD representatives inspire photography students

BBHS students recognized for high achievement by College Board

Three students at Blind Brook High School exemplify how hard work pays off. Seniors Ciella Angel-Lalanne and Estefania Carbo and junior Alex Thompson have earned honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs, specifically the National Hispanic Recognition Program this summer.



Ciella Angel-Lalanne



Estefania Carbo



Alex Thompson

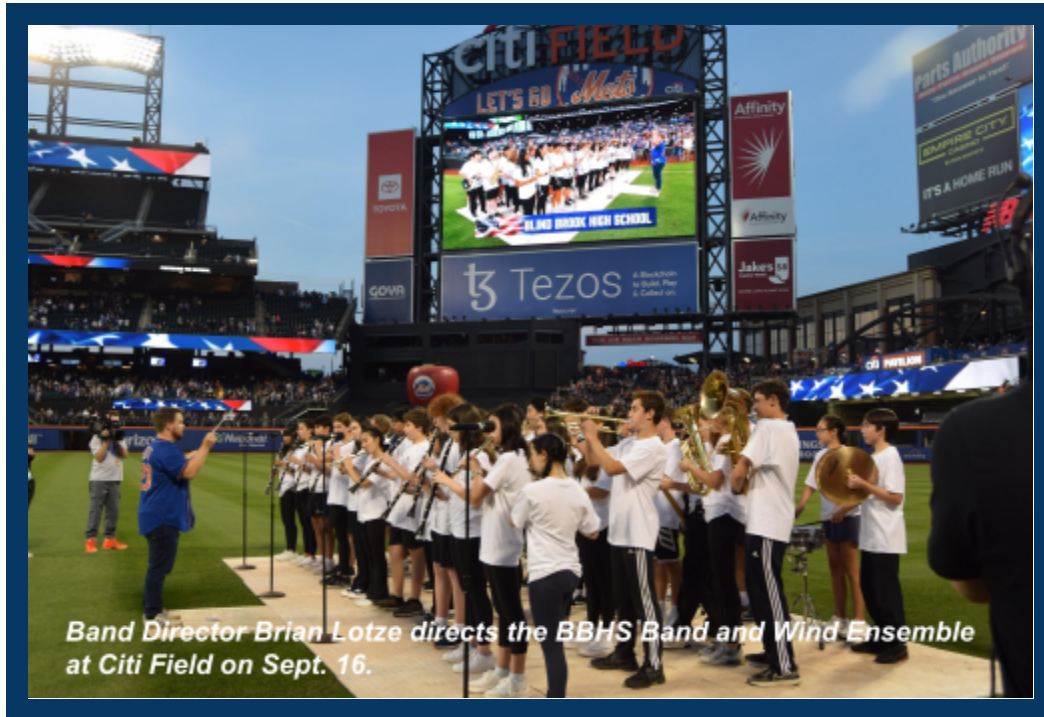
Continue reading: BBHS students recognized for high achievement from College Boards

Blind Brook Breakouts!

Scenes from across our district







Band Director Brian Lotze directs the BBHS Band and Wind Ensemble at Citi Field on Sept. 16.

Upcoming Events

RSS Winter Concert, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

Early Dismissal, Dec. 23

Holiday Recess Dec. 26-Jan. 2

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