



Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
A quarterly newsletter
Summer 2023

Congratulations to the BBHS Class of 2023!



Their caps were flying earlier than usual due to a strong breeze, but it didn't prevent 115 new graduates of Blind Brook High School from completing the final step in their journey on Wednesday, June 21 at the district's 2023 Commencement ceremony.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

BBMS sends eighth graders off to their next educational chapter



The Blind Brook Middle School eighth grade moving up ceremony began with a “Whoooo!” from Principal Seth Horowitz as the students took their seats during a ceremony held on June 21.

The enthusiasm continued throughout the event as the students were celebrated for their hard work and offered congratulations and best wishes for whatever comes next.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Bluebirds are on their way to building the armor to serve them in life



In all, 75 fifth grade Bluebirds took flight. They received certificates as they bid farewell to their elementary school and officially became rising sixth graders. The ceremony was held on the athletic field of the Blind Brook Middle/High School, where they will be students next year.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Top students are ready for the next step at UPenn

When Blind Brook High School seniors Ciella Angel-Lalanne and Ben Messafi arrive on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in the fall they'll each see at least have one familiar face there as they adjust to life as freshmen.

Ciella is looking forward to studying linguistics and political science. Ben is leaning toward international relations or political science.

Ben was joined at the recognition ceremony by Superintendent of Schools Colin Byrne and Board of Education member Scott Jaffee. Ciella was unable to attend. The event was sponsored by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents.

"I am extremely proud of the students who were honored this year," Dr. Byrne said. "Both Ben and Ciella have done exceptional work at Blind Brook both in and out of the classroom."

They share the honor of being the two top students in the Class of 2023 and were recently honored at the 2023 Carroll F. Johnson Scholastic Achievement Dinner at the Westchester Marriott.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



District celebrates, honors newly tenured and retired

During its annual Celebration of Teaching, Blind Brook Schools recognized faculty members who were recently granted tenure and celebrated those retiring at the end of the school year.

The June 13 event began with a gathering in the Commons at Blind Brook High School before the crowd adjourned to the auditorium. There each newly tenured recipient and retiree were celebrated. Colleagues took turns praising tenure recipients and sharing how much their retiring colleagues will be missed, considering their 122 years of collective experience.



Click [HERE](#) to read more!

THANK YOU!

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

The proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year passed on June 20, 2023 by 72.2%. I am grateful to the community for prioritizing education.

I do not take this sign of trust lightly and will do everything in my power to make sure that we are responsible yet effective in the use of our financial resources.



I have heard from the community that a long-term financial plan is needed to restore some of the faith that has been lost during this budget season. I will be working with our Board of Education and administration to put provisions in place that will provide our community with comfort in knowing that we will continue to build sound financial budgets for years to come.

I do recognize that this budget vote has been a divisive issue in the community. I am hopeful that providing a more stable environment in our schools moving forward will help the community come together and work as one.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Education, thank you for your continued support of Blind Brook Schools!

Sincerely,

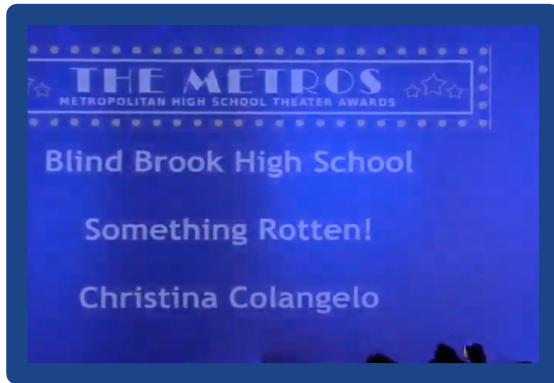
Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations to the BBHS Theater Department for their Metro wins!

This year the school led the nominations with a record 12 honors including Best Overall Production, a first in school history for "Something Rotten!" This honor earned them an opportunity to perform at the awards ceremony. The awards were presented June 12 at the Tarrytown Music Hall and recognizes the best in high school musicals in Westchester, Bergen, Rockland and Putnam Counties.



And the Metro went to . . .



Outstanding Direction: Christina Colangelo
Outstanding Scenic Design: Zach Dore
Outstanding Performance in a Supporting
Female-Identified Role: Chloe Beal – Portia
(Tied with Cecelia Valdez, Lyndhurst High
School, Disney’s Little Mermaid)
Outstanding Technical Achievement: Julian
Silva -Assistant Technical Director and
Sound Console Operator (4-way tie)

BBHS AP students host Science Extravaganza

When the two fifth grade girls wearing special goggles gave each other a high-five, they missed their target, resulting in a fit of giggles. Eventually their coordination aligned and a gentle slap ensued. They giggled and a shouted “yeah!”

The exercise was a representation of how the brain works and can compensate when things are not normal. The goggles caused their vision to be skewed; however, after wearing them a few minutes, their brains adjusted to the altered vision.



They were part of a group of fifth-grade students from Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School who visited Blind Brook High School for the Science Extravaganza. The event has been happening at the school since 2007. Advanced Placement students in Biology, Psychology and Forensics classes sought out simple and fun experiments to perform with the younger students in the hopes of introducing them to the comprehensiveness of science that exists all around them.



Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Second Graders invite friends and family to go Around the World in 60 minutes

Sweden? Greece? Iceland? Ecuador? So many choices of interesting places to visit. Fortunately, those who stopped in at BMPRSS did not have to decide where to go. Thanks to the “All Around the World” research projects done by second graders; guests could visit just about anywhere!

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Blind Brook Beat: A look at recent events



Following a spring storm, this lovely sight was seen outside the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School.



On June 16, BBHS Varsity Cheerleaders hosted 36 students from grades 3-5 at the 1st Annual Spring Cheer Clinic. The clinic was designed by Senior Avery Wolkind as part of her Senior Options work. We hope to see these students in cheer uniforms when they get to BBMS/BBHS!



First Graders at Bmprss enjoyed a Spring Fling! First, they entertained with a choir performance before getting down with a dance!



*Friends gather for a quick snapshot
before the BMRSS Moving Up
Ceremony got underway.*

***Happy Summer! We can't wait to see you
in September!***