



Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
A quarterly newsletter
SUMMER 2024

**CONGRATULATIONS to the
Class of 2024!**



On June 20, 2024 the community celebrated with several special ceremonies. Our Bmprss fifth graders moved up as did our eighth graders and our BBHS seniors graduated! [**Click here to read more**](#)

BBHS' top students get ready for what comes next

The last several weeks of school were a bit of a whirlwind for Blind Brook High School seniors Zoeya Suhail and Joaquin Otero, the top two students of the Class of 2024.

[Click here to read more!](#)



A celebration of long-term careers

There were hugs, flowers, and applause when the Blind Brook Union Free School District held its most recent Board of Education meeting. There was a reason for the celebration: Three teachers received tenure, and several more teachers and staff were congratulated upon their retirement!

[Click here to read more!](#)

James Quigley joins BBHS' administrative team

At the June 18, 2024 Board of Education meeting James Quigley was appointed as the Assistant Principal of the Blind Brook High School for the 2024-2025 school year.



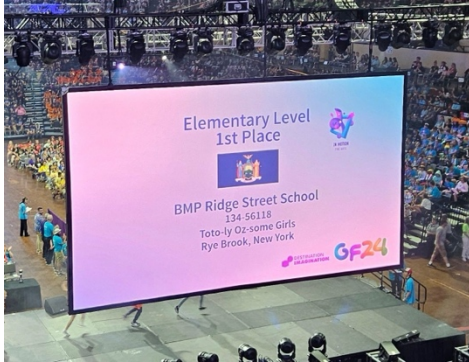
Mr. Quigley has been a social studies teacher at Blind Brook High School since 2016. He served as mentor coordinator for the past two years and has advised several clubs. Mr. Quigley holds a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Long Island University; a Master of Professional Studies in Education - Social Studies & Special Education from Manhattanville College; and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Binghamton University. He holds a NYS School District Administrator Initial Certificate as well as professional certificates in Social Studies for grades 5 - 12 and Special Education for grades 7 - 12.

BMPRSS Destination Imagination Team wins international First Place Prize

The Toto-ly Ozsome Girls, a Destination Imagination team comprised of fifth graders from the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School earned a first-place prize at the Destination Imagination Global Finals that took place in Kansas City, Mo.



[Click here to read more!](#)



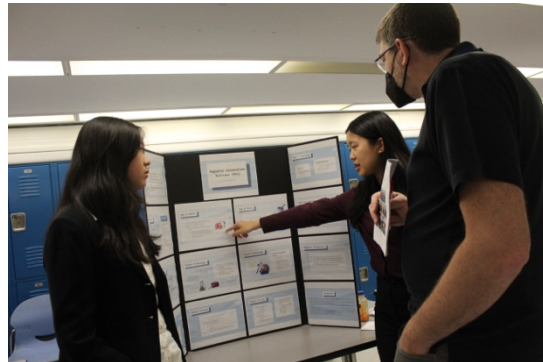
BBHS Science Research Symposium puts curiosity under the microscope

Throughout all four of their high school years, students in the Blind Brook High School Science Research Program have been focused and committed. On May 23, they shared their work with the community during the Science Research Symposium.

Four seniors presented their research, including Brooke Barnett who shared “Nitrate Exposure and Thyroid Cancer Incidence in California: An Ecological Study,” Joaquin Otero who shared his work “The Use of Tetracistronic Virus-like Particles to Study Ebola Virus in Human Primary Cell Lines,” Jinju Prince, who spoke about “Judgements in the Academic Life,” and Alex Thompson who discussed “Acoustic Monitoring of Anurans in Suburban Forest Area.”



[**Click here to read more!**](#)



BBMS Drama Club presented student written original works

Lighting cues, stage blocking, script writing, and stage managing are all things that members of the Blind Brook Middle School Drama Club have learned in the last few months of school. Not to mention stretching their acting chops.

The club presented “From the Page to the Stage,” a series of skits written and performed by club members.



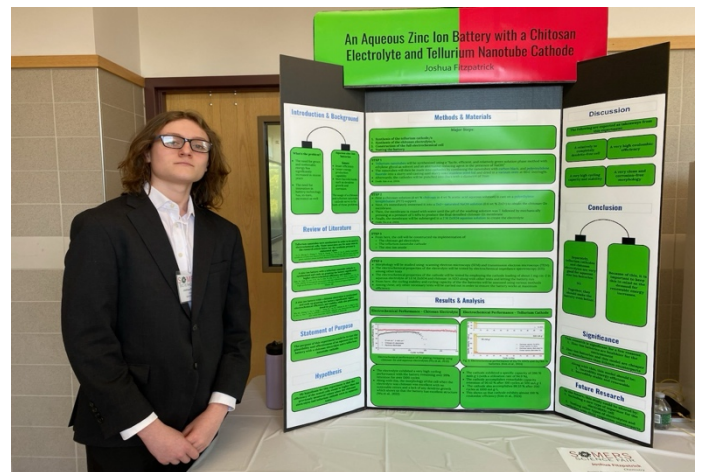
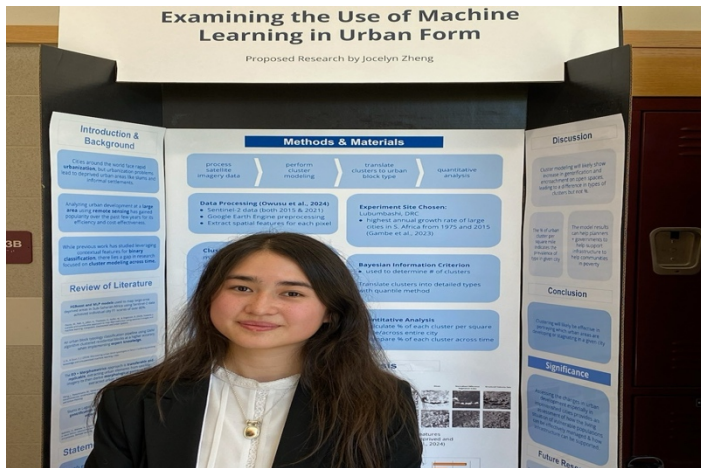
[**Click here to read more!**](#)

DARE Lesson

Thank you to Sgt. Dan Bruno from the Rye Brook Police Department. He visited our fifth-grade students at BMRSS for a DARE lesson on the dangers of vaping. Students learned what it is, the damage it can do, how to avoid indulging and received prizes when answering questions correctly.



Congratulations to Sophomores Joshua Fitzpatrick and Jocelyn Zheng for their wins at the Somers Science Fair!



On Saturday, June 1, five sophomores in Honors Science Research competed in the Somers Science Fair. Joshua came away with a first-place prize in chemistry for his project “An Aqueous Zinc Ion Battery with a Chitosan Electrolyte and Tellurium Nanotube Cathode,” and Jocelyn was awarded a third-place honor in Computer Science for her project

“Examining the Use of Machine Learning in Urban Form.”

The 7th Annual Somers Science Fair is the only science research competition of its kind in New York that provides the opportunity for first-year science research students to present their intended research design in a formal setting.

Where in the World were BMPRSS Second Graders?

They were in several intriguing places around the world! And they later shared what they learned with family and friends.

[*Click here to read more!*](#)



A Message from the Superintendent

This has been one of the hottest year ends that I can remember! As you gear up for summer I hope that you are staying cool.

The year has passed so quickly. We faced many unexpected challenges but, thanks to the strength of our community, we overcame them and had a successful year! I am extremely proud of the great work that our administrators, faculty and staff did in support of our students' education. I am also thankful for the support from the PTA, our parents, guardians and community members who helped to make this year such a success!



The repair work on the football/soccer/lacrosse field continues on schedule! As was mentioned at several recent Board of Education meetings, the District will have to present a bond to the community to fix the remainder of the fields and grounds. The Board and I are reviewing other potential urgent facilities matters and are looking to present information to the community as soon as possible.

Please be on the lookout for information and meetings related to the potential bond this summer. We will be looking for your feedback on what is proposed.

To ensure community access to school facilities and personnel while maintaining security and safety during the summer months, please be aware of the following schedules. All school buildings and offices will be accessible by appointment from July 1st to September 3rd. Please do not come to any building without an appointment. We do not have dedicated staff to open doors and travel through hallways may be hazardous due to scheduled summer work that is going on in our buildings.

The Business Office will be open from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Pupil Personnel Services Office @ RSS will be open from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School will be open from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Blind Brook Middle School will be open from 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Blind Brook High School will be open from 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

On behalf of the Board of Education and the administration, I wish you a happy and fun-filled summer!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Colin Byrne
Superintendent of Schools*

In Memoriam

The Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District was saddened to learn of the passing of Bruno Ponterio earlier this year. Mr. Ponterio was a cornerstone of education in Blind Brook and a lifetime supporter of our schools.

From 1970 to 1995 Mr. Ponterio served as Principal of Ridge Street School, which was later renamed, the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, following his retirement. Throughout his career in the district, Mr. Ponterio also served as interim superintendent an astonishing seven times.

Mr. Ponterio will be fondly remembered for his commitment to the school district and the children in his care.



The school's namesake, Bruno M. Ponterio, returned to BMRSS for the Grand Opening of the renovated school in January 2023.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 10, Board of Education Meeting
Bond Discussion Kickoff
6:30 p.m., MS/HS Library

Wednesday, August 7, Board of Education Meeting
2023/24 Goals Update
6:30 p.m., MS/HS Library

Wednesday, August 28, Board of Education Meeting
2024/25 Goals
6:30 p.m., MS/HS Library

First Day of School, Tuesday, September 3, 2024

