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SUPERINTENDENT DR. COLIN BYRNE READY FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

Several faculty and staff members when asked to share a word they felt describes Superintendent Colin Byrne, the word that came to mind was “calm.”

It was with a calm and steady hand that Dr. Byrne led the district through some challenging times, including the COVID pandemic aftermath, stepping in unexpectedly as interim superintendent and later a construction project that did not go as planned.

He is ready to take his “calm” demeanor into the next chapter, as he retired at the end of the school year.

Click here to read more



DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NEW SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Brian J. Alm was appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Blind Brook Board of Education and introduced to the community at a special meeting on Wednesday, May 21. The appointment is effective July 1, 2025.

Dr. Alm will succeed Dr. Colin Byrne, who began in the district as a technology teacher and went on to serve as the Director of Technology and eventually Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Interim Superintendent, and in 2022 was appointed Superintendent.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Alm to the Blind Brook community,” said Jeffrey Mensch, President of the Board of Education. “His blend of innovative thinking and strategic leadership is exactly what our district needs to guide us into the next phase of growth and excellence.”

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings, Blind Brook Learning Community!



I'm thrilled to officially begin my journey with you on July 1st. As this newsletter so clearly demonstrates, there are incredible things happening here in Blind Brook—and I feel truly lucky to be joining such a vibrant and dedicated community.

This summer, as part of my Entry Plan, I'll be holding one-on-one and small group meetings with members of the community. I warmly invite you to join me for a conversation. Whether you're a student, parent, educator, alum, or lifelong champion of Blind Brook, I want to hear from you! Feel free to come alone or bring a friend or two. Your perspectives are invaluable as I begin learning about the district from every angle. To set something up, just reach out to Vivian Groccia using the contact information below—she'll make sure we find a time.

Over the next several weeks, I'll be listening, learning, and working closely with our talented administrative team to gear up for an inspiring year ahead. In the meantime, I hope you're able to enjoy some sunshine, a good book or two, and well-earned time with friends and family.

See you soon!

Regards,
Dr. Brian J. Alm
Superintendent of Schools

Vivian Groccia. (vgroccia@blindbrook.org)
Secretary to the Superintendent/District Clerk
Blind Brook-Rye UFSD
914 937-3600 x1001

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MOVING ON







The last week of school saw several student groups celebrated as they transition to a new phase in their educational journey. Tuesday, June 24, 2025 was a busy day as our fifth grade Bluebirds flew the nest in a Moving Up ceremony, our eighth graders said goodbye to middle school in a Moving Up ceremony of their own, and finally, the Blind Brook High School Class of 2025 enjoyed their commencement.

Read more about the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School Fifth Grade. Moving Up *here*

Read about the Middle School Moving Up *here*

Read about the Blind Brook High School Commencement *here*

See more photos from these special events on page 9

BBHS' TOP STUDENTS ARE READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

When senior Charlotte Zelin walked into the Blind Brook High School library to discuss her plans for the future she was wearing a University of Chicago hooded sweatshirt. A few days later Abigail Goldstein had a hoodie of her own on, one with "Virginia" across the front.



Charlotte will be attending the University of Chicago and intends to major in molecular engineering and economics. As for Abigail, she'll be off to the University of Virginia and plans to study pre-med.

The two were named the BBHS Senior Class Top Students. The announcement came during the 2025 Carroll F. Johnson Scholastic Achievement Dinner held last month. The dinner is sponsored by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents (LHCOSS) and was held at Villa Barone in Mahopac.

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CELEBRATION OF TEACHING RECOGNIZES TENURE RECIPIENTS, THOSE RETIRING

In what was described by Board of Education President Jeffrey Mensch as "everyone's favorite meeting," the board met for the final time this school year on June 17. This time the district's business was of a celebratory nature, where they conferred tenure on several qualified staff and administrators and recognized and thanked the staff who were retiring.

Click here to read more











TWO DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAMS BRING HOME PRIZES AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION





Two Destination Imagination teams are celebrating victories in a recent international competition. The Dazzling Six Bananas, a group of fourth graders at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School won First Place and The Toto-ly Oz-some Girls, comprised of sixth graders at Blind Brook Middle School, received a fifth-place prize. Both teams competed in the 2025 Global Finals in Kansas City, MO in the Fine Arts Challenge.

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SENIORS GAIN ' REAL WORLD' EXPERIENCE WITH SENIOR OPTIONS PROGRAM

Senior Options, a program at BBHS that has been in place for years, offers graduating students a taste of working in a field of interest.

"It's for them to really network, find a profession they are interested in," said Jon Ambrosio, co-coordinator of the program. "They get a glimpse of what they will do, it's a deeper dive."

Following several weeks of being "in the field," students share with the community the work they did and the experience they gained.

Click here to read more





A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON AVOIDING STEREOTYPES PRESENTED AT BBMS

Kendell Pinkney is a playwright and producer. He's also a rabbi. And a black man.

"But what am I really," he recently asked a group of Blind Brook Middle School students during a special assembly. "I am a storyteller."

It is something, he said, that each one has in us and if we share our own personal stories, we can begin to not only get to know one another but begin to break down stereotypes.

Click here to read more



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TEACHER EXPANDS HER RESUME TO INCLUDE AUTHOR



For FLES teacher Jasminne Paulino, she has always considered herself a writer. She said as a child she often spent time organizing her thoughts on paper and writing out questions to ask.

"Writing," she said, "is a space that allowed me to be me."

All of that time spent with pen to paper has now been formalized in her debut novel, *The Extraordinary Orbit of Alex Ramirez*.

Click here to read more

LET'S HEAR IT FOR SHAKESPEARE!

Seventh graders were introduced to Shakespeare, first by slowly stepping into his language, then reading "A Midsummer Night's Dream." They were then instructed to write their own version of the play. The class later performed their original work!













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END OF YEAR FUN!



The BMPRSS Night of Music had a spooky theme!



Saladbration at BMPRSS is an annual event where they celebrate the great veggies they have grown in the school garden!



The Senior Walk at BMPRSS was a great way for the Class of 2025 to recall their younger selves!







Senior Prom 2025!



The BBMS members of the Select Chorus and Select Band performed and received ratings of Superior at the Trills and Thrills Music Festival at Lake Compounce!

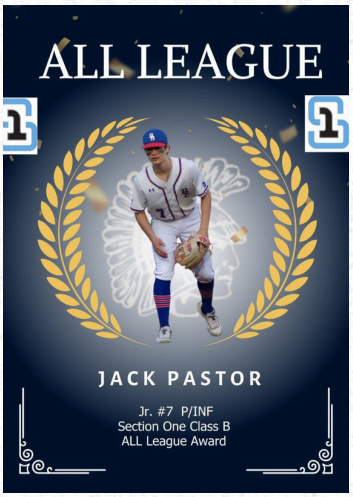
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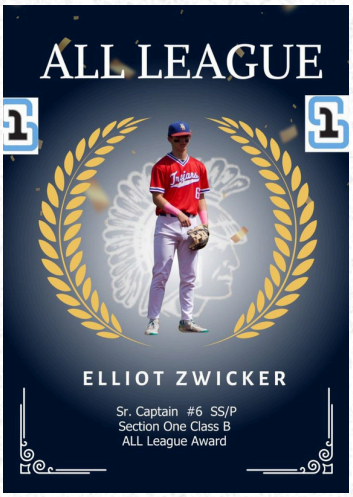
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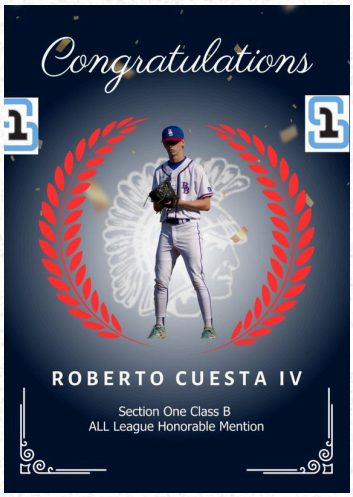
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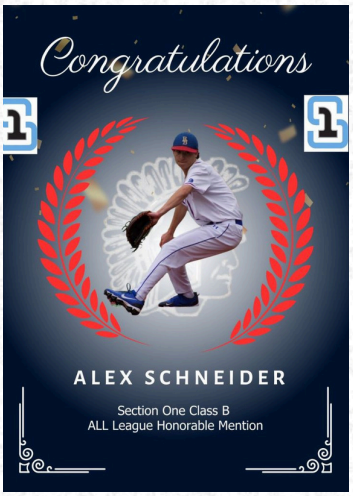
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALL-LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS











Sena Tarnoff competed in the New York State Track Championship! She finished 10th in the 100 and 200 meters.





Congratulations to all our seniors who were honored during the Spring Senior Athletic Banquet!

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BMPRSS Moving-Up






BBMS Moving-Up







BBHS Commencement

We wish all of our families a healthy and safe summer! We can't wait to see you in the fall!

For more information visit our website, www.BLINDBROOK.org
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