WINTER 2026

THE BLIND BROOK

BEACON

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Blind Brook Community,

As winter slowly loosens its grip, I am reminded of the special rhythm this season brings to our schools. While we wait for the warmth to return, the colder days invite us to slow down just enough to appreciate the warmth found within our classrooms — in the laughter of students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnerships we share with families.

The months behind us have been filled with meaningful learning, creative expression, and moments that reflect the very best of our community. From engaging classroom projects to stage performances and athletic events, our students continue to impress us with their curiosity, resilience, and kindness. Each day, they demonstrate that growth happens not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.

There are many things to celebrate, including the delightful stage performance by our middle school of "The SpongeBob Musical, Youth Edition" and the wonderful production put on by the BBHS Drama Club, "Chicago, Teen Edition."

I want to offer my congratulations to our Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Teams for their outstanding season, which stretched into post-season play with both Varsity teams advancing to the semifinals. While the season may have ended there, we appreciate their hard work, dedication and perseverance on the court.

As we enter budget season, I encourage all members of our community to stay informed, ask questions, and follow along as we outline our priorities for the year ahead. Your engagement and partnership are essential as we work together to develop a responsible budget that supports our students and reflects our shared values. You can view the district's proposed 2026-27 budget *here.*

I would also like to thank our families and community members for your continued partnership. Your encouragement, involvement, and trust make an immeasurable difference in the success of our schools. Together, we create a community where students feel supported both inside and outside the classroom.

As we move through the remainder of the season, I hope you find time to enjoy its simple pleasures and the opportunity it brings to gather, reflect, and recharge. Warmer days are ahead, and with them, new opportunities for learning and celebration.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brian Alm
Superintendent of Schools

Calendar Updates

- **Monday, April 6 – School in Session (to make up for the January 26 closure)**
- **Friday, May 22 – School in Session (to make up for the February 24 closure)**
- **February 23 – Waived; and does not need to be made up**

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS



Congratulations to, from left, **Jocelyn Amelia Zheng**, **Abigail Weintraub** and ***Simon Riley,*** for being named National Merit Scholarship Finalists! The students were selected from 16,000 semi-finalists from throughout the country. Finalists will be considered for National Merit Scholarships in 2026.

BBHS Principal Mark Greenwald set to retire after 31 years in the district

Search for new principal has begun



Principal Mark Greenwald celebrates the Class of 2025.



Principal Mark Greenwald and Assistant Principal James Quigley were all smiles when they set off to chaperone the 2025 Prom.

In a letter shared with the Blind Brook community last month, Blind Brook High School Principal Mark Greenwald announced that he will retire at the end of the 2025–2026 school year, closing an extraordinary chapter defined by connection, commitment, and community.

"I will be retiring from my role as Principal of Blind Brook High School effective July 1, 2026, bringing to a close a chapter that has meant more to me than I can easily put into words," Mr. Greenwald wrote.

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Principal Mark Greenwald

This year marks Mr. Greenwald's 40th year in education, including 31 years dedicated to the Blind Brook School District. Over those three decades, he has been not only an educator and leader, but a familiar and steady presence in the lives of generations of students and families.

Mr. Greenwald began his journey in Blind Brook in 1995 as a social studies teacher. Over the years, he served as Department Coordinator, Assistant Principal, and most recently, Principal of Blind Brook High School. Each role, he reflected, gave him the opportunity "to grow, to learn, and most importantly, to work with extraordinary people."

Throughout his career, Mr. Greenwald has emphasized that schools thrive because of the relationships within them. "I am deeply grateful to the thousands of students I have taught and to the families who trusted me to care for, support, and educate their children," he wrote, noting that the bonds formed here extend far beyond the classroom.

Blind Brook has also been his home in the fullest sense of the word. Mr. Greenwald and his wife, Stephanie, chose to raise their family in Rye Brook, where their daughters, Melanie and Chloe, attended Blind Brook schools from elementary through high school. In a true reflection of community, he even had the unique joy of teaching his older daughter while she was in middle school.

As he looks ahead to the conclusion of this school year, Mr. Greenwald does so with deep appreciation for the community that has shaped his life.

"Blind Brook has shaped me not only as an educator, but also as a husband, a father, and a member of this community," he wrote. "It has been an honor to grow alongside so many dedicated colleagues, families, and students."

His retirement marks the end of an era, but his impact — seen in classrooms, hallways, and throughout the broader community — will continue to be felt for years to come.

Superintendent Dr. Brian Alm has begun the search for a new high school principal, noting that as of early March, initial screenings of candidates have been completed. He said preparations have begun to have a slate of candidates meet with stakeholders in the weeks ahead.

Food trucks, food trucks and more food trucks!

Fifth grade Bluebirds develop creative, and delicious, entities

If you weren't hungry before visiting the fifth grade wing at the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street School, you likely were by the time you left.

Recently, the fifth graders engaged in a creative endeavor, where they developed a food truck business—not only designing an actual cardboard truck, but also determining a menu, a name for the business and more. They then invited guests in to view their work. The project encouraged students to apply and develop their math skills, including addition, subtraction, multiplication and more.

"This project was a collaborative effort between 5th grade math and science teachers, Art teacher Betsy Murphy, Computer teacher Tracy Ascensio and DICE Coordinator Aida Rosenbaum. Students integrated skills across content areas to design, create, and present their food truck concepts," explained fifth grade Math and Science teacher Kristin Napolitano.

Students displayed their food trucks on their desks in their classrooms before taking a walk to visit their peers' work.

Christina I. said she developed "Christina's Italian Cuisine." "I put a bunch of Italian food in it. I think it's all good, makes you feel good and cozy," she said of her choice of fare.

Classmate Leia P. said she created "Leia's Seasonal Comforts," offering "things that go well with the seasons because I think people should feel cozy all the time."

Each display consisted of a cardboard food truck that students had decorated with bright colors and their business' logo. Some students added a diorama to the display, often depicting picnic tables and characters eating. Each display was accompanied by a tablet that scrolled through details about the business, including a menu and prices, with additional information about how the students went about developing their projects.

"It was a really fun project," Leia said.

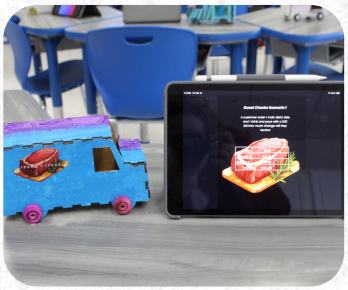
Lucas A. explained he had created "Sunny's Italian Spectacular," for the simple reason that he likes Italian food. He said his business offered fresh and fun food.

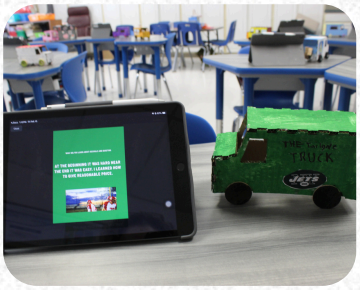
Cooper R. came up with "Wheely Good Pizza," playing off of the transient nature of the business.

He said the most fun part of the project was building the truck itself.















Middle School students learn to navigate carefully when using AI

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, has become so prevalent and often can be deceiving as to whether something is real or not or upholding bias and confirming stereotypes. Additionally, it can offer the user an inherent bias resulting in a distorted or one centered view of the world.

To combat that, Blind Brook Middle School Computer Science teacher Rachel Crognale took a deeper dive, creating the "AI Lab," incorporating lessons on how to use it appropriately while learning what to look out for.

"After covering how generative AI works, how it is trained, and its ethical and moral implications, students engaged in an activity where they identified biases within AI-generated images," she explained.

To get started, Ms. Crognale generated seven images using simple prompts.

"The students then rotated in pairs to each station, reviewed each image and noted their observations," she said.

Students were asked to observe if they noticed bias, stereotypes, or anything unrealistic within the images, such as hair/skin color, gender, age, clothing, etc.

"After they consulted with each other as teams, we debriefed as a class and saw a lot of overlap with their observations," Ms. Crognale said.

"Statements were made like, 'AI thinks only men can be scientists' and 'women can be teachers' and 'why is the gamer a boy?' 'I'm a girl and I play video games,'" the teacher said.

Students continued the conversations focused on race, gender, and the stereotypes the images displayed.

"It encouraged a healthy discussion about how, while AI can be a helpful research tool and thought partner, it is not yet inclusive of all people in the world and we need to review its findings with a critical lens," Ms. Crognale said. "That AI is only as good as its training and while we have made progress even just over the past year, it still has a way to go to be truly inclusive."

In addition, Ms. Crognale continues to share what she is learning with her students when it comes to AI, which can be an overwhelming and sometimes scary tool for users.





"As part of this unit, we also covered data centers and e-waste," she said. "Most recently, we discussed how executives are leaving companies like OpenAI and Anthropic due to safety and security concerns for the users," she said.

"I will usually summarize an article that I read and then have the students lead a discussion about the implications of these situations."

The goal is not to have students refrain from using AI, Ms. Crognale is empowering students to use it safely, healthily and meaningfully, while also enabling them to "flex their critical thinking skills."

District offers students an abundance of competitive activities

Students in the Blind Brook Union Free School District have an opportunity to engage in several activities, from theater to athletics, and a host of other opportunities that offer good old-fashioned competitiveness. And BBHS students have risen to the challenge.



Debate Team



Destination Imagination



Jellyfish Robotics

DEBATE TEAM

Well established at the high school, club advisor Timothy Lewis, who became the high school team advisor in 2018, has also helped develop debate programs at the elementary and middle schools. The middle school team was founded in 2019, and in 2021 high school debaters founded "Bluebirds Debate," a program for fifth graders.

This year, he said, there are 40 participants on the team at the high school, and about 20 who have attended tournaments.

The debate team competes in the Connecticut Debate Association and the New York Parliamentary Debate League. Periodically, the team competes in the National Parliamentary Debate League. For the middle school team, they typically compete in the New York Debate League, which is sponsored by the English-Speaking Union. Mr. Lewis explained that topics in the competitions vary from subjects in the headlines, such as "This House supports U.S. efforts to remove Nicolas Maduro," to other topics from philosophy such as "This House believes that intention ought to be weighed over impact in ethical considerations."

"Others are drawn from eternal questions in art, science, and literature," he said. "The challenge of debate is that students need to be well-versed in a wide variety of compelling topics and be able to identify questions of deep significance across different topic areas."

As to their success, Mr. Lewis noted the team had seven debaters for the Connecticut Debate Association Championship out of the 20 who have competed.

"Our record includes two second place team finishes at tournaments and two first place speaker awards, as well as a fourth place and fifth place team award. At the New York Parliamentary Debate League, we qualified two teams for Octofinals. At the New York Debate League in December, we won fourth place, third place, and first place speaker awards, while getting a third-place team award. Six speakers have qualified for the NYDL championship in April."

As to why he feels students should join the team, Mr. Lewis said it's a great way for them to find their voice.

"One of the privileges I've had as an educator in coaching the debate team is I get to see my students grow up before my eyes," he said.

"They develop their personal philosophies of politics and of life. They learn how to express themselves logically, authoritatively, and passionately in front of an audience. The most experienced of them become community leaders as they coach their peers through the middle school team and the Bluebird program," he continued.

"I've seen students come to the team incredibly shy and unsure of themselves and leave as brilliant and highly engaged leaders ready to take on the world. There are no other activities that I would argue create these results to the same degree."

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Students who enjoy creativity, problem solving, social interaction and more can participate in Destination Imagination. Students at BMPRSS and the middle school have been active on teams for a number of years and have even won national prizes.

"Destination Imagination is an organization that has students develop solutions to complex and open-ended problems through creativity, teamwork, and DIY engineering," explained Travis Santiago, the middle school DI advisor for the past four years. "Each 'season,' teams choose from one of several challenges, and they work on developing solutions for that challenge over the course of several months."

The team also has to prepare for the "Instant Challenge," when during a competition the team goes into a room and is given a task they have never seen before, and are provided with materials that they must use to complete the task at hand.

"They are scored on their solution, use of materials, teamwork, etc.," Mr. Santiago said. "Overall, teams are judged on both the long-term challenge and the instant challenge on the day of competition."

The Toto-ly Oz-some Girls, the team from the middle school, advanced all the way to the Global Finals Tournament in Kansas City for two years in a row. At the 2024 Global Finals competition, while the team was in fifth grade, they came in 1st place in their division. At the 2025 Global Finals competition, when team members were in sixth grade, the team came in fifth place.

"Destination Imagination is a great way for students to bridge the gap between the knowledge that they learn in the classroom, and applying what they learned to the real world," Mr. Santiago said. "And throughout the collaboration process, teams build long-lasting friendships both in and out of school. Lastly, the teamwork and creative problem-solving skills that are learned throughout the Destination Imagination experience can be utilized not only throughout their time in school, but also as students transition into college and/or a career."

The team at BMPRSS call themselves "The Dazzling Six Bananas," a fitting name "because they are dazzling," said team co-advisor, Brigit Hurley, who advises the team along with Lacey Straub.

They were recently preparing for the regional and state competitions coming up in early March.

In addition to the challenges teams are confronted with, they also have an opportunity to compete with teams across the country and the globe, as the program exists in 48 states and 30 countries.

"At our tournaments, student teams get to showcase their unique solutions to science, technology, engineering, arts, math, and service learning Challenges, watch each other present, and celebrate their achievements together.

Students who participate in DI build critical thinking skills, teamwork skills, "creativity, self-esteem, and lifelong friendships," Ms. Hurley said. "Most importantly we want to have fun and evolve as critical thinkers," which Ms. Hurley explained was one of the goals of being a member of DI.

SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Science Research program is well established at BBHS, and for the past three years has been directed by Dr. Jacqui Johnson.

"It is an elective science course, not a team, where students can receive up to 4-courses of college credit as 11th and 12th graders through UAlbany in the High School (UHS) program," Dr. Johnson said.

Under her tenure, Dr. Johnson has expanded the participation in competitions from primarily 12th graders to 10th-12th graders.

"All sophomores in the program, seven total, will be competing in the Somers Science Fair on June 6, 2026, where students present posters of their proposed research," she said.

In the past two years Blind Brook students have had two first-place wins and one third-place win in their respective categories (Chemistry, Behavioral Science, and Computer Science), out of eight presenters. The six juniors and all seniors in the program will present posters of their original research for judging at the Westchester Science & Engineering Fair on March 15, 2026, where nearly 900 students from the region will be participating. Blind Brook has had numerous award winners in the past, with roughly half the students winning awards over the past two years.

This year alone, two juniors, Iris Chen and Daniela Dluzhevskiy, shared a slide-show presentation of their research at the University of Albany in the High School Science Research Invitational. The event not only introduces students to hundreds of fellow students, teachers, mentors and judges, but offers an opportunity for half of them to present to a team of judges across different science disciplines.



Model U.N.

"Last year, two of the seniors in the science research program published articles in peer-reviewed journals, one even as the first author," Dr. Johnson said.

The advisor explained that the program is attractive to "highly motivated students with a strong interest in science," and provides an opportunity for them to immerse themselves in a scientific setting. The first year enables students to explore different fields of research, focusing on one topic of interest and finding a mentor in the community. The second year, juniors will begin their research under supervision of their mentor, and finally, as a senior, students complete their research and present the results and submit their projects to local, regional and national competitions.

The benefits to students are many, Dr. Johnson said, including for their college resumes, developing skills such as time management, gaining an understanding of college level course load as well as developing a relationship with the University of Albany.

SPOTLIGHT: EXTRA CURRICULAR TEAMS COMPETE

ROBOTICS

For the past four years Julie Kenyon has been the advisor for the BBHS Robotics Club, known as Team 4654 or the "Jellyfish." The club, she said, has grown to have more than 30 students participating.

This year there are two student finalists for the FIRST Tech Challenge Leadership Award.

"While we wait to hear the results later this month, the Jellyfish will begin hosting Junior Jellies Engineering, and participate in the Westchester County Expo in May," Ms. Kenyon said. "This year we attended two qualifiers for the FTC, one in Albany and one in Peekskill, where we showcased our design process and outreach events to judges for a qualitative assessment and then battled other teams' robots in this year's challenge, both contributing to our placement for awards."

Team members will also be busy this spring as they host their Junior Jellies engineering program, teaching STEM principles to fourth and fifth graders through a friendly competition.

"We hope that the activities can help foster an early interest in STEM," Ms. Kenyon said. "We are also running Junior Jellies Engineering-type activities at the Engineering Expo and at our school's CreatiCon fair."

Each year the team builds a robot that they use to compete in annual challenges through the FIRST Tech Challenge.

"Members engage in all facets of STEM, including programming, mechanical design, outreach, team brand building and engineering communication," said Ms. Kenyon.

Through the years the team has met with considerable success. Last year the team advanced to the regional competition where they won a 2nd place Innovate Award, and the year before that they won the 1st place Inspire Award -- the grand prize of sorts -- at the Albany Qualifier, which also advanced them to regionals. The team also finished eighth out of 32 teams at regionals last year.

This year, the team made strides by becoming an alliance captain at the Albany Qualifier and competing in the semifinals, where they ultimately placed 3rd in semifinals/6th in qualifying matches. While the team did not qualify for the Excelsior region competition, it did win the 1st place Design award at the Albany qualifier for the elegance of their robot design. The Design Award celebrates the team that demonstrates an understanding of industrial design principles by striking a balance between form, function, and aesthetics while meeting the needs of the season's Tech challenge. A team must be able to describe or demonstrate how their robot is elegant, efficient, simple, executable, and practical to maintain. The design process used results in a robot that is efficiently designed and effectively addresses the game challenge.

"We also won the 1st place Sustain Award at the Peekskill Qualifier. According to FIRST, "sustainability and planning are essential for a FIRST team, because they ensure the program's long-term success. This award celebrates the team that has considered their future team members and has worked to ensure that their team or program will continue to exist long after they have gone on to develop their careers," Ms. Kenyon said.

"All members will grasp a foundation of the engineering process by brainstorming, prototyping, 3D modeling, and assembling our robot throughout our tournament season, and after the season ends, members learn how to pass on those skills to the future generation of Jellyfish through our JJE program," Ms. Kenyon said.

"Members also learn soft skills, like communication between our sub-teams or dealing with conflict, which are transferable to any and every aspect of life. Most importantly, however, the Jellyfish and FIRST are lifelong communities to which alumni return year after year by making appearances at our meetings to mentor current members. By joining our robotics team, members become a part of our jellyfish swarm that lasts beyond their high school years."

DECA

DECA is an international organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Members engage in hands on learning, as well as role play scenarios to help them develop business and leadership skills.

This year there are 77 students representing Blind Brook High School at the New York State DECA competition, and 117 registered members in DECA this year alone.

This school year, DECA has competed at the regional competition, where 15 members placed and qualified for the New York State DECA competition.

Currently members are competing at the state level across a variety of business events, with the hope some of them will qualify for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC), which is DECA's global championship.

Students can join DECA at the beginning of the school year. Members attend meetings, participate in workshops, and prepare for competitive events that align with their interests in business, entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, and hospitality.

Through their preparation and competitive opportunities, DECA helps students gain confidence and gain insight into real-world business experiences.

"DECA provides students with far more than competition experience. It gives them the opportunity to develop leadership, collaboration, and real-world business skills while building confidence in their ability to think critically and communicate effectively. Through DECA, students learn

District Clubs, continues on page 8

District Clubs, continued from page 7

how classroom concepts translate into authentic, real-life challenges," said BBHS Principal Mark Greenwald.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial is a team where many students come together and use all types of analytical skills in the courtroom. Participants are given a case in the fall and spend the next three months creating questions, speeches and all types of ways to eventually present the group's side of the case in a competition against other schools.

Starting in late February the team engages in a trial once a week at the County Courthouse where they compete against other schools.

For example, Blind Brook's defense will go against Lefell's prosecution team. A certain rubric is used to determine which team has the better score and will advance to the next round.

"Our team has about 20 members 12 of whom have roles and six of whom go per trial, six on each side equals 12," explained participant and student Trevor Feist.

"Mock Trial is more than just an academic club where students learn critical thinking and public speaking," Trevor said. "It's also a family and a place where people can find themselves as a speaker or someone more behind the scenes."



Mock Trial

District continues assessment of writing curriculum

Throughout the school year, students' writing across all grades has undergone scrutiny as the district looks to improve communication skills among the population.

Since the start of the school year, the district has finished its literacy implementation at the elementary level and is now pivoting to writing. An evaluation of how writing is taught at the middle school level is underway and assessments of student writing at the high school are ongoing.

"During faculty meetings and early release days, our teachers have been building an inventory of the writing assignments we give in all grades K-12 across all content areas," said Dr. Michael Curtin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment.

Currently the district is now moving into a phase to examine the data it has collected to identify:

- Gaps/unneeded redundancies
- A sensible progression in the rigor and content of writing assignments as students move from grade to grade
- Alignment with the New York State ELA standards

"Based on this work, each building will be setting individual goals for improving the written and spoken communication program," Dr. Curtin continued.

As the district continues its efforts, it has begun to look at all of the tools that are available to help students improve their writing. Among them have been workshops for staff on how they can use AI to support writing instruction.

"The buildings are working on developing generic rubrics that can be used across content areas to provide students with feedback on their writing," Dr. Curtin said of what comes next. "The goal is to develop a unified vision of what good writing looks like at each level so the feedback students receive is consistent. Also, the district will host a Tri-States Consortium visit next year focused on assessing and improving our writing program."

BBHS Drama Club presented "Chicago, Teen Edition"

Earlier this month the BBHS Drama Club performed "Chicago, Teen Edition!"





















BBMS had a blast with "The SpongeBob Musical, Youth Edition"

The performance took place February 6-7.



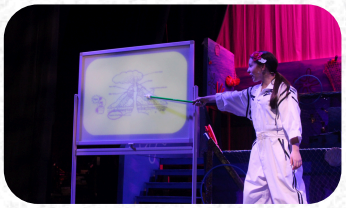
















Scholastic art winners

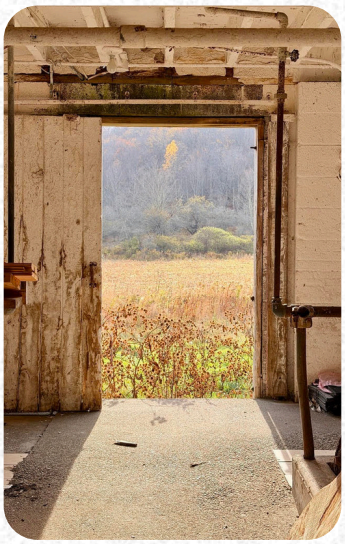
Charlie Sindell, Gold Key



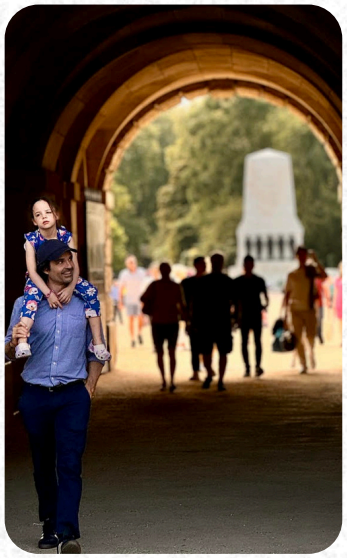
"Yesterday's News"



"Bridging Generations"



"Doorway To The Unknown"

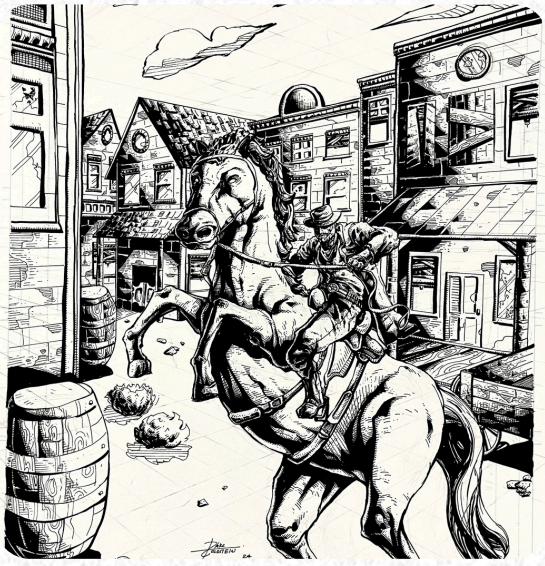


"Taking It In Stride"



Grier Gidez, Silver Key
"Drop of Warmth"

Congratulations to Charlie Sindell and Grier Gidez! Charlie was the recipient of several Gold Key Awards for photography and Grier Gidez, a Silver Key. Blake Goldstein received an Honorable Mention for Comic Book Art and Casey Craighead was also awarded an Honorable Mention. All were recognized with Young Artists & Writers Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a program hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.



Blake Goldstein, Honorable Mention



Casey Craighead, Honorable Mention
"A Precarious Position"

Thank you for a memorable season!

Congratulations to our Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams on a season filled with dedication, teamwork, and heart. While both teams saw their journeys conclude in the semifinal round—the Boys against Woodlands, 76–54, and the Girls against Yonkers Montessori Academy, 63–37—we are incredibly proud of their hard work and perseverance throughout the season!

Thank you to our student-athletes and coaches for representing our school community with pride. Your commitment, sportsmanship, and resilience have meant so much to us all.





This season two of our top basketball players had career records! Girls Varsity Basketball Player Kendall Konigsberg scored her 2000th point, while Boys Varsity Basketball standout Tyler Taerstein scored his 1000th point!



Blind Brook Cheer took home a 3rd place prize in their co-ed division at the New-Ro Cheerleading Competition!





Congratulations Tyler and Sebastian! Senior Tyler Taerstein was named All League/All Section, while teammate Sebastian Lim was named All League/All Class.



Kendall Konigsberg was named the Con Edison Player of the Week in LoHud! She had recently scored 17 points in the Trojans' win over Panas!



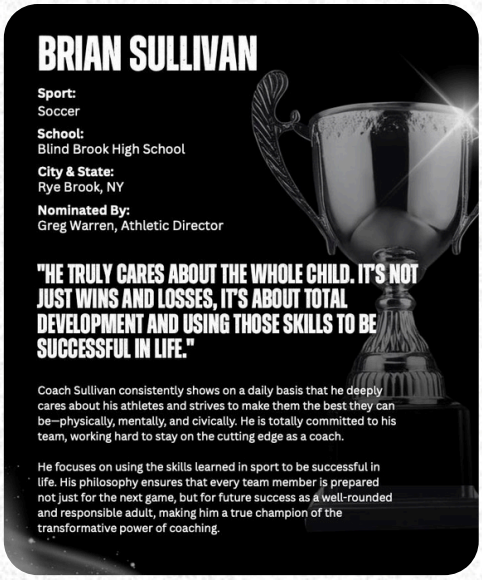
The RTH Titans Hockey team was honored by the New York Rangers Hockey Club for being one of the top fundraisers in the country for NHL Hockey Fights Cancer! The Modified and Varsity teams raised $18,000 plus last season for the American Cancer Society, a huge win! The team attended the NHL Hockey Fights Cancer Night at Madison Square Garden, home of the NY Rangers, and were invited onto the ice. Great job Titans!



Congratulations to Greg Warren, our Director of Health, Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics!

Mr. Warren, was one of ten recipients from across the country to receive the 2025 Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Mr. Warren joined fellow recipients at the 56th National Athletic Directors Conference, conducted jointly by the NIAAA and the NFHS. The celebration of the award recipients took place on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the National Conference Awards Banquet. Read more at https://www.blindbrook.org/departments/athletics



Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, Brian Sullivan, was honored by the AEA Institute for his positive impact on student-athletes. He was among several coaches throughout the country to be named a “Coach of the Year.”

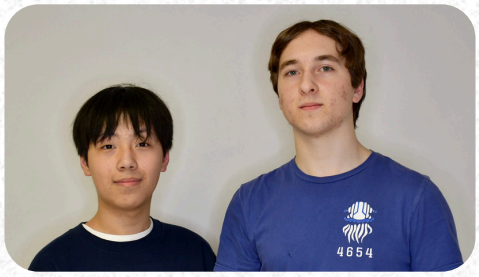
In a letter announcing the honorees, AEA Founder and CEO Eric Orme wrote “in celebrating the Coach of the Year, we recognize those who build men and women of integrity, discipline and effort. These coaches understand that true performance outlasts the game, preparing athletes for success in life, well beyond the field or court.”

Blind Brook High School Athletic Director Greg Warren nominated Coach Sullivan, stating “he truly cares about the whole child. It’s not just wins and losses, it’s about total development and using those skills to be successful in life.”

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



Congratulations to the BBHS Model U.N. delegation!
Earlier this winter 35 members of the BBHS Model U.N. attended a four-day conference hosted by Yale University. It was the first time Model U.N. attended this conference, which included 1,700 kids from all over the world such as Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, and Pakistan. BBHS students participated in diplomacy and presented their unique solutions to problems, some of which are current ones that the real United Nations is trying to handle. The results? Fifteen students won awards and the team was awarded by Yale the "Best Large Delegation" honor!
Best Delegates: Lily Cullagh and Tatum Schwartz
Outstanding Delegates: Hayden Goldstein, Jackie Rosen, and Trevor Feist
Honorable Delegates: Chase Kraut, Daniela Dluzhevskiy, Dora Lopes, Nathan Koslow, Rex Kanner, and Seima Kitano.
Position Paper Winners: Alex Klein, Andy Montvelisky, Devin Goldberg, and James Vnenchak



Congratulations to BBHS' Eric Chen and Sasha Harra who are semifinalists for the FIRST Robotics Dean's List! Good luck to Eric and Sasha in the next round to be finalists!



Congratulations to BBHS' Iris Chen who has been named a 2026 National Young Arts Award Winner in Writing/Fiction for the second year in a row! YoungArts' mission is to identify exceptional young artists, amplify their potential, and invest in their lifelong creative freedom. YoungArts is more than an award; it's a chance to grow as an artist.



Congratulations to, from left, Julia Garofolo and Ruby Deutsch, BBHS' winners of the PTA's Reflections contest "I Belong." Their written work will compete statewide. Good luck as they move forward in the competition!



Trumpeter Kose Nonami will be performing in the Jazz Band in Syracuse and has earned a solo on "All Heart," composed by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. The honor follows his performance at the New York State Band Directors Association.



Jacob Goldowsky and Lianne Ferentz were selected to represent the BBHS Band for the state. The two recently performed at the New York State Band Directors Association.





Congratulations to sixth grader Aurora A. who won First Place, and Second Place winner eighth grader Marina K.! They were among several BBMS students who participated in the American Association of Teachers of Italian-Long Island's annual photo contest, which takes place in October, during Italian Heritage Month. This year's theme was "Honoring the Contributions and Legacy of Italian Immigrants and their Descendants."

Let's read!







PARP Week at BMPRSS!

During PARP Week, Bluebirds were encouraged to Pick A Reading Partner and enjoy 20 minutes of reading time during the week, thanks to an initiative from the New York State PTA. From March 2-6, our PTA sponsored several guest readers who shared fun stories with our students! U.S. State Representative George Latimer, Rye Brook Mayor (and BMPRSS alum!) Jason Klein and Port Chester-Rye-Rye Brook EMS Chief Kenny Barton were among those who shared a great book. Guests also took the time to talk about their jobs and what they enjoy most about the work they do.



Our Bluebirds caught the Olympic spirit during the recent Winter Games! Students used muscle strength, coordination, endurance, skill and perseverance to participate in 10 Winter Olympic events!



"¡Vamos!" or "Let's go!" was the phrase of the day when third graders at BMPRSS learned all about Flamenco and were taught specific Flamenco dances. Instructor Rebeca Tomás of A Palo Seco Flamenco Company based in Tarrytown, has been working with BMPRSS third graders for several years. She visits the school for several weeks to instruct students before they perform for their parents in an evening celebration of the traditional Spanish dance!



Our Bluebirds at BMPRSS enjoyed "World Read Aloud Day!" Held on Feb. 4, students (and staff!) were encouraged to dress up like their favorite book character, select a favorite book to read and enjoy books, books and more books! Some students had an opportunity to tune in while children's author Peter H. Reynolds read his book "Say Something," live from Boston!
"I like libraries and reading. I like reading chapter books, because I can imagine it," one student said after Mr. Reynolds asked why students enjoy reading!



Sixth grade Italian students at BBMS had a special visit from La Befana. As legend goes, La Befana visits children on the eve of January 6th to deliver gifts.



Our BBMS seventh graders were busy helping to create cozy blankets as part of A Day of Service. Students gathered to work on the project. Blankets will be donated to those in need in the community. Our thanks to the PTA for helping to fund this great project!







Students at BBHS donned their togas for a special celebration, the annual Saturnalia Festival! The event, hosted by the school's Latin and Italian classes, is a modern twist on the ancient Roman festival.





We may be wrapping up the winter athletic season now, but students at BBHS sure had fun celebrating our teams at the Winter Pep Rally!



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, Comprehensive Budget Workshop, 8:30 - 1 p.m.,

March 30-April 2, Spring Break

April 15, BBHS Chorus Concert, 6:30 p.m.

April 29, BBHS Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.

May 4, BBMS Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.

May 7, BBMS Select Band and Jazz Ensemble Concert, 6:30 p.m.

May 13, BBMS Chorus Concert, 6:30 p.m.

May 14, CreatiCon

May 15, BMPRSS Band Concert, 7 p.m.

May 19, Annual Budget Vote and School District Elections 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

June 12 BMPRSS "Night of Music," 7 p.m.

CreatiCon 2026!

What is a science fair, children's museum, album release, makerspace, art gallery, and movie screening all in one? CreatiCon!

CreatiCon is a showcase of Blind Brook student-made creations, celebrating the innovative minds from elementary to high school. Come see it for yourself!

May 14th, 5-8pm
Blind Brook MS/HS
840 King Street
Rye Brook, NY