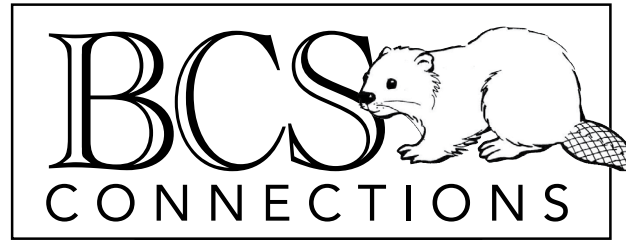


MAY 2026



BUDGET EDITION

A message from the

BOARD OF EDUCATION & INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Brookfield Central School District Parents and Community Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that spring is beginning to push winter aside. This past winter was a good old fashioned one where the snow and cold came and remained consistently for many weeks. We were able to manage using only two of our emergency days despite the consistent snow and longer than typical sub-freezing temperature spells. Our boilers certainly had to work a little harder and will be receiving some attention and updating in our upcoming project. As of March 27, we have three remaining emergency days and if we do not need to use all of them, the district will be giving those days back. Those days have not been decided upon as of yet, however, we will announce any give back days once that is determined.

Though the school year is beginning to wind down, we have had much to celebrate throughout this past winter. We had a terrific, well attended school musical, "Alice in Wonderland Jr.". I congratulate our students and our musical directors (Mrs. Cossette, Ms. Farmer, Mrs. Brennan-Lallier and student director Brody Corbin) for their hard work, commitment and a truly fine performance. Congratulations to our boys' and girls' basketball teams for a successful season, with both teams qualifying for sectional competition. In March, the school community was treated to a highly participated all-school Science Fair. The students did a great job building and presenting their projects for their fellow students and our community. While the school year is winding down, our seniors are gearing up for the next chapter in their life's journey. I wish each of them a successful conclusion to their school careers and much success in their chosen path and future endeavors moving forward.

Our voter approved capital project is slated to begin May 4, with an anticipated substantial completion date of September 27, 2026. As with any project, these dates are subject to product availability and other variables that may present during the project that are unexpected.

Highlights of the capital project include:

Main Building:

- Replace and upgrade clock system, phone system and lighting throughout the building.
- Replace burners and associated equipment in our boilers, with an alternate bid for a replacement of one of our boilers.
- Replacement of kitchen grease trap.
- Replacement of gymnasium interior and exterior doors.
- Replacement of casework in art room.
- Addition of some new playground equipment.

Bus Garage:

- Replacement of two existing entrance doors.
- Upgrades to existing lighting in work bays and storage bays.

Storage Garage:

- Replacement of seven overhead doors and one entrance door.

On May 19, the voters of the district will be voting on the 2026-27 proposed budget and two open Board of Education seats. The Board of Education has been working with district staff to develop a budget that best meets the ever-changing needs of our students, while being mindful of the impact on our taxpayers. At this time, the State is slated to increase Foundation Aid (main funding mechanism for school districts) by 1% over last year's appropriation. For Brookfield, that equates to an additional \$40,000 to this year's Foundation Aid. This is not sufficient, especially when expenses are rising at a 3% or greater rate.

Within the 2026-27 budget, the district is seeking to add a literacy specialist to provide a direct focus on reading instruction, support and intervention. We are also looking to bring back an agriculture teacher and increase our course offerings to students in this area. The district will move to the full-time use of a Special Patrol Officer, currently a half-time position, which Madison County pays for half of the expense. This budget also includes the purchase of a 60-passenger bus and mini-van. These purchases are essential to keep our transportation fleet safe and to minimize the costly repairs associated with aging buses. A 2% tax levy increase is being proposed, which is less than the allowable limit of 2.95% as determined by our tax levy limit formula calculation. A 2% increase equates to an additional \$33,752 to our overall tax levy. We encourage the community's support by coming out to vote on May 19.

I would like to thank the school community for their continued support of the school district and most importantly our students. Educating our children is a joint effort between the school and home, as well as a variety of outside resources aimed to support the needs of our students in their quest to be well-rounded, successful citizens.

Thank you,

Ronald Wheelock

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Board of Education:

Valerie Nolan, President
Cory Grey, Vice President
Dawn Brean
Julie Wratten

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Progress, Pride and Opportunity

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Brookfield Central School District continues to make meaningful progress in student achievement while providing learning experiences that connect classroom instruction with real-world application. Our students, staff and community work together each day to create an environment where students are supported, challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Recently, Brookfield was selected by the New York State Education Department as a Plan-Pilot Spotlight School, recognizing the district's innovative approach to teaching and learning. As a Plan-Pilot school, Brookfield is committed to providing students with authentic learning opportunities that build critical thinking, problem solving and real-world skills.

In addition to this recognition, the district has experienced steady improvements in student achievement. Over the past several years, Brookfield has seen positive gains on New York State grades 3-8 assessments and continued progress in graduation outcomes. These improvements reflect the dedication of our students, the expertise of our teachers and staff and the collaborative work taking place throughout the district to support every learner.

Brookfield also continues to provide engaging opportunities that bring learning to life for students. Programs such as Trout in the Classroom, the Brookfield Science Fair and the 4th Grade Wax Museum allow students to explore scientific inquiry, historical research and public speaking through hands-on, authentic experiences.

Beyond the classroom, Brookfield takes great pride in the strong sense of community that surrounds our school. One example of this connection will be seen this spring as the Brookfield Central School Band once again performs in the community's Memorial Day parade, continuing a long-standing tradition of honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans.

This winter also demonstrated the tremendous spirit and pride that exists within the Brookfield community. Both the girls and boys varsity basketball teams were supported by packed gymnasiums throughout the season, creating an exciting and memorable atmosphere for our student-athletes. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Optimist Cheerleading Club, led by Paula Waffle, for their enthusiasm and dedication in supporting our teams. Their energy and encouragement helped make game nights even more special for our players and fans.

The continued progress at Brookfield is the result of strong collaboration among our students, staff, families, Board of Education and community partners. Together, we remain focused on maintaining a positive school culture, supporting academic excellence and providing opportunities that help every student succeed.

Brookfield Central School is proud of the progress we have made and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to support our students and strengthen our community.

Colleen Rutherford

PREK-12 PRINCIPAL

LANGUAGE IN ACTION:

How Digital Platforms are Bringing Spanish Lessons to Life

Through the Lenguas Club digital platform, our 7th and 8th graders are connecting directly with native speakers from Colombia to bring their Spanish lessons to life. Students have successfully navigated units on everything from personal introductions to regional geography and cuisine. By bridging the gap between language and culture, they are gaining more than just a global perspective; they are enhancing their cognitive development, specifically in the areas of memory and complex problem-solving.



OUR MISSION

The Brookfield Central School District community provides diversity of academic and co-curricular programs/activities with emphasis on the development and demonstration of knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and personal growth for our students and community so that they may reach their fullest potential in an ever-changing society.



BUDGET INFO

OFFICIAL BALLOT
FOR
BROOKFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, BROOKFIELD, NY
MADISON COUNTY **May 19, 2026**

1. Mark in pen or pencil.
2. To vote on the proposition, make a single cross (X) or a single check (✓) in the voting square.
3. To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot, make a single cross (X) or a single check (✓) in the voting square next to the name of the candidate.
4. To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on this ballot, write his/her name on the line under Write-in Candidate.
5. Any other mark, erasure, or tear on the ballot renders it void.
6. If you tear, or deface, or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and obtain another.

PROPOSITION - BUDGET 2026-2027

Shall the Board of Education of the Brookfield Central School District be hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth and not to exceed \$8,573,168 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

YES NO

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

<p>BOARD MEMBER – FIVE (5) YEAR TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Nolan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Write-in Candidate: _____</p>	<p>BOARD MEMBER – THREE (3) YEAR TERM (Vote for ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Isaac Hafelin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Write-in Candidate: _____</p>
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BUDGET HEARING

TUESDAY
MAY 5
7:00 P.M.

BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY
MAY 19
NOON - 8:00 P.M.

2026-2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL – REVENUES AREAS

Tax Levy – In this proposal, the Board of Education continues the policy of implementing small annual tax increases that are designed to avoid periodic large tax increases. To maintain this policy, the proposal anticipates using \$50,000 of the district’s savings thereby resulting in a tax increase of 2% for an increase to the overall tax levy of \$33,752. Please refer to the “Average Cost to Taxpayer Proposed 2026-27 Tax Levy Increase” chart.

State Aid

- Foundation Aid – This is the single largest category of state aid received by BCS. Foundation aid is budgeted at \$4,044,395 resulting in a \$40,043 increase from the prior year.
- BOCES Aid – The second largest category of state aid is based on the cost of programs provided by BOCES to BCS. BOCES aid is budgeted at \$768,604 reflecting a \$111,169 increase.
- Transportation Aid – This is an expense-based aid and is budgeted at \$676,202.
- Building Aid – This aid will decrease by \$7,830 as we have paid off debt and therefore will no longer receive building aid on this debt.

APPROPRIATIONS

The academic success, mental health and overall growth and achievement of our students is always our first priority. Each year, we strive to build a budget centered around our student’s needs, contributing to their opportunities and diversity. We believe this proposed budget accurately reflects our dedication to our students, community and staff.

As you will notice, the program budget accounts for the majority of our school budget. This area is where academic programs, STEM classes, sports and field trips, amongst many other things, are housed. This is the portion of the budget that most greatly impacts our students, although each area of the budget plays its part. We need the Capital budget to keep the building “up and running” and purchase buses and the Administrative budget to maintain organization and direction. The three components of the budget blend together to create a positive and engaging school experience for not only our children but our community as well.

PROGRAM BUDGET
\$6,539,064

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
\$821,543

CAPITAL BUDGET
\$1,212,561

PROGRAM BUDGET INCREASE IS \$162,641

- One large component in the Program budget is the continuation of the Safe Schools Mohawk Valley program which has proven to be an extremely beneficial addition of services for our students and community. We have seen the positive impacts of this program and are excited to see these impacts continue and grow in the upcoming school year. This program accounts for \$109,258 of the program budget, an increase of approximately \$14,663. Although the cost is quite significant, the benefits of this program to our school community are immeasurable.
- For the 2026-27 school year, we will contract with Madison County for the services of our SPO (Special Patrol Officer) full time. The full cost of this program is \$55,000, however, Madison County covers half of the cost leaving the district responsible for \$27,500. Our SPO has been a welcomed addition to our school community.
- Another main contributor to this increase is the rise in participation in BOCES programs and the rising cost of these programs, both Special Education and CTE (Career and Technical Education). These two program areas combined account for an increase of \$150,067.
- This portion of the budget accounts for 76.27% of the overall budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET INCREASE IS \$14,162

- This area of the budget will see a minimal increase. The majority of the increase in the administrative budget consists of an increase in annual salary and benefit cost increases.
- This portion of the budget accounts for 9.58% of the overall budget.

CAPITAL BUDGET INCREASE IS \$84,920

- For the 2026-27 school year we have budgeted to purchase one large bus and to replace the Caravan as it is used daily and accumulating many miles. Budget to budget, this is an increase of \$52,000.
- Benefits such as retirement, social security, worker’s comp and medical insurance have seen a substantial increase across the area and will increase in the 2026-27 budget by \$16,518.
- This portion of the budget accounts for 14.14% of the overall budget.

BUDGET INFO

	Current 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027	Difference Increase/(Decrease)
PROGRAM			
Instruction	\$4,513,236	\$4,637,309	\$124,073
District Transportation	\$620,648	\$611,990	(\$8,658)
Employee Benefits	\$1,242,539	\$1,289,765	\$47,226
TOTAL	\$6,376,423	\$6,539,064	\$162,641
ADMINISTRATION			
General Support	\$651,745	\$653,934	\$2,189
Curriculum Development	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	\$155,636	\$167,609	\$11,973
TOTAL	\$807,381	\$821,543	\$14,162
CAPITAL			
Plant Operation and Maintenance	\$631,059	\$567,761	(\$63,298)
Property Tax Refunds	\$2,000	\$2,000	-
Purchase of Bus	\$175,000	\$227,000	\$52,000
Employee Benefits	\$81,082	\$97,600	\$16,518
Debt Service	\$238,500	\$318,200	\$79,700
TOTAL	\$1,127,641	\$1,212,561	\$84,920
TOTAL BUDGET	\$8,311,445	\$8,573,168	\$261,723

Brookfield Central School District
AVERAGE COST TO TAXPAYER
PROPOSED 2026-27 2% TAX LEVY INCREASE

Full Value	ENHANCED STAR \$86,100 Equalized Value Exemption <i>Income Restrictions*</i>		BASIC STAR \$30,000 Equalized Value Exemption <i>Primary Residence</i>		NO STAR \$30,000 Equalized Value Exemption <i>Non-Primary Residence</i>	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
\$100,000	\$3.00	\$0.25	\$15.00	\$1.25	\$21.00	\$1.75
\$150,000	\$13.00	\$1.08	\$25.00	\$2.08	\$32.00	\$2.67
\$200,000	\$24.00	\$2.00	\$36.00	\$3.00	\$42.00	\$3.50
\$250,000	\$34.00	\$2.83	\$46.00	\$3.83	\$53.00	\$4.42
\$300,000	\$45.00	\$3.75	\$57.00	\$4.75	\$63.00	\$5.25

BUDGET INFO

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026- 27 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$8,311,445	\$8,573,168	\$8,346,168
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-2027 School Year		\$261,723	\$34,723
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.15%	.42%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$1,687,581	\$1,721,333	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$1,687,581	\$1,721,333	\$1,721,333
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$110,300	\$114,757	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$1,687,581	\$1,737,354	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$1,577,281	\$1,606,576	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$110,300	\$130,778	
Administrative Component	\$807,381	\$821,543	\$821,543
Program Component	\$6,376,423	\$6,539,064	\$6,539,064
Capital Component	\$1,127,641	\$1,212,561	\$985,561

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Bus purchases would be deferred.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
	\$402

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Brookfield Central School District, Madison County, New York, will be held at Brookfield School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Brookfield School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWS – MRS. ABRAMS

Pre-K students have been busy beavers! We continue to work on letter name and sound recognition while reinforcing classroom rules and routines. Our students have also become experts at writing their names.

So far this year, we have enjoyed spending time with our 5th grade book buddies! Each week, the 5th grade class visits pre-K to read with us and complete various projects together. We have made lasting friendships with our book buddies and enjoy the time we get to share with them. After a long winter, we were excited to take advantage of the early spring temperatures and enjoy some outside time on the swings. Pre-K students enjoy library time with Mrs. Elliott, where we even got to make our own butter when learning about colonial times.

Music time is always a blast with Mr. Colmey, who teaches us about keeping a beat and different instruments in the music room. We also really like using teamwork to build and create things in our classroom and particularly enjoy working on puzzles together. With a busy spring ahead, we are excited to continue learning and preparing for kindergarten!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS – MRS. HAFELIN



Our kindergarten class may be small in number, but they are truly “mighty” in spirit! It’s a joy to watch these students transform from curious beginners into confident learners. Along with the foundational skills of reading, writing and mathematics, kindergarten students have been able to have some learning experiences outside of the classroom as well. This fall, we visited a local apple orchard, Sweet Acres Orchard, to learn about how apples grow and sample apple cider.

Students also enjoyed watching a Colgate women’s basketball game in which older students from Brookfield announced players and teachers participating in halftime games. Students will take their learning out on the road again when we visit the Utica Zoo later this spring. Every Thursday, our students pair up with fourth grade book buddies to share stories in hopes of fostering a love of reading across grade levels. Students have taken part in a royal tea party to wrap up our Kings and Queens unit in ELA. Under the leadership of Miss Head, the Elementary Student Council has kept us busy with events like our recent snowman-building contest. Whether they are braving the snow for outdoor recess or mastering a new sentence, this group stands out for their kindness and enthusiasm. They are a wonderful addition to our school community and we are so proud of the progress they have made!

FIRST GRADE NEWS – MS. VISCOMI

Our first grade class has been working very hard this year and has made substantial growth since September. The students are very eager to learn and help one another succeed in class. They get excited about new topics and genuinely have fun with their classmates. They are kind, compassionate and encouraging to their peers.

We have enjoyed using our science kits and getting to complete all the cool hands-on activities. The students love becoming scientists and are passionate about learning through experimenting. They have persevered during writing and have made steady progress over the past several months; they especially love to share their independent writing projects with their peers.

First grade has put forth their best effort in mastering their sight words and math facts. We continue to practice each week and show solid improvement. In social studies, they learned about geography and the environment, growing to appreciate Brookfield and where they come from.

Additionally, our classroom reward jar has been filled several times, with students voting to earn fun incentives like candy salad, arts and crafts, movie and popcorn and game day. With the warmer weather getting near, we look forward to making even more special memories together. This year's first graders are a loving, determined and energetic group and I am very proud of each student!



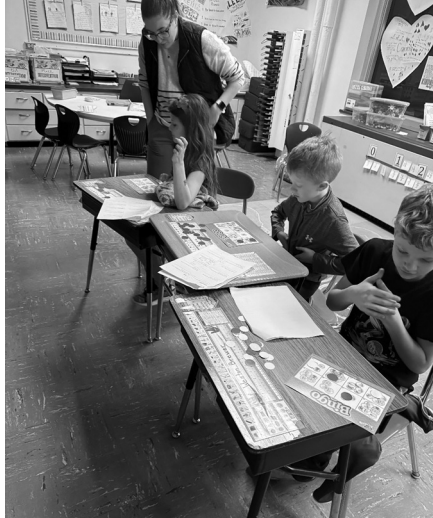
SECOND GRADE NEWS – MRS. GREGORY

Our second graders have had an exciting school year! We welcomed Ms. Santangelo from Cornell Cooperative Extension, who taught us about agriculture, and students especially loved making butter. We also enjoyed a visit from the REV Theater, where we watched "The Magic Paintbrush." In social studies, we have been learning about ancient civilizations and completed urban community projects, which students proudly presented at our March Good Morning Program.

Students have also loved participating in our Senior Book Buddies program, partnering with high school seniors to read and complete fun activities like making bookmarks and ornaments. We are so proud of their curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm for learning!



THIRD GRADE NEWS – MISS SIMMONS



Our third graders have been working hard on fractions and studying the planets. Students practiced partitioning fractions on a number line to identify the whole number and the mixed number.

Students also randomly selected a planet and made a poster advertising information such as the terrain of the planet, how long it takes to orbit around the sun and the temperature. We also had visits from First Source Federal Credit Union to teach students about financial literacy and how to manage a budget.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS – MISS HEAD

Happy spring! Learning is in full bloom in fourth grade.

We are currently studying angles, lines and rays in math. In addition to this, students have been working hard to continue practicing multiplication and division facts. We recently finished our math unit on fractions and decimals.

Our fourth grade recently completed their longhouse projects! The longhouses have been displayed in the hallway and concluded our study of Native American tribes. We have also been learning about the New York State government and following the steps of how a bill becomes a law.

In ELA, we are studying geology and our changing earth. We have read about tectonic plates as well as many types of natural disasters. We are becoming excellent writers by learning how to write informational texts and cite information that is reliable. Our previous ELA unit focused on many famous inventors and inventions. Students even had opportunities to create their own inventions to help solve different problems we encountered in our studies.

Science is always a fun-filled, hands-on learning time. We are currently experimenting with weathering, erosion and fossils. The students all did a fantastic job with their science fair projects!



FIFTH GRADE NEWS – MRS. COSSETTE

Our fifth graders have had a busy several months. The year seems to be flying by with students actively engaged in learning activities. In Math, students have been working on multiplication and division of fractions along with simplifying fractions. Word problems can often be confusing, but students are working hard to break these problems down to solve them.

In ELA, students recently finished a novel study with partners in sixth grade. Students were assigned a novel at their reading level and worked with small groups daily to complete the book and the learning packet that went along with it. As a whole group, students recently finished a unit on poetry and were writing poems in different genres. Although poetry can sometimes be confusing, students were able to gain a basic understanding of what makes something a poem and why not all poems rhyme. Students are now working on a unit

about the Renaissance and what it means to write an informational paragraph or essay. They have been studying works of art and famous artists while learning why the Renaissance was a time of prosperity and success. The novel students are reading at this time is "How to Eat Fried Worms", a fun story that shares some of the challenges of being a kid and dealing with friendships.

In Science, students have been learning about chemistry and chemical reactions. By studying properties, matter, solubility, acids and bases, students have been able to determine what a substance is. By identifying mystery powders, students have been able to recognize what properties can be found in various substances.

In Social Studies, students have been learning about explorers and the changes they brought to the world. Trade routes, the Columbian Exchange

and how goods became part of the New World are all part of this unit. Students have learned that not all things brought by explorers were positive and yet the world would not be the same without those changes.

For the first time in several years, students were able to participate in the Science Fair. This was an exciting time for the students as they chose their own projects and built them independently. While students were able to work on their projects at home, they completed their poster boards and research in class. All of the students participated in the Science Fair and did an amazing job.

Fifth grade continues to work with pre-K as book buddies this year. We have had a lot of fun and adventures visiting with the pre-K students on Fridays!



SIXTH GRADE NEWS – MRS. BRENNAN-LALLIER

Sixth graders have been working to prepare for state tests, and in January, we teamed up with fifth graders to read four different novels. It was a great experience and a lot of learning took place. The musical, *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, was a great success thanks to parents, Mrs. Cossette, Ms. Farmer, Mrs. Rutherford, Mr. Wheelock and a very talented cast which included students spanning grades five through twelve. The cast devoted time and energy and put on a great show! There was also wonderful support from classmates, which allowed students in the musical to practice their routines and lines in front of a live audience. On April 28, we are participating in the Brookfield Career Fair, where sixth graders will join middle and high school students to learn about new career options. As we welcome the spring weather, plans are being finalized for end of the year events. Sixth and seventh graders will journey to the NBT Bank Stadium in Syracuse to watch a Mets game in May and we will also travel with the fifth graders to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. In addition, we are preparing for the sixth grade graduation and have a lot to do to get ready for the celebration!



Growing the Music Program at BCS

Mr. Colmey, General Music and Chorus

At Brookfield Central School, our music program continues to provide students with meaningful opportunities to grow both musically and personally. The general music program serves students from Pre-K through 12th grade, with choral opportunities available at multiple levels, including K–2nd, 3rd–4th grade and 5th–6th grade chorus. Through these experiences, students develop vocal skills while also building confidence, teamwork and a strong sense of community.

Throughout the year, students in all grades have been learning about the fundamentals of music, theory, genre, melody, rhythm and note naming, while upper grades will begin focusing on an instrument after spring break. In addition, the choral groups have been working on a variety of repertoire that challenges them musically while allowing them to express themselves creatively. Rehearsals focus not only on performance preparation but also on listening skills, collaboration and respect for one another—skills that extend far beyond the music classroom.

This year's spring concert, scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, will feature an expanded lineup of performers. In addition to the 5th and 6th grade chorus, audiences will enjoy performances from the 3rd and 4th grade chorus as well as a special K–2nd grade group presenting selected pieces. This expanded program highlights the continued growth of our music program and provides



more students with the opportunity to share their talents with the community.

We are also proud to recognize a group of sixth grade students who were selected to participate in the MCMEA All-County Chorus. This select ensemble included 125 students representing over 10 school districts. Our students represented Brookfield Central School with professionalism and demonstrated excellence in both musicianship and teamwork throughout the experience. These students performed at Morrisville-Eaton School on Saturday, March 14, after rehearsing for over 10 hours that weekend.

In addition, I have been working alongside Mr. Keith, our new instrumental band director and we are excited about the continued growth of the music program. Together, we look forward to expanding opportunities and showcasing the wide range of talent that Brookfield Central School has to offer. Be on the lookout for the BCS Band in the Memorial Day parade! The music program remains an important part of the Brookfield Central School experience and we look forward to continuing to share our students' hard work and accomplishments with the community.

Mr. Keith, Instrumental Music

We are gradually training instrumental musicians on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, guitar and drums. We will include as many students in the marching band as can play their parts well enough to participate. Every one of them is a beginner, regardless of age or grade level, but we are building a program!



BCS CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS

Congratulations to senior winter athletes Mackenzie, Hannah, Conner, Caden and Thatcher from the Class of 2026.

Wishing these athletes the very best of luck in everything that comes next! Your hard work, dedication and passion have made a lasting impact, and you have set an incredible example for those who follow. No matter where life takes you, you will always be part of the BCS family. We look forward to seeing what your futures hold!



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL EARNS SECTIONAL HOME GAME AND ADVANCES TO QUARTER FINALS

Great teams are built on talent, discipline and preparation—but exceptional teams are shaped by leadership. This year's Coach of the Year exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose, inspire with integrity and elevate everyone around them. Congratulations to BCS Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Ryan Cook on being selected as the CCL Coach of the Year! His hard work and dedication to the BCS Boys Basketball program shined on the court this year. If this season is any indication, the best is yet to come for this team.

Our boys team finished the season 5–7 in league play and 10–12 overall. The team showed vast improvement from the beginning of the year to the end. The group stayed together and remained competitive, allowing them to host a home sectional game and earn their first sectional win since 2021. The boys look to have a bright future ahead of them and are excited to get to work over the offseason and summer to compete for the league title next year. The highlights of the season included defeating Cherry Valley to earn a playoff berth and beating Stockbridge Valley in the first round of sectionals. Thank you to the players for your commitment to hard work, good sportsmanship and team play. To the parents and community, thank you for the constant support you showed the team all year!

BCS GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM CROWNED CCL-CO-CHAMPIONS!

Girls Varsity Basketball Recap from Coach Ken Plows

This season, our team combined with Waterville and started out strong. One huge success from this season was winning first place in the Madison Kick Off Tournament. We continued on with a tough schedule, playing several schools from Class B and Class C and finished our season with an overall record of 8–11.

Another major accomplishment this team achieved was being crowned the CCL Co-Champions with a league record of 7–1. We shared this achievement with the McGraw Lady Eagles.

Thank you to the Brookfield and Waterville communities for their outpouring of support throughout the season. Also, a huge thank you to the BCS Optimist Youth Cheerleaders for the energy and support they shared with our community throughout the season!

11TH ANNUAL STUDENT ATHLETE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Mallary, Mackenzie, Thatcher and Rylan represented BCS at the 11th annual Student Athlete Leadership Conference at The Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown. While at the conference, these students listened to inspiring keynote speakers and participated in various leadership workshops.

We are very proud to have these students represent BCS in such a positive way and we look forward to seeing their leadership skills shine on the court and the field!



BCS TEAMS EARN SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONORS



The New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Team Award Program was created to recognize outstanding scholastic achievement by varsity-level student-athletes. We are pleased to announce the BCS Boys Varsity and Girls Varsity Basketball teams as recipients of this award for the winter 2025–2026 sports season. Congratulations to both teams!

Team Averages:
BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
 with a team GPA of **91**
GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL
 with a team GPA of **93.95**

Additionally, we would like to recognize the following individuals for their exceptional academic performance as individual winter scholar-athletes:

Alexandra Bugbee
Mackenzie Bugbee
Thatcher Bugbee
Conner Cook

Alyssa Lee Loyd
Lillian Nolan
Joshua Owen
Garrett Roth

Nichelle-Marie Smith
Carly Walker
Collin Wilcox
Mallary Wilcox

Congratulations to our scholar-athletes for their hard work both on and off the court!

VARSITY CLUB FUNDRAISER: SUPPORT OUR ATHLETES!



The Brookfield Central School Varsity Club is partaking in its annual Gertrude Hawk chocolate bar sale! The sale of these chocolate bars helps support our student-athletes in earning their senior jackets. Bars come in a variety of flavors for \$2 each and can be purchased in the main office or from any student-athlete.

The Varsity Club is also working on choosing a location for a field trip. The club aims to attend one trip per year; last school year, the club enjoyed a Utica Blue Sox game. We would also like to thank the community for your full support in participating in "Chuck-a-Duck." The students had a great time organizing the fundraiser.

Any student who has played a varsity sport is welcome to join the Varsity Club. The students appreciate your continued support in their success!



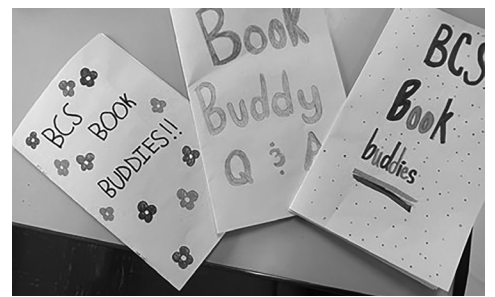
HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH – MS. COPLAND

The BCS High School English department investigated a wide range of relevant issues through fiction, nonfiction, poetry, research and film.

Tenth grade spent several months learning about the Holocaust and discussing such questions as: What barriers did upstanders face? How did the world allow such a tragedy? How was resistance formed and persecuted? We were thrilled and humbled to host guest speaker Leah Goldberg of 3GNY, an educational nonprofit organization founded by the grandchildren of survivors. Ms. Goldberg shared family artifacts and her grandmother Susy Raful's survival story and personal legacy.

Eleventh grade focused on the Salem Witch Trials, reading Miller's "The Crucible" and Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," along with nonfiction historical context readings about McCarthyism and the Red Scare. We had productive philosophical discussions on central ideas like the intersection of politics and morals, the formation of societies, ethics, group dynamics and mass hysteria. As the year comes to a close, we are reading the graphic novel "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi and Adams's "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

Twelfth grade enjoyed Gruwell's "The Freedom Writers Diary" and Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," while creating the Book Buddies program with Mrs. Gregory's 2nd grade! Book Buddies read together, crafted together and provided more than 60 holiday cards to the Waterville Nursing Home in December.



All students considered how tragedy, marginalization, power and greed affected populations through different texts: from the indigenous people of Southern California and Mexico, to the Jews, to the Germans who did not support the Holocaust, to Iranians during the Revolution, to the Puritans and to individuals with mental health diagnoses hidden away in U.S. institutions in the 1960s. We looked at the influence of tuberculosis on culture, romance and beauty standards in the era of Romanticism and Edgar Allan Poe. High school English has also prioritized presentation skills, journaling, research, essay writing and expanding our vocabulary.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES – MS. COPLAND

Seventh grade has been busy learning about their own work, learning and personality styles! Students have been baking, investigating careers, planning budgets and working as a team to develop essential hard and soft skills for their futures. We've experimented with creating healthy snacks, even sneaking nutritious ingredients like black beans into brownies and cucumbers and spinach into smoothies.

We are learning our way around the kitchen with industry best practices and exploring the world through global foods research. Additionally, we've made gifts for friends and family by looking at how to use everyday household objects creatively and identifying items that can be upcycled for a second use. Who would've thought you could make fall decor pumpkins out of rolls of toilet paper, a durable wallet out of duct tape, or a tote bag out of a T-shirt?



LIBRARY NEWS: *Building Bridges to the past*

It has been a whirlwind of history and imagination in the library this month! In honor of our nation's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary), our annual March Reading Madness took a patriotic turn. Students have been advancing their favorite historical books through a tournament-style bracket. From tales of the American Revolution to modern stories of American innovation, our students are discovering that history isn't just a list of dates; it's a collection of incredible voices that shaped the world we live in today.

Our fourth graders have taken on the role of historians and authors! In a special collaboration with the Brookfield Historical Society, students are researching and writing an original book.

To truly understand the "old ways" described in the "Little House on the Prairie" and "Farmer Boy" series, our young historians rolled up their sleeves for some experiential learning. Students transformed cream into butter using traditional methods and a lot of muscle power! By pairing these hands-on activities with the works of Laura Ingalls Wilder, students gained a profound appreciation for the grit and daily life of early American settlers.

These programs do more than teach facts; they build critical thinking, empathy and a lifelong love of literacy. Your continued support of the library ensures we can provide the books, guest speakers and "maker" materials that bring history off the page and into our students' hands.



"I didn't know making food was so much work! I'll never look at a stick of butter the same way again."
 — 2nd Grade Student



BROOKFIELD STUDENTS SHINE IN WHIMSICAL PERFORMANCE OF

Alice in Wonderland Jr.

On March 5 and 6, Brookfield students in grades 5–12 performed in the musical "Alice in Wonderland Jr." With a cast of 25, students sang, danced and joked their way across the stage, entertaining a full house on both nights of the performance. The students put in countless hours of rehearsal to prepare for the show.

We are thankful for the community members who assisted with props, costumes and the cast party, and for the administration for supporting the arts in our building.





BROOKFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Box 60, Brookfield, NY 13314

Resident

UNIVERSAL PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Brookfield Central School District residents with children age four years old on or before December 1, 2026 are eligible for Universal Pre-Kindergarten. This is a free, half-day program and will run five days a week. Children entering kindergarten and not currently enrolled in the Brookfield Central School Pre-Kindergarten program must be five years of age prior to December 1, 2026.



Please call

MS. CASE

315.899.3323, ext. 222

for registration information for the 2026-2027
Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten programs.