

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE WOLVERINES

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Sept. 1-2	Superintendent's Conference Days
Sept. 3	First Day of School
Sept. 7	Labor Day (No Students)
Oct. 8	Go Home Early Drill
Oct. 9	Superintendent's Conference Day (No Students)
Oct. 12	Columbus Day
Nov. 11	Veterans Day (Observed)
Nov. 23-24	Students AM, Parent/Teacher Conf PM
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 23-31	Christmas Recess
Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 26-29	Regents Exams
Feb. 15-19	(Presidents' Day) Mid-Winter Recess
Mar. 12	Superintendent's Day (No Students)
Mar. 26	Good Friday
Mar. 29-31	Spring Recess
Apr. 1-2	Spring Recess
May 18	Budget Vote Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 18	Rating Day (No students)
June 15-25	Regents Exams
June 23-24	Half Days (Pre-K-6th)
June 27	Graduation Day
June 26	Last Day Teachers, Rating Day
June 28	Graduation

MEET YOUR TEACHER NIGHT & COMMUNITY PICNIC

Tuesday, September 1

PreK/Elementary
Elementary Building
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Middle/High School
MS/HS Building
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Billy Martin
PRESENTS



SAVE THE DATE

The Class of 2027 will be bringing Cole All-Star Circus to town **Saturday, January 9, 2027.**

Showtime will be 6:00 p.m. in the Bolivar-Richburg Middle/High School Gym. Please plan to come and bring your family for a memorable night of fun and good times!

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026.



To Our Wolverine Community,

As I enter my third year as Superintendent, I am focusing on our systems that provide protocols and guidance for our faculty and staff, as well as our community members, parents, and tax payers. One of the components of offering our students the best educational experiences as possible is the upkeep and safety of our

beautiful campus and buildings. To ensure the sustainability of the District, we conduct a Building Condition Survey (BCS) on a frequent basis. This information, combined with a roof survey done in 2024, has highlighted the need for the replacement and restoration of some of our roofs. To accomplish these necessary renovations, we are working with Clark Patterson Lee (CPL) to develop a Capital Improvement Project that, if approved, can start next summer. The cost of the project is \$9,500,000, and I am happy to share that this project will have no tax impact on our community, as it will be funded through State Building Aid and Capital Reserve Funds.

The scope of the work includes:

- Replacement/restoration of the entire Elementary roof
- Restoration of the MS/HS roof, including replacement of the Roof Top Unit (RTU) above the gymnasium
- Replacement of the roof above the maintenance shop behind the baseball grandstand
- Replacement of portions of the roof above the Bolivar bus garage
- Replacement of the gymnasium floor in the Richburg building
- Theatrical improvements in the Richburg gymnasium
- Replacement of existing HVAC equipment in the MS/HS gymnasium, including the addition of air conditioning

The public vote for this project will be on Tuesday, September 8, in the Large Conference Room, located in the Bolivar Middle/High School, from 12:00 – 8:00 p.m. There will be informational packets available at Meet the Teacher night on Tuesday, September 1, at both the Bolivar and Richburg buildings. We will also release a district-wide video that will detail the roof integrity issues that have caused the necessity of these renovations.

Our commitment to the betterment of our students, along with the resolve to make Bolivar-Richburg the very best it can be will continue to be our guiding principles moving forward. I am honored to lead these changes in a respectable and fiscally responsible manner. Your collaboration, communication, and support will always be the driving force behind everything that I do as Superintendent. I thank you for all that you do as active community members, serving as role models for our next generation of students!

If you have any questions regarding the proposed Capital Improvement Project, or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at (585)-928-2561. I am more than happy to answer any and all of your questions!

*Respectfully,
Jeff Margeson, Superintendent*

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

To be a qualified voter you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote

POLL INFORMATION: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

1. Polls are open—12:00 noon
2. Announcement that the polls are closing—7:50 p.m.
3. Polls are closed—8:00 p.m.

SAMPLE BALLET ON THE NEXT PAGE...

PROPOSITION NO. 1

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2026

☐

Yes

☐

No

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District, Allegany County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed Capital Improvements Project, 2026 (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$9,500,000; (b) the Board is hereby authorized to partially finance the Project by utilizing \$1,075,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund that was established in May of 2017; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$8,425,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (d) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$8,425,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (e) New York State Building Aid funds (including EXCEL Aid funds) expected to be received by the District in connection with the Project are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

2026 SCHOOL TAX PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Payment Period

Tax payments are accepted from September 1 through October 31, 2026.

How to Pay

By Mail:

- Make your check payable to: Bolivar-Richburg CSD
- Must include the bottom portion of your tax bill.
- Mail both items to:
Bolivar-Richburg CSD
PO Box 207
Warsaw, NY 14569
- Do not mail payments to the school district.

In Person:

- Bring your payment and the bottom portion of your tax bill to any Five Star Bank location in Western New York.
- Place them in a sealed envelope and deposit it in the designated drop-box at the bank.

Important Details

- A 2% late fee is charged for payments made between October 1 and October 31, 2026.
- Payments must be post-marked by October 31, 2026.
- Payments received after October 31, 2026, post-mark date will be returned and sent to the County Treasurer for re-levy.

Requesting receipts

Include an additional copy of your bill along with a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

Questions?

Amy Rozler, Tax Collector:
arozler@bolivarrichburg.org
585-928-2933

Amy Shelp, District Clerk:
ashelp@bolivarrichburg.org
585-928-2937



PERMISSION FOR STUDENT PICTURES

Throughout the school year, students at the Pre-K building, the elementary school, and the middle/high school participate in a variety of activities such as concerts, plays, sporting events, assemblies, field days, classroom projects, and more. From time to time, photos of these events may be published in our district newsletter, on our website, on official social media channels, or in local newspapers.

Many students enjoy seeing themselves and their classmates featured in these spaces. However, if you do not wish to have your child’s photo used for these purposes, please send a written request to the Main Office secretary at the school your child attends.

If we do not receive a written request, we will assume permission has been granted.



K – GRADE 5 PICTURE DAY

September 15

Flyers/envelopes for the Elementary School will be sent home with your child. Picture retake day will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026.

PRE-K 3 PICTURE DAY

September 18

Flyers/envelopes for the Elementary School will be sent home with your child. Picture retake day will be held on Monday, November 9, 2025.

MS/HS SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

**September 17 &
September 18**

Flyers for Middle/High School can be picked up in the Main Office. Picture retake day will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026. Pictures will be taken during P.E.



TEACHERS OF TOMORROW AWARD RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED

The Teachers of Tomorrow grant program has supported school districts since 2000, providing incentives to recruit and retain qualified teachers in shortage areas.

Pictured left to right: Brandi Mahon, Superintendent Jeff Margeson, Nicole Peterson, Matthew Hyson, Rebecca Brewsaugh, Jacquelyn Hyson, Alexander Jones, Kirstie Baldwin, Shantia Taylor, and Kelly Smith. Not pictured: Patrick Bailey. Mahon.



Dear BRES Families,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! I hope you and your family have had a summer full of sunshine, adventures, and time together. As much as I love summer, there is something special about the excitement that comes with a new year. I can't wait to welcome our

Little Wolverines back through our doors!

At BRES, our goal is simple: we want to provide every child with the best educational experience possible. As we reflect on last year's accomplishments, there is evidence we remain aligned with this vision! Our students demonstrated tremendous growth and perseverance last school year, earning top three finishes in the CA BOCES region on the New York State assessments in 3rd grade Math, 3rd grade ELA, and 4th grade ELA. While we are incredibly proud of these academic accomplishments, we know that growth is about so much more than a test score. With our PBIS system, we observed growth through students showing kindness, taking ownership of their choices, and having the courage to try something new. Every small step forward matters, and we are so proud of all of our Little Wolverines!

This year also brings a few exciting administrative changes. I am thrilled to be taking on the role of overseeing Elementary CSE/CPSE services for our Pre-K through fourth-grade students. This will allow me to work even more closely with students, families, and staff to ensure every child receives the support they need to be successful. Mrs. Talbot, Secondary Principal, will oversee CSE services for students in grades 5-12, and our Assistant Principals, Mrs. Schryver and Mr. Pettit, will now coordinate Section 504 Plans. While responsibilities may be shifting, one thing remains the same—our administrative team is committed to working together and partnering with families to provide the very best support for every student.

We can't wait to see everyone for our annual Meet the Teacher Night/Back to School Picnic on Tuesday, September 1 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Don't forget, the first day of school is Thursday, September 3. See you all soon!

Even the smallest paws are fierce! Go Little Wolverines!



Greetings Wolverine Families and Community Members!

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I introduce myself in my new role this year as Assistant Elementary Principal! I am honored to serve in this role and to continue working alongside our incredible students, staff, and

families.

As many of you may already know, I have been a part of the Bolivar-Richburg school district for the past sixteen years serving in various roles. Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of serving in the capacity of school counselor. Throughout this time, I built meaningful relationships with our students, supported our families, and collaborated with our dedicated teachers and staff. Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for our school community and the students and families that we serve.

As Assistant Principal, my goal is to work collaboratively with our school community to continue to foster a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment where every student feels valued and can reach their full potential. I believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential to student success, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our families throughout the school year!

I am truly excited about this new chapter and grateful for the opportunity to serve our school community in this capacity. As a parent of three Wolverines, I believe that Bolivar-Richburg is the best place to be! I am dedicated to helping our district continue to grow and ensuring the success of all students. I look forward to partnering with you as we make this a successful and memorable school year for all of our students! I can't wait to see all that we can accomplish together!

BOARD OF EDUCATION & B-R.C.S. PERSONNEL • 2026-2027

Board of Education:

Baldwin, Erin Member, 2027
 Blankenship, Stephanie Member, 2028
 Champlin, Donielle Member, 2029
 Clark, Michelle Member, 2027
 Duell, Aaron Vice President, 2029
 Ferris, Norene Member, 2027
 McDonnell, Amanda President, 2028

Administration:

Baldwin, Ray Director of Educational
 Technology & Information Systems
 Bokman, Susan Director of Data & Accountability
 Duke, Megan Elementary Principal,
 PRE-K-4 CSE Chairperson
 Margeson, Jeffrey Superintendent of Schools
 Pettit, Jim Secondary Assistant Principal,
 504 Coordinator
 Rozler, Amy School Business Administrator
 Schryver, Angela Elementary Asst. Principal,
 504 Coordinator
 Talbot, Jessica Secondary Principal,
 5-12 CSE Chairperson

Faculty:

Allen, Casey Physical Education/Health
 Allen, Dustin Social Studies/Athletic Dir.
 Auman, Amanda Physical Education
 Baldwin, Eric Social Studies MS
 Bell, Kelly Grade 4
 Bentley, Kristin Grade 4
 Bess, Brock Special Education
 Brennan, Jonathon Music/Chorus
 Brewsaugh, Rebecca Special Education
 Britt, Julie English 6
 Britt, Ryan Social Studies HS
 Broughton, Katelyn Kindergarten
 Brown, Logan Kindergarten
 Brown, Tyler Speech
 Burdick, Sarah Social Worker
 Burke, Elissa English 11/12
 Butler, Ryan Grade 3
 Clark, Leah Grade 1
 Clayson, Brandon Special Education
 Dempsey, Kathryn Literacy 7
 Dunham, Doris Special Education
 Elliott, Demi Special Education
 Ferris, Heather Remedial Reading
 Fleming, Gisela Teacher Assistant
 Gardner, Gina Grade 1
 Geiger, Jonnie Occupational Therapist
 Gilliland, Ray Technology

Glover, Elizabeth Pre-Kindergarten
 Hackett, Alisha Grade 3
 Higley, Cynthia Special Education
 Hillman, Hannah Grade 5
 Hooker, Hadley Guidance Counselor
 Hyson, Jackie Math JS/HS
 Hyson, Matthew Math MS
 Jackson, Madeline Chemistry/Physics
 Johnson, Jacklyn Pre-Kindergarten
 Johnston, Tori Grade 1
 Jones, Alex Living Environment
 Jones, Amy Psychologist--BOCES
 Jones, Jennifer Teacher Assistant
 Keir, Christopher Music
 Lasnick, Brandi Spanish MS/HS
 Livingston, Gina Grade 3
 Llewellyn, John Teacher Assistant
 Lokenburg, Hannah Speech
 Louser, Hannalee Grade 3
 Lovell, Brooke Math/ Math Support 6
 Mahon, Brandi Special Education 6
 Majot, Kim Teacher Assistant
 Mallery, Stephanie Remedial Reading
 Margeson, Kari Special Education 8
 McClellan, Carol STEAM
 McDonnell, William Math HS
 McElheny, Leah English 8
 Mitchell, Meghan Pre-Kindergarten
 O'Neil, Jenna Grade 2
 Peelman, Malibu Art HS
 Perkins, Jamie Remedial Math Elementary
 Perrin, Rebekah Grade 4
 Perry, Kimberly Remedial Math Elementary
 Pettit, Reston Physical Education
 Pinney, Erica English 4
 Ramos, Laura School Counselor
 Renyck, Heather Earth Science
 Rinamon, Lynzie Art MS
 Schena, Mary Special Education 11/12
 Scott, Sally Remedial Reading
 Smith, Dawn Grade 5
 Smith, Kelly Special Education MS
 Smith, Rebecca Spanish MS/HS
 Snyder, Mary Special Education 10
 Stack, Adam Band
 Stopha, Jane Elementary Art
 Talbot, Rachel Science 6 and ELA Support
 Taylor, Shantia Social Studies 10/12
 Thomas, Amanda Teacher Assistant
 Thomas, Justin English 9/10
 Thornton, Shane Science 7/8

Walters, Susan..... Remedial Math Elementary
Werner, Margaret..... Librarian
Winchell, Taylor..... Guidance Counselor Elementary
Zilker, Michael Physical Education

BOCES Staff:

Allen, Colby..... Computer Technician
Babbitt, Jeff..... PR & Communication Specialist
Topor, Ryan Computer Technician

Non-Instructional Staff

Aides: Deb Adams, Darien Champlin, Macy Childs, Sarah Crump, Jen Foster, Sarah Gardner, Alice Hackett, Brian Lewis, Brooke McDonald, Marcia Metz, Heather Pappas, Yvonne Patterer, Margaret Schiralli, Heather Youngs, Mary McDowell, Kristen Merritt, Nick Torres, Julie Ratzel, JoEllen Sisson, Kristen Taylor

Cafeteria: John Mesler (Manager), Marian Burdick, Heidi Crowley, Sharon Johnson, Jessica Proper, Lynn Robinson, Kelly Walp, Nicholle Metz, Tami Ritchie, Jen Jennings

Maintenance: Randy Harmon (Director of Facilities), Jeremy Atwell, Joe Bell, Veda Burdick, Holden Cole, Kim Doane, Joe McDonald, Kristen McDonald, Jennifer Smith, Theresa Walsh, Charlie Winchell

Nurses: Stephanie Pierce, Jordan Dowling

Offices: Amy Shelp, Tricia Root, Chris McPherson, Grace Zilker, Sheila Sorensen, Deb Sisson, Hilary Hadden, Tonia Childs, Wendy Smith, Denise Kasperski

Transportation: Ed Elling (Supervisor), Carla Collins, Jim White, Wally Dillon, Nick Dodson, Bob Garrey, Jeff Harmon, Ray Mannix, Haley Mascho, Bonnie Metcalf, Lynn Pinney, Don Skinner, Troy Steiner, Lisa Taylor, Tim Tripp, Randy White, Charlie Winchell, Sherry Blauvelt, Steve Childs, Lynn Davis, Nicholle Metz, LuAnn Shingler, Megan Price, Jen Jennings, Judy Perkins



SUBSTITUTE APPLICATIONS

Bolivar-Richburg Central School District is accepting applications for the 2026-27 school year for the following positions:

ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

- Substitute Teachers and Teacher Aides
- Substitute Custodial Workers
- Substitute Nurses
- Substitute Cafeteria Workers
- Substitute Bus Drivers/Monitors

Please contact either main office for an application – 928-2561 or find on BRCS website.



ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We hope everyone had an amazing summer and kept active, staying energized and ready for the year ahead! We're so excited to welcome you all back and can't wait to kick things off together!!

As always, our top priority is fun and safety. To make sure everyone can fully participate and stay safe, please ensure that students wear proper rubber-soled sneakers that cover both the toes and heels. And a quick tip—help your child practice tying their shoes at home! It'll save them time and give them more moments to enjoy the action.

Also, if girls are wearing dresses, please make sure they have shorts or tights underneath for comfort and ease of movement during class.

To begin, our littlest learners in Pre-K through 2nd grade will focus on building their foundational skills—think running, kicking, throwing, and catching—while also getting into the groove of routines and teamwork. For our students in grades 3-5, it's time to take things up a notch! They'll refine those basics and dive into sport-specific skills and exciting activities.

Let's make this year a blast, full of movement, growth, and fun memories!

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES K-5

1. PreK-5th grade attendance will be recorded by each teacher using PowerSchool.
2. **Absence:** All students who were absent or tardy from school **MUST** submit a written excuse upon their return. These excuses are to be sent to the main office. Include the child's name and date of absence, the reason for absence or tardiness and a parent's signature.
3. **Lateness:** When tardy to school, a student must get an Admission Slip upon arrival from the main office secretary. This slip must be given to their teacher. Announcements will begin at 8:00 a.m. Students should be in their homeroom prior to announcements to be considered on time.
4. Parents are asked to call by 8:10 a.m. if their children will not be attending school.
5. **Excused and Unexcused Absences:**

Absences from school which are considered excused include:

- Personal illness
- Death in the family
- Medical appointments
- Dental appointments
- Impassable roads
- Weather conditions
- Religious observance
- Required to be in court
- Quarantine
- Music lessons
- Attendance at health clinics
- Educational trip
- Planned evidence of an acceptable educational experience
- Administrative approval/emergency situations – covers unexpected events which keep a student from attendance. Such cases will be considered individually by the principal or their designee.

Absences from school which are considered unexcused include:

- Visiting family, friends, etc.
- Hair cut
- Overslept
- Babysitting
- Needed at home
- Trip with or without parents – recreational purposes
- *Because vacation periods are provided within the school calendar, trips taken at other times during the school year will be considered unexcused absences.*
- Truancy

For items not contained within the lists of excused and unexcused absences, the principal or their designee will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO PARENTS

When dropping off or picking up your child(ren) at the elementary building, please use **Richardson Avenue** for this purpose. **Please do not drop off or pick up students on Griffin Street or Park Row Street** as this causes a safety issue with the buses.

We encourage parents (Pre-K & Kindergarten) to walk their children to their classrooms for the first week of school, Sept. 4-5. Beginning Sept. 8, please allow your child to walk to their classroom on their own. There will be monitors in the hallways to help, if needed.

Any change from your child's normal dismissal procedure **requires a written note**. In the case of an emergency, if your child needs to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop, or be picked up, **a written request must be submitted to the school office**.

- The request should contain the date, your child's first and last name, the name and address of where he/she will be going, the number of the bus he/she normally rides and must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- If you need to pick up your child instead of him/her riding the bus home, a written note or a telephone call **prior to Noon** is required.
- If you have a long-term need for a change in your child's scheduled transportation, please contact the bus garage at 585-928-2405.

WHO DO I SEE FOR? (ELEMENTARY BUILDING, GRADES PREK-5)

Attendance (excuses/tardies)..... Mrs. Kasperski
Cafeteria (reduced/free lunch)..... Mr. Mesler
Health Concerns..... Mrs. Dowling
Help with a personal problem Guidance Counselor,
Psychologist, Administrators, Teachers
Library/Media..... Mrs. Werner
Lost/stolen articles Mrs. Dowling
Student concerns Classroom Teacher
Transportation Bus Garage
Use of building Superintendent's Office

CAFETERIA RULES

1. Stay in your seats.
2. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
3. Do not throw food or touch the food of others.
4. Talk rather than yell to the children sitting near you.
5. Listen and obey the cafeteria monitors.

PERMISSION FOR STUDENT INTERACTIONS WITH PEACH, THE THERAPY DOG



Throughout the school year, students may have opportunities to interact with our school's certified therapy dog, Peach. These interactions may include but are not limited to: classroom visits, reading sessions, emotional support activities, or other school events designed to support students' well-being and social-emotional growth.

If you do not want your child to participate in any interactions with Peach, please send a note to the Main Office secretary in the elementary office indicating your preference.

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students and will respect your wishes regarding your child's participation.

4TH GRADE ORIENTATION AT BOLIVAR-RICHBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4th Grade Orientation will take place Wednesday August 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear Kindergarten Families,

The countdown to a brand-new school year has begun, and the Kindergarten Team is so excited to welcome our newest learners! We hope you've had an amazing summer filled with fun, laughter, and special memories. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when school begins!

This year is going to be filled with learning, exploring, creating, and growing together. We'll kick off the year by diving into nursery rhymes and using our five senses to discover the world around us through exciting hands-on activities. As the weeks go on, students will build confidence practicing writing lines, letters, and numbers while developing the foundational skills they'll use all year long.

Kindergarten is an exciting milestone, and we are looking forward to making this a year full of smiles, friendships, and unforgettable learning experiences!

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer, and we'll see you in September—ready for an incredible year!

*With excitement,
Your Kindergarten Team*

1ST GRADE NEWS

Miss Johnston, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Gardner

We are thrilled to welcome our newest first graders to the start of an exciting school year! We can't wait to meet each of our students and begin this wonderful learning journey together. First grade is filled with new friendships, fun discoveries, and opportunities to grow in confidence and independence. We are looking forward to creating a safe, caring, and engaging classroom where every child can learn, explore, and shine. We can't wait to see all of your smiling faces on the first day of school—it's going to be a fantastic year!

Looking for Something to Do?

Consider donating some of your time volunteering in the elementary building. If you are interested, contact the elementary office at 585-928-2882 for information.

2ND GRADE NEWS

Mrs. O'Neil & Mrs. Louser

Wow, summer has been flying by! We hope you had a chance to relax, have fun, and go on some wonderful adventures. We are so excited to welcome our new 2nd graders in September. We have been working hard setting up our classrooms and planning many fun and engaging activities for this year! We will start off by getting to know one another and will learn about fairy tales and the ancient Greeks. We will review our phonics skills from 1st grade and begin to work on counting to 1000 by 1's, 10's, and 100's. We hope that everyone had a great summer break and we look forward to seeing you and your family at Meet the Teacher Night!

3RD GRADE NEWS

We hope you've had a wonderful summer filled with fun, laughter, and time with the people you love. It's hard to believe a new school year is almost here! We've been busy getting our classrooms ready, and we are so excited to welcome a new group of third graders. We can't wait to learn, laugh, and grow together this year.

To help your child get ready for the first day, please send:

- A backpack
- A plastic squeeze-top water bottle

These items can be brought to our Back-to-School Picnic/Meet the Teacher Night or on the first day of school.

If you're able, we also have a few classroom wish list items that help keep our rooms stocked throughout the year. Donations of tissues, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes are always appreciated. These items are completely optional, but we're so grateful for any families who are able to help.

Third grade is such a special year. Students gain confidence, become more independent, and discover just how much they're capable of. We'll spend time building friendships, learning classroom routines, and creating a classroom where everyone feels safe, welcomed, and encouraged. Before long, we'll be diving into multiplication, strengthening our reading and writing skills, exploring cultures from around the world, and making learning fun every step of the way.

One of the best ways to help your child feel ready for school is by reading together, practicing basic math facts, and easing back into a regular bedtime routine before the first day. Those little things can make a big difference as we start the year.

4TH GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Bentley, Ms. Perrin, and Mrs. Pinney

Welcome to an exciting new school year! We are so happy to welcome both new and returning students and families to 4th grade at B-R! As your 4th grade teachers, we are looking forward to a year filled with learning, laughter, growth, and new experiences. Together, we are committed to creating a positive, supportive classroom where every student can thrive. We can't wait to make this a wonderful year! We wanted to take the time to introduce ourselves, including a new addition to the 4th grade.

My name is Kristin Bentley, and I'll be your science teacher this year! We have an exciting year ahead filled with hands-on projects and fun experiments. Together, we'll learn about animals, electricity, waves, and the Earth while discovering how science connects to our everyday lives. We'll also have the chance to go on some amazing field trips that bring many of these topics to life and make our learning even more memorable. I am so excited to meet all of you and begin this year of learning, discovery, and adventure!

Hello! My name is Rebekah Perrin! I am so excited to be your child's 4th grade math teacher and can't wait to begin this learning journey together. This year, we'll build on everything students have learned in previous grades while developing new skills and confidence in math. Throughout the year, we will explore exciting topics such as place value through the millions place, addition and subtraction with numbers up to six digits, multiplication and division with larger numbers, fractions—from understanding them to adding, subtracting, and comparing them, etc., and geometry, including shapes, angles, lines, and more! My goal is to create a classroom where every student feels encouraged to ask questions, take risks, and celebrate their growth. Math is all about learning, practicing, and discovering new ways to solve problems.

My name is Erica Pinney, and I am so excited to begin my first-year teaching ELA. My goal is to create a classroom where every student feels supported, challenged, and inspired to learn. This year in ELA, students will strengthen their reading comprehension and writing skills through engaging lessons and activities. We will also explore historical events including Native American nations, the American Revolution, westward expansion, and the Women's Rights Movement. I look forward to partnering with you to make this a fun, successful, and memorable school year!

We believe that by working together—students, families, and teachers—we can make this the best year yet. Thank you for your support and partnership. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and success!

Here's to an amazing 4th grade year!



Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable summer. We have had a busy summer here at the MHS behind the scenes. We have moved some of our teachers into new roles and are bringing many new staff on board at the Middle High School. I am very excited for them to start and become a part of our Wolverine family! While

this summer has flown by, I am excited to have faculty, staff, and students return to the building!

There have been many things happening at BRCS MHS this summer:

- We have had teachers and staff running our district summer school and providing our students with credit recovery and Regents prep.
- Our summer feeding program has helped many students receive nutritious meals while school has been out of session.
- Many teachers have been attending professional development opportunities that have been provided by CA BOCES and worked to modify and adjust their curriculum to best serve our students. We have also had a math consultant in the district to provide specialized professional development for our math department.
- Our custodial and maintenance staff have cleaned our building from top to bottom. It looks great!
- The MHS is adopting a common bell schedule that will be used by the other districts throughout Allegany County. This will allow our schools to share teachers and offer our students more Distance Learning opportunities. Please see the Guidance Office's section in our newsletter for more details.
- We will be shifting our discipline referrals from the paper triplicate forms that were previously sent home to now go online through PowerSchool. You will no longer receive a paper copy of the referral through the mail. Also, based on the results of the parent survey that was sent home, minor infractions that result in a lunch detention, class detention, or verbal warnings will be communicated through a ParentSquare message. You will still receive a phone call if your student is being assigned an after-school detention, ISS, or OSS.

- Our staffing additions and changes include:
 - Rachel Talbot – 6th Grade Science and ELA Support
 - Leah McElheny – 6th and 8th grade ELA Teacher
 - Brandi Mahon – 6th grade Direct Consultant Teacher
 - Adam Stack – Instrumental Music Teacher
 - Ray Gilliland – Industrial Arts Teacher
 - Lynzie Rinamon – MS and HS Art Teacher
 - Elissa Burke – 11th and 12th grade ELA Teacher
 - Maddie Jackson – Chemistry and Physics Teacher
 - Tia Taylor – US History and Government/Economics Teacher
 - Mary Snyder – 10th Grade Direct Consultant Teacher
 - Steve Smith – Mentor and ELA Support
 - To Be Determined – Middle School 15:1 Teacher

Please continue to utilize ParentSquare to contact teachers, administrators, and office staff with questions or concerns about your child. Additional information about student schedules, device handout procedures, and back to school information will be coming through Parent Square messages soon!

For now, I hope everyone can enjoy the last few days of summer! I am looking forward to seeing everyone again!

GO WOLVERINES!



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE NEWS

New Student Registration

If you have a student in grades 6-12 that you would like to register for the 2026-27 school year, please contact Sheila Sorensen, Guidance Secretary, at (585)928-2986. The registration packet can also be found on our website.

Parents should bring a copy of their child's last report card, birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records, and if applicable, any custodial court orders.

Proof of residence includes any two of the following:

- Automobile and/or home insurance policy
- Automobile registration
- Bank Account and/or credit union statement
- Rental/Lease Agreement signed by Landlord
- Notarized Statement of residency if living with a family member
- Paycheck stub
- Utility bill (electric, phone, cable, etc.)

Note: All bills/statements must be no older than the previous month.

Student Schedules

In late August, we will mail student schedules in grades 7-12. Sixth grade schedules are handed out at orientation. Students, please check your schedule for errors and if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ramos (grades 9-12) or Mrs. Hooker (grades 6-8). All students in grades 7-12 will receive their finalized schedule on the first day of school with their 1-1 devices.

High school students: due to scheduling restrictions, some of your first choices of elective courses did not fit into your schedule.

Course Drop/Add Procedure

Students must stay in their scheduled classes for the first week of school. After that, students have four weeks, until October 9, to make course changes. Course drop requests that are made after the five-week point will require a drop/add form with teacher, parent, principal, and counselor approval and signatures.

We look forward to supporting each student during the next school year!

Laura Ramos
High School Counselor

Hadley Hooker
Middle School Counselor

New Schedule for the 2026-27 Academic Year

We look forward to offering an updated Bell Schedule for the 2026-27 school year. This schedule aligns BRCS with the rest of the Allegany County schools as a universal schedule.

Look for your color-coded lunch period to find your schedule, since each schedule shifts slightly depending on which 30-minute lunch block you have

2026-2027 Bell Schedule

Period	Start Time	End Time	Grade 6	Grades 7 & 8	Grade 9-12 Lunch 1	Grade 9-12 Lunch 2
1	8:05	8:46	Class	Class	Class	Class
2	8:49	9:30	Class	Class	Class	Class
3	9:33	10:14	Class	Class	Class	Class
4	10:17	10:47	Lunch 4L	4L-5 Class	4L-5 Class	4L-5 Class
5	10:50	10:58	5-6L Class			
6	11:01	11:31		6L-7 Class	Lunch 6L	6L-7 Class
7	11:34	11:42	7-8L Class		Class 7-8L	
8	11:45	12:15		8L-9 Class	Lunch 8L	
9	12:18	12:26	9-10L Class			9-10L Class
10	12:29	12:59		Lunch 10L		
11	1:02	1:43	Class	Class	Class	Class
12	1:46	2:27	Class	Class	Class	Class
13	2:30	3:10	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the summer. I am so excited for another great year at B-R! Whether your child is entering middle school, adjusting to high school, or preparing for graduation, our team is committed to supporting every student academically, socially, and emotionally.

At Bolivar-Richburg, we believe that some of the best role models for our students are other students. Our new Peer Support Leadership Program gives upperclassmen the opportunity to make a positive difference by mentoring younger students, promoting kindness, and helping create a safe, welcoming school community through peer support and restorative practices. At the same time, middle school students are encouraged to participate and connect with these trained student leaders who are there to listen, encourage, and help build positive relationships. The program is designed to strengthen leadership, improve school connectedness, and foster a culture where students support one another while working alongside caring adults.

We encourage parents of our high school students to support their child's interest in becoming a Peer Support Leader and using their leadership skills to positively impact younger classmates. We also encourage parents of our middle school students to reassure their children that participating in the program is a great way to build friendships, develop confidence, and receive support from trained peers in a safe, supervised environment. Together, we can continue to build a school community where everyone belongs, everyone is supported, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

You can reach me via email at jpettit2@bolivarrichburg.org or by calling the Main Office at 585-928-2561. We will continue to utilize PowerSchool for students' academic progress. We also encourage you to follow our school news and updates on ParentSquare, as well as our Facebook page.

WE ARE B-R!!

*Jim Pettit,
Assistant Principal*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR BRCS GRADUATING SENIORS

Please contact:
Mrs. Susan Bokman
Director of Data and Accountability
585-928-2914



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**BE A HERO.**

STAY DRUG FREE

RED RIBBON WEEK® • OCTOBER 23-31

WWW.REDRIBBON.ORG

Please join us as we start a brand new year having fun and bringing recognition to the ideas of making smart decisions as students! Our first meeting will be held the week of September 7th.

Look for details outside of Ms. Schena's room 207. Red Ribbon Week is October 23 – 31, 2026

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS) AND NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS) NEWS

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year. Our NHS and NJHS ceremony dates are already planned and on the calendar.

Monday, January 11, 2027
NHS Induction Ceremony 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2, 2027
NJHS Ceremony 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3, 2027
NHS/NJHS inclement weather alternate date

All NHS and NJHS students will be expected to complete community service hours. Numerous opportunities will be provided to the students, but students are also encouraged to look for and complete community service activities that are important to them. A letter will be sent home and updates will be added to our website so stay tuned for more information. Look for additional information concerning the qualifications for eligibility for both honor societies on our website and in the November newsletter. Please reach out to Ms. Schena with any questions at mschena@bolivarrichburg.org. Thank you!

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING SELECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

NHS is based upon the following criteria for 11th and 12th graders and the process is outlined below:

Following the first marking period of each school year, all teachers at the high school receive a list of Juniors and Seniors who have met the scholastic eligibility requirement of having a cumulative high school average of **91 PERCENT** or higher. All high school faculty members are given a chance to evaluate the character, service, and leadership qualities of each student with whom they have had professional contact. Teachers provide a numeric score, ranging from 1-4, in each of the four categories to assess each student's

personal qualities. A written explanation is required for any score of 1 or 2. The results are averaged and given to the Faculty Council to consider when voting on new membership. The Faculty Council is a committee consisting of five high school teachers and is appointed annually. The principal and NHS advisor are **NON-VOTING MEMBERS** of the Council.

In addition, during this process, each scholastically eligible student receives and completes a student activity information sheet. On it, students list their activities and extracurricular information – both in school and in the community – for the Faculty Council to review. In addition, the Faculty Council requires each candidate to submit a written response to a writing prompt describing what character means to them and discussing how it is evidenced in their individual life. The Faculty Council reviews each student's activity form, written statements, as well as faculty rating sheets. The council evaluates each student on the criteria of leadership, service, and character. Candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council are selected for membership into the National Honor Society.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING SELECTED FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY.

NJHS is based upon the following criteria for 8th and 9th graders and the process is outlined below:

- **Scholarship:** The student must maintain a cumulative average of at least 90%.
- **Service:** All prospective members have submitted a list of their activities for the Faculty Council to review.
- **Character:** Integrity – refrains from cheating or intentional dishonesty
 - Positive behavior – does not skip class, violate school rules or civil laws
 - Cooperation – willing to assist classmates and faculty
 - Ethics – wants to do the “right thing” in most situations
- **Leadership:** Prospective members should be classroom leaders, officers in clubs, or captains of athletic teams. Leaders often do so by example, in and out of the classroom.

- **Citizenship:** Prospective members should be good citizens in the school environment as well as in the community.

Once applications are collected, all middle and high school faculty members are given a chance to evaluate the character, service, leadership, and citizenship qualities of each student with whom they have had professional contact. Teachers provide a yes or no answer to the prospective members. A written explanation is required for any no vote. These results are given to the Faculty Council to consider when voting on new membership. The Faculty Council is a committee consisting of five middle school teachers and is appointed annually. The principal and NJHS advisor are **NON-VOTING MEMBERS** of the Council.

In addition, during this process, each scholastically eligible student receives and completes a student activity information sheet. On it, students list their activities and extracurricular information – both in school and in the community - for the Faculty Council to review. The Faculty Council reviews each student's activity form as well as faculty voting sheets. The council evaluates each student on the criteria of the character, service, leadership, and citizenship. Candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council are selected for membership into the National Junior Honor Society.

Please direct any questions concerning National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society to Ms. Schena at mschena@bolivarrichburg.org.

SENTINEL NEWS

The Sentinel, our school newspaper, needs you! Please consider joining this club and help to spread the word about the amazing things BRCS students and staff are doing every single day. Come showcase your talents in creating and developing interesting stories, polls/surveys, opinion pieces, etc. Your participation is welcomed and appreciated. For more information, please contact Mrs. Mahon and Ms. Schena.



YEARBOOK NEWS

BRCS THE CLAW

Welcome back to school! We are so excited!! First, we want to congratulate our yearbook program on designing a remarkable 2025-26 yearbook.

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, announced that Bolivar-Richburg's yearbook program has achieved the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence 2026 award at the Gold Level. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students to develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

The Claw staff has already begun working on the 2026-27 yearbook. This year we will be focusing on the theme "One Day at a Time"! Important information will be updated on the website and letters will be sent home, but we wanted you to be aware of a few key dates so that we can put together the most amazing yearbook ever! Seniors, you will need your senior pictures completed as soon as possible as we will need them turned in no later than November 11, 2026. This will help us to adhere to the deadlines imposed by Jostens and to help us to have our yearbook delivered to the school by the end of May 2027. Our goal is to get those yearbooks in our students' hands by the end of May and the only way to do that is to stick to our deadlines. If you would like one of our talented yearbook photographers to take your senior picture, please reach out and let us know as we are very happy to be of assistance. Students/family members can now access the Josten's Photo Share link to upload senior photos and additional pictures throughout the year. The link is <https://photos.jostens.com/FZ3X4Z>.

Parent ad letters will be mailed out the week of September 14th. These ads will be due by December 1, 2026. However, the ad service is open right now so feel free to start creating immediately. As always, we thank our families and our local businesses for their support. Your ads help us to continue to maintain yearbook prices and help make it affordable for all of our students. As a reminder, family ads will be sent to Jostens for completion. This makes the process much more efficient and ensures the photos are of a high resolution and the ads are of the best quality. More information will follow concerning the procedure to ensure your family ad is sent in on time. Please note: This deadline is earlier this year because we need to make our first deadline by the beginning of January; this will help us to know how many pages we need to reserve for family ads. Senior year is busy and the sooner you get your yearbook ordered and family ad submitted, the more time there is for all the other important events occurring throughout the year. Parents and caregivers: senior year goes by fast, enjoy every moment!!!

Remember to purchase your yearbook through JostensYearbooks.com or see Ms. Schena or Ms. Smith 585-928-2561, ext. 4207. The price of the yearbook is \$60.00. Personalization is also available for an additional cost.

Lastly, our yearbook staff will be running a special for the entire month of September. For every yearbook purchased and personalized, you will be eligible for four free icons that are added to the cover next to your name. This is a savings of over \$20. So, don't wait. Order your yearbook in September and add a cool icon or two or four that emphasizes your love of sports, music, theater, hobbies, and/or date of graduation. Many schools do not offer this so take advantage of this incredible offer today! Reserve your award-winning yearbook today!



THE OUTDOOR CLUB WISHES TO THANK RUNNINGS OF WELLSVILLE FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT DONATION

The Outdoor Club of Bolivar-Richburg Central School was formed to give students who share a common interest in outdoor, environmentally friendly activities the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor educational events.

The Outdoor Club is planning to have a fly-fishing educational unit with hands-on activities for Outdoor Club members to participate in. Mr. Ray Gilliland will be teaching students the skills associated with fly fishing. The goal of the activities is to allow students to experience the positive aspects that fly fishing can bring to individuals of all ages. Learning the skills of fly fishing allows individuals a pastime that they can enjoy throughout their lives and hopefully teach others to enjoy as well.

Bolivar-Richburg Central School wishes to extend a HUGE thank you to Runnings of Wellsville for donating fishing equipment so that members of the Outdoor Club that do not have equipment can participate in learning how to fish. We are very appreciative of the donation and the support that Runnings has shown the Outdoor Club.

If you are interested in joining the Outdoor Club, please speak with Ms. Renyck or Mr. Thornton.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICE WELCOMES YOU BACK

Welcome back everyone! Another year has gone by and the beginning of the school year 2026-27 is approaching rapidly. We hope everyone had a good summer.

The Comprehensive Attendance Policy is in the Code of Conduct in this newsletter. If you have had any changes with addresses, phone numbers, parental work numbers, etc., within the last year, please contact the Attendance Office, located in the Main Office, 585-928-2901/2018.

When students and parents enter to sign-in or out of the building for appointments, they must report to the Main Office located on the first floor. Please have your child bring in an excuse to the Main Office before the start of the school day so we won't interrupt classes asking for their removal later in the day. If a student needs to drive to an appointment, please add that information to the excuse or they will not be excused. **ALL students should bring back a doctor's excuse when attending an appointment, whether they are in a sport or not.** Parents or guardians are the **ONLY** adults allowed to excuse a student unless otherwise noted on the excuse signed by the parent or guardian. **A student who is 18 or older IS NOT allowed to sign out of school without written parental permission for their appointment.** If a student is absent due to illness, etc., a parent should send a written excuse the next day upon return to school. When a student plans to be absent due to a vacation, he/she **MUST** pick up a **Vacation Form** from the Main Office (vacations are NOT a legal excuse).

Everyone here at Bolivar-Richburg wants to encourage good attendance and good rapport with our parents and students regarding attendance. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at 585-928-2561.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.
Miss. Grace Zilker and Ms. Wendy Smith
District Attendance Officers

Comprehensive Pupil Attendance This refers to students in grades 6-12

1. Attendance will be taken daily on a period-to-period basis and reported to the attendance office, Bolivar Main Office (6-12).
2. **Excused Absences, Early Dismissal, and Tardiness** – Pupil will be allowed to make up the classroom assignment in a timely fashion. It is understood that it is not the responsibility of the school or the individual teacher to ensure that missed work is made up. It is the responsibility of the individual student to make up the missed work in a reasonable period of time, which is to be determined by the individual teacher. (Usually within one class day after return to school).

EXCUSED Absences, Tardies & Early Dismissals from school are:

- a. Legal appointments
- b. Educational activities sponsored by the school district
- c. Death of immediate family
- d. Medical illness – personal and/or family member
- e. Music lesson/rehearsal sponsored by the school district.
- f. Medical appointment
- g. Religious holiday
- h. Suspension – In-School Suspension (all students)
- i. Suspension – Out-of-School Suspension (compulsory age students)
- j. Military obligation
- k. Administrative approval/emergency situations – covers unexpected events which keep a student from attendance. The principal will consider such cases individually.
- l. Driver's License Test
- m. Bus late due to conditions beyond student's control
- n. Late with a pass issued by school personnel

This list is not exhaustive and administrative review will be the final determinate in extenuating circumstances.

This list is not exhaustive and administrative review will be the final determinate in extenuating circumstances.

3. **Unexcused Absences, Early Dismissal, and Tardiness** – Student will be allowed to make-up the homework, classroom assignments, quizzes or exams; however, a penalty may be imposed by the teacher.

UNEXCUSED Absences, Tardies & Early Dismissals from school are:

- a. Babysitting
- b. Birthday
- c. Extra day before or after vacation
- d. Hunting/fishing
- e. Late with no pass
- f. Non-essential appointments
- g. Senior or any skip day
- h. Suspension – Out-of-school (student older than compulsory age)
- i. Transportation issue
- j. Truancy
- k. Vacation
- l. Overslept
- m. Work obligations

This list is not exhaustive and administrative review will be the final determinate in extenuating circumstances.

4. In the event of absenteeism, tardiness, or early dismissals, the following options are available to the administration (or designee):
 - a. Phone call
 - b. Letters of course attendance
 - c. Referral to outside agencies
 - d. PINS (Person In Need of Supervision)
5. Attendance will be taken by period in each classroom and reported to the attendance office. In the event of chronic absenteeism, tardiness, or early dismissal, the following options are available to the administration:
 - a. Referral to the guidance counselor
 - b. Letter sent to the parents concerning the absenteeism, tardiness, or early dismissal

- c. Home visits made by school personnel
 - d. Referral to the school psychologist,
 - e. Parents and student requested to meet with the attendance committee. The attendance committee will consist of an administrator, teacher, guidance counselor, school nurse, and school psychologist
 - f. Person In Need of Supervision (PINS)
 - g. Disciplinary action
 - h. Referral to an outside agency
 - i. Peer Counseling
 - j. Suspension of extracurricular participation.
11. Once a student has been absent, excused or unexcused, for more than 20% of a given course, they will be required to make-up any missed assignments during a time assigned by the school.

These lists are not exhaustive and administrative review will be the final determinate in extenuating circumstances.

OTHER ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES:

- ✓ Parents are asked to call Bolivar Main Office (6-12) **by 8:30 a.m.** if their children will not be attending school. Please send in a written excuse explaining the reason for their absence upon their return to school.
- ✓ A class cut is an unauthorized absence from class when a student is not absent from school. A cut from a given class will result in administrative action. Chronic problems will result in parent notification, alternative post-school, and loss of privileges.
- ✓ Tardiness to school must be accounted for by a written excuse, signed by a parent or guardian, explaining the reason for the tardiness.

Chronic problems will be handled by the office. Anyone with an unexcused tardy three times in a semester could receive detention for each subsequent tardy. Anyone with an unexcused tardy more than ten times in a semester could receive an extended detention. Any unexcused tardy after 10:00 a.m. will receive an extended detention regardless of the number of times they have been tardy.

- ✓ Teachers are expected to handle tardiness to class to their own satisfaction. Should the problem continue, the administration will be involved for disciplinary action. The action will range from detention to eventual suspension should the tardiness continue.
- ✓ Any parent or guardian requesting the temporary absence of a student (medical appointment, etc., during the day) shall present a written request to the attendance office stating the reason for the absence. Students will be excused from school only in the custody of legal parents or guardians or other such persons designated in writing by the legal parent or guardian.
- ✓ Truancy is an illegal absence without authorization from home or school. Disciplinary action will result in detention or alternative post-school.

WHO DO I SEE FOR?

(Middle / High School, Grades 6-12)

Athletics	Mr. Allen
Attendance.....	Ms. Zilker / Ms. Smith
Bus/Transportation.....	John Mesler
CSE.....	Mrs. Talbot / Mrs. Duke / Mrs. Root
Cafeteria (reduced/free lunch).....	Mr. Mesler
Computers.....	Mr. Baldwin
Conduct, Student.....	Mrs. Talbot / Mr. Pettit
Courses (changes of schedule).....	Guidance
Curriculum concerns	Mrs. Talbot
Extra-Curricular Activities	Mrs. Talbot
Detention.....	Mrs. Talbot / Mr. Pettit
Health Concerns.....	Nurse
Help with a personal problem	Guidance Counselor, Psychologist, Your Teacher, Administrators, County Mental Health
Late to class	Classroom Teacher / Main Office
Library/Media.....	Ms. Werner
Locker problems.....	Main Office / Maintenance
Lost/stolen articles	Nurse's Office / Main office
Scheduling	Guidance Office
Student/Teacher concern.....	Mrs. Talbot / Mr. Pettit
Use of building.....	Main Office



Any Willful act, which disrupts the educational process, is prohibited.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply.

Disruptive student – An elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

District/School – means the Bolivar-Richburg School District

Parent – Parent, guardian, or person in parental relation to a student.

School Property – means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus (Education Law Section 11[1]).

School Function – means a school sponsored extracurricular event or activity (Education Law Section 11[2]).

Controlled Substance – means a drug or other substance identified in certain provisions of the Federal Controlled Substances Act.

Discrimination – means discrimination against any student by a student or students and/or employee or employees on school property or at a school function including, but not limited to, discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

Harassment/bullying – means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying as defined in Education Law §11(8), that either: (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a

student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause emotional harm; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. (c) Such definition shall include acts of harassment or bullying that occur: on school property, at a school function, or off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

Cyberbullying – harassment/bullying, as defined above, through any form of electronic communication.

Violent Student – Student under the age of 21 who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so.
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so.
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon.
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon.
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Knowingly and intentionally

damages or destroys school district property.

Weapon – A firearm as defined in 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, live rounds / ammunition, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material, or substance that can cause physical injury or death.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, and civil school environment, all district students have the right to:

1. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.
4. To be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/ gender identify, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity.

Student Responsibilities

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class on time, and prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible. Failure to do so could result in a loss of privileges.
5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
12. To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination. To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents are responsible for acceptable student dress and appearance. They have the right to determine how the student dresses, provided that their attire is not destructive to School property, complies with requirements for health and safety, does not interfere with or distract from the educational process, or infringe upon the rights of others. Teachers and all other District staff should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and by example help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, will:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational program.
2. Not be revealing or see-through; underwear must be completely covered with outer clothing.
3. Include appropriate footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard is not permitted.
4. Not include the wearing of headwear during the school day except for a medical or religious purpose.
5. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or other legally protected category.
6. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities. Not display any signs of gang affiliation that may increase the level of conflict or violent behavior in schools, or under circumstances in which school administration may reasonably forecast that

violence or substantial disruption of school activities will occur.

Each building principal or designee is responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year as well as any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code will be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary or practical, replace it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so may be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the student dress code may be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Teachers and all other personnel serve as role models to the students they work with. They should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and behavior, and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance and conduct in a school setting by attending to their own appearance through these guidelines. Staff are expected to wear clothing that is modest, safe, clean, in good repair, appropriate to their program, and not disruptive to the educational process.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

All students will conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner in accordance with the District Code of Conduct. This includes proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, personnel, other members of the school community, and facilities and equipment.

Discipline should be self-imposed; students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact

with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to emphasize the student's ability to develop self-discipline.

Students who do not accept responsibility for their own behavior or who violate these rules may be disciplined up to and including suspension from school or removal from a program, when they engage in conduct that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others, engage in misconduct on the school bus, or engage in academic misconduct including work/internship sites.

Students are expected to promptly report any violations to a teacher or administrator. Anyone who, in good faith, reports a violation of the law, school rule, or *Code of Conduct*, may not be retaliated against.

Students who *knowingly* make false accusations against another individual may face disciplinary action. This can include, but is not limited to, knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process under Title IX, which is prohibited by this *Code*.

Students may be disciplined when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly.

Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging in any act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community, running in hallways, making unreasonable noise, and using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, abusive, intimidating, offensive and/or racial comments, or that incite others.
2. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
3. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any area of the school buildings, other than the areas they regularly attend, without permission from the

administrator in charge of the building.

4. Misusing computer/electronic communications devices, including any unauthorized or inappropriate use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; evading the District's content filter; using an outside wireless network; or any other violation of the District Acceptable Use Policy.
5. Unauthorized or inappropriate use of personal electronic devices/equipment (i.e., cell phones, MP3 devices, cameras, and other personal electronic devices considered inappropriate by the administration).
6. Unauthorized use of personal computer, laptop, tablet or e-reader, or other computerized information resources through the District computer system is prohibited.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate.

Examples of insubordinate or disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other District employees, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Missing or leaving school or class without permission, include tardy / late to school or class.
3. Skipping detention or other imposed disciplinary consequences.

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive.

Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, District administrators or other District employees, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.

Endangering the health and safety of other students or staff or interfering with classes, or interfering with the

education of other students, or District activities by means of inappropriate appearance or behavior as per the *District Code of Conduct*, including inappropriate or unwanted sexual contact.

2. Distributing - by any means - or wearing materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, inflammatory, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others or are disruptive to the school community.

D. Engage in Conduct That is Violent

Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing, threatening or attempting an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, biting, or scratching) upon another student; a teacher, administrator, or other District employee; or any other person lawfully on school property Engaging in harassing conduct, verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for their physical well-being.
2. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on School property or at a District function.
3. Displaying what appears to be a weapon, threatening to use any weapon(s), or using weapon(s).
4. Intentionally damaging or destroying District property, the personal property of a student, teacher, volunteer, contractor, vendor, administrator, other District employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a District function, including but not limited to graffiti or arson
5. Communication by any means, including oral, written or electronic (such as through the internet, email, online learning management systems/educational

platform, other forms of social media, or texting) off school property, where the content of the communication:

- a. Can reasonably be interpreted as a threat to commit an act of violence on school property; or,
- b. Results in material or substantial disruption to the educational environment.

E. Engage in conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others

Examples of conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Lying, deceiving, or giving false information to school personnel. This can include, but is not limited to, knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process under Title IX.
2. Stealing District property or the property of other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or while attending a school function.
3. Making statements or representations that demean, denigrate or otherwise harm other individuals or groups. This can include posting, publishing or disseminating written materials, video or audio recordings, or pictures or on the internet, social media, or any District-owned or personal electronic device when this conduct poses a reasonably foreseeable risk that the content would result in substantial disruption to the educational environment, or does result in this disruption.
4. Engaging in acts of harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, intimidation, or discrimination, including conduct prohibited by the Dignity for All Students Act.
5. Inappropriate communication of a sexual nature including by means or any personal technology, electronic device, or other means of technology, including but not limited to the taking, sending or receiving of sexually explicit videos, pictures or audio.
6. Displaying signs of gang affiliation or engaging in gang-related behaviors that are believed or observed
7. to increase the level of conflict or violent behavior on school property or at a school function, or under circumstances in which school authorities can reasonably expect violence or substantial disruption of school activities.
8. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any District or school-sponsored function, activity, organization, club, or team.
9. Selling, using, possessing, or distributing obscene material.
10. Possessing, consuming, selling, attempting to sell, distributing, or exchanging tobacco, tobacco products, and any other products containing nicotine, as well as e-cigarettes, vape pens, or other similar items, including related paraphernalia while on school property.
11. Possessing, consuming, selling, attempting to sell, distributing, or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs/substances; counterfeit, synthetic, and designer drugs; paraphernalia for use of these drugs, including but not limited to, dab pens, cartridges, rolling papers, or being under the influence of any of these substances on school property or at a District function. Illegal and/or prohibited drugs/substances include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana (including any other marijuana-based product or derivative, whether natural or synthetic), synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike substances, drug paraphernalia, and any other synthetic or designer drugs. The definition of illegal drugs includes controlled substances. While cannabis (marijuana) is a controlled substance under federal law, it has been legalized by New York State for adult use under certain circumstances. However, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, possess, or use cannabis. Regardless of age, the sale, purchase, possession, and/or use of cannabis is prohibited on school grounds under state and federal laws and/or District policy.
12. Unauthorized possession, use, selling, attempting to sell, distributing, or exchanging prescription and over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, supplements, herbs or other similar substances.
13. Possessing, using, consuming, selling, attempting to sell, distributing or attempting to distribute, or exchanging or attempting to exchange look-alike drugs, or possessing or consuming (without authorization), selling, attempting to sell, distributing or attempting to distribute, or exchanging or attempting to exchange other substances such as dietary supplements, weight loss pills, etc.
14. Gambling and unauthorized / non-educational gaming.
15. Inappropriate touching, including contact of a sexual nature, or indecent exposure.
16. Initiating or reporting warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misusing 911, or inappropriately discharging a fire extinguisher.
17. Violating gender privacy when using school restroom facilities. Also, unauthorized or inappropriate use of restroom facilities.
18. Engaging in conduct that could be construed as sexual harassment in accordance with this

- i. Code of Conduct and/or Title IX.

F. Engage in Misconduct While on a School Bus

Students must behave appropriately while riding on District buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers, and to avoid distracting the driver. Students must conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with this *Code of Conduct*. Excessive noise, unauthorized movement out of seat while bus is moving, pushing, shoving, fighting, throwing items, harassment, and discrimination will not be tolerated. Rules for riding the bus are contained in the School Bus Riders Manual.

G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. (See Section on Academic Integrity)

Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism.
2. Cheating.
3. Copying.
4. Altering records/forgery.
5. Accessing other users' email accounts or network storage accounts, or attempting to read, delete, copy, modify, or interfere with transferring or receiving electronic communications.
6. Violation of the District Acceptable Use Policy.
7. Defacing or damaging school, class, library or others' materials, work or documents.
8. Taking exam, quiz, lab or any other instructional questions answers or forms to further one or more students' grade or progress.
9. Violation of copyright laws.
10. Assisting another student in any of the actions listed here.

USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal technology and electronic devices include all existing and emerging technology devices that can take photographs; record or play audio or video; input text; upload and download media; connect to or

receive information from the internet; and transmit or receive messages, telephone calls or images, that belong to the student or the student's family, and have not been provided by the District. Examples of personal technology include, but are not limited to, tablets; laptop and netbook computers; personal digital assistants (PDAs), cell phones and smart phones. The District authorizes personal technology and electronic devices for instructional and non-instructional uses as explained below. However, the District does not authorize unacceptable devices including, but not limited to, gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers and personal modems or routers.

Instructional Uses

Instructional uses include, but are not limited to, approved classroom activities, research, college admissions activities, career development, communication with experts, homework, and other activities considered appropriate by school staff.

Students are permitted to have and use any personal technology device as authorized by their teachers and administration for instructional use in classrooms. Students are expected to act responsibly and thoughtfully when using technology resources. While students are permitted to possess and use these devices during the school day, they are prohibited from using them in any manner which invades the privacy of students, employees, volunteers or visitors or that otherwise violates law or any provision of this *Code of Conduct*. If a student violates this prohibition, then they may be disciplined under this *Code of Conduct*. Students should keep any permitted electronic device on school property in a safe and responsible manner as instructed by the building principal. Passwords and personal technology devices should not be shared with others. A student's electronic device may be confiscated and subject to a search in accordance

with sections of this Code, if school officials have reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will reveal evidence of a violation of law, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules or policies.

Non-Instructional Uses

Appropriate use of personal technology during non-instructional time is also permitted if students follow the guidelines in the AUP and *Code of Conduct*. Non-instructional use includes texting, calling or otherwise communicating with others during free periods and within common areas of the school building such as the hallways, cafeteria, study halls, buses and student lounges. Other non-instructional uses may include Internet searches, reading, listening to music, and watching videos. Use during non-instructional time must be conducted in a safe and unobtrusive manner while respecting the privacy of others. Devices must be in silent mode to avoid disrupting others.

Teachers and all other personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student behavior including possession and use of electronic devices.

Prohibition During State Assessments

Unless authorized by law, regulation, or government rule, all students are prohibited from bringing electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a New York State assessment is being administered. Test proctors, monitors and school officials have the right to collect prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test and hold them while the test is being administered, including break periods. Admission to any assessment will be denied to any student who refuses to relinquish a prohibited device.

Referrals

Students may be referred to a counselor, Family Court (PINS) or County Attorney for a juvenile delinquent proceeding as required by law.

Alternative Instruction

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, the district will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

Student Lockers, Desks and other School Storage Places

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent. If you would like a full version, please contact the Main Office

STUDENT GUIDELINES

Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced breakfast and lunch is offered at a reasonable price.

The lunchroom management and your fellow students will appreciate your cooperation in:

1. Depositing all lunch litter in wastebaskets.
2. Returning all trays and utensils to the dishwashing area.
3. Leaving the table and floor around your place in a clean condition for others.
4. No food or drink may be taken from the cafeteria.
5. Once a student is seated, they should not make excessive numbers of trips from their table.

Students who do not display proper behavior in the cafeteria will be subject to removal.

Library

Students are welcome to visit the Library Media Center to utilize its resources at any time that the library is open.

In order to sign in to the Library Media Center during study hall or advisement, a student must be passing all of his or her classes. Student eligibility is updated in the LMC system every five weeks; students who regain privileges during the semester are required to provide documentation to the Librarian. To accommodate equitable access to LMC resources, exceptions to this policy may be made at the librarian's discretion.

During study hall periods, students will report to their scheduled classrooms and wait for dismissal to the library. Students are responsible for checking in at the circulation desk upon arrival.

Advisement passes may be checked out at any time during the school day for which the pass is to be used. Students must report to their advisement teachers with LMC passes before returning to the library.

Students who are returning/ checking out materials are not required to hold library cards.

Dance Procedures

Bolivar-Richburg is very proud of the student body's positive attitude and appropriate conduct at school dances. Dances are considered an extracurricular activity sponsored by the school, and as such, all regulations pertaining to student conduct are in effect.

Middle school dances (grades 6-8) are scheduled from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Grades 9-12 dance times are from 8:00-11:00 p.m. (Special dance times may vary and will be announced in school.) Generally, all dances will be held on Friday or Saturday evenings.

Students who leave dances early will not be allowed re admittance and must sign out when they leave.

In addition, the following rules apply:

1. Students must attend school the day of a dance (if a school day).
2. If a student leaves a dance, the student must also leave school grounds.
3. No one will be admitted during the final hour of either dance.
4. Admission is limited to students of Bolivar-Richburg Central School unless they are registered
 - a) Sign up as the host (B-R student) and sign up your guest (one host/one guest).
 - b) Sign up no later than one day prior to the date of the dance. The guest sign-up sheet will be in the main office.
 - c) The host student must accompany his/her guest to the dance in order for the guest to be admitted.
 - d) Any student bringing a guest is responsible for the conduct of the guest.
 - e) The guest must be under the age of twenty-one (21) for all regular dances.

Guidance

Guidance services are available for all students; grades K-5, Mrs. Schryver and grades 6-12, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Crandall-Bean. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study helps, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel he would like to discuss with the counselor.

Students wishing to visit a counselor should contact the secretary in the guidance office to arrange for an appointment.

Health Services

If a student becomes ill in school, the student should report his/her illness to the teacher, who will notify the nurse. The teacher will allow the student to report to the nurse when the nurse is available. The nurse will decide what

should be done. Students must not leave the building because of illness without authorization. If the nurse is not in, students are to report to the main office.

Honor Roll

The following requirements are in effect for the junior and senior high school honor rolls:

- **“High Honor”** roll - students achieving an average of 90% or better in their academic subjects.
- **“Honor”** roll - students achieving an average of 85%-90% in their academic subjects.

Students attaining these honor rolls will have their names posted in several display boards in the building as well as printed in the local newspaper. Two Academic Recognition Assemblies, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12, will be held in May of each school year. The most outstanding and most improved student in each subject area will receive a framed certificate. Any student who maintains a 95 or above average for the year will receive a “Superintendent’s Scholar Certificate”, and any student who maintains an average of 90-94 for the year will receive the “Principal’s Scholar Certificate”. Parents as well as students will be invited to attend these Academic Recognition Assemblies.

Textbooks

Each pupil will be responsible for his/her textbooks. All textbooks must be covered with a book cover at the beginning of the school year. Students will be required to pay for any lost or damaged textbooks.

Vehicles

Students who drive a motor vehicle to school must obey the following rules:

- Each student must register the vehicle each year and display the registration tag. The tag must be displayed in the rear window (not the side window). Registration forms may be obtained in the main office. School Street parking is for Seniors and Juniors only. All other student parking is in the stadium lot.
- Each student must park in assigned parking areas.
- Parking in a no-parking area is a direct violation.
- Violations, such as, speeding or careless driving on the school grounds and on streets bordering the school are not permitted and may result in the parking privilege being revoked, detention, out-of-school suspension being assigned, and towing of the vehicle at student expense.
- Notification of violations to the appropriate law enforcement agency will occur.



B-RCS SECTION 504 PARENT/STUDENT RIGHTS IN IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION, AND PLACEMENT

Please Keep This Explanation for Future Reference (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to students with handicaps.* The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her handicapping condition;
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law;
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child;
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities;
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-handicapped students;

6. Have your child receive special education and related services if he/she is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;
7. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district;
9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district;
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement;
11. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;
12. A response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;
13. Request amendment of your

child's educational records if there is a reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing;

14. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you;
15. Ask for payment of reasonable attorney fees if you are successful on your claim;
16. File a local grievance.

*(29 U.S.C. 706(7), 794; 34 C.F.R. Part 104, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99)

The persons in this district who is responsible for assuring that the district complies with Section 504 are:

Jessica Talbot and Megan Duke, CSE
Chairpersons and Principals
Telephone number:
(585) 928-2561

PARENT "RIGHT-TO-KNOW NOTIFICATION"

All schools of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District are classified as Title I School-Wide schools. Under No Child Left Behind, you have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher and paraprofessional staff:

- The teacher's bachelor's degree major and any other certifications or degrees held by the teacher by field or discipline.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

- Whether the teacher has state certification for the classes in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional status.

Should you wish to request this information, please contact the District Office, and we will be happy to provide it to you in a timely manner.

In combination with Portville and Cuba-Rushford schools, the Athletic Department is excited to be offering the following fall sports.

FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING, BOYS SOCCER, GIRLS SOCCER, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL AND CROSS COUNTRY

**Football Practices will start
Monday, August 17th.**

**All other sport practices will start
Monday, August 24th.**

Please be sure to sign up prior to that date to avoid clearance delays. The online Athletic Registration site has been open for some time with great signup results.

If you are still interested in participating in a fall sport by the time this newsletter is published, please contact the Athletic Department directly to verify if there is still time to join.

**Access Athletic
Registration Website →**



We are offering the following services this year:

- Late Bus (5:30) after practices (once school starts)
- Study Center (starts October)

PLEASE COME OUT TO SUPPORT OUR TEAMS!

**Access all Athletics links from
the BRCS homepage ↓**



**View Sports
Schedules Online ↓**



New NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Policy

The following has been added to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Regulations to the state Handbook:

"Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that brings direct attention to a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school, sectional or NYSPHSAA representative in the following non-sequential order depending on the comments and the behavior":

- First Warning-Directing the spectators or group of spectators to refrain from any negative comments or actions
- Second Warning-A personal discussion with the spectators or group of spectators on the above NYSPHSAA expectations and reminding the spectators or group of spectators of the next step, removal of the game or event, will be utilized if the behavior continues.
- Removal from the contest-The spectator or group of spectators will be directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the game or event. If spectators or group of spectators refuse to leave the game or event, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.

Penalty for being removed from a game or event: Any spectator removed from a game or event will have a minimum penalty of completing the NFHS Parent Credential course and at least a one game suspension before being allowed to attend any interscholastic event, home or away. Once the course is completed the spectator will provide a certificate of completion to the athletic department office. Schools are required to communicate with the offending spectator on the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Expectations.

- Depending on the severity of the behavior/comments or future disqualifications by the offending spectator NYSPHSAA and the Section may get directly involved in the situation.

DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL HEALTH POLICIES

IMMUNIZATION: State law requires all students entering public or private school be immunized against the following: polio, DPT, measles, rubella, mumps, chicken pox, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenza. New York State no longer allows exemptions for religious reasons. A complete record of immunizations must be presented before a child may enter Bolivar-Richburg Central School.

ILLNESS: A child who appears ill should be kept home. Prolonged or contagious illness should be reported to the school nurse so she may contact parents whose children may have been exposed. If a child becomes ill in school, parents will be notified and are expected to come for the child or make arrangements to have him/her taken home.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS: It is important to have in our files the name and phone number of a friend or relative who may assume responsibility for a child when the parent cannot be reached. Our policy is not to release a child in the custody of anyone other than the parent or a designated person. It is also important to have the name and phone number of the child's doctor.

EXCUSES: School policy requires a written excuse be kept on file for each absence or tardy. It should include the child's name, the date, reason for the absence, number of days absent or tardy and the parent's signature.

EMERGENCY CARE: State law permits a nurse to give one-time emergency care only. Accidents or illnesses that occur at home cannot be treated at school.

MEDICATIONS: A school nurse may not legally give any medication, even aspirin, without a written order signed by a doctor and written permission signed by the parents. Where daily medication is required, the doctor's order and parent's permission must be renewed each year. Never send medications to school with the child. It may change hands on the way to school.

MEDICAL PROGRAM: Physicals are required before entrance to kindergarten. School physicals are required in first, third, fifth, seventh and tenth grades and on all new students who have not had one. Parents will be notified of any conditions the doctor feels may require treatment. Eyes and ears of all students, kindergarten through sixth grade, are screened each year. Parents are notified if any student fails the screening test.

ACCIDENTS: School related accidents are covered by school insurance. New York State Law states that parents must use their own insurance first and then the school insurance will continue coverage. This avoids duplication of payments and keeps the cost of the insurance within reasonable limits.

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

The Board of Education recognizes that learning environments that are safe and supportive can increase student attendance and improve academic achievement. A student's ability to learn and achieve high academic standards, and a school's ability to educate students, is compromised by incidents of discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to bullying, taunting, and intimidation. Therefore, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, Education Law, Article 2, the District will strive to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment and will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

The District condemns and prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the educational process may be subject to discipline.

Dignity Act Coordinators for the Bolivar-Richburg School District are Hadley Hooker, Taylor Winchell and Angela Schryver.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

FIRE INSPECTION: In compliance with New York State Education Department Regulations, an annual fire inspection was conducted by certified inspectors. All areas are in compliance.

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION: In compliance with regulations, an annual structural inspection was conducted by certified inspectors. All areas are in compliance.

ASBESTOS: In compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), all school districts are required to re-inspect facilities for asbestos containing building materials. Our facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to ensure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. Activities include training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic re-inspections and surveillance activities by trained personnel. All asbestos material in the school remains in good condition.

Details of such activities are described in the district's AHERA Management Plan, which is available for your review in the district office.

Bolivar-Richburg Central School
Jeff Margeson, Superintendent of Schools
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715

INFORMATION REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including career and technical educational opportunities as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Board of Education affirms its compliance with those sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 dealing with program accessibility.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in federally assisted programs or activities solely on the basis of disability. The District shall make its program and facilities accessible to all its students with disabilities.

The District shall also identify, evaluate and extend to every qualified student with a disability under Section 504 a free, appropriate public education, including modifications, accommodations, specialized instruction or related aids and services, as deemed necessary to meet their educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

Sexual Harassment of Students

The Board of Education affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide for all District students an environment that is free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Sexual harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the Board

prohibits and condemns all forms of sexual harassment by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors which occur on school grounds and at all school sponsored events, programs and activities including those that take place at locations off school premises or those that take place in another state. Generally, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- a) Submission to or rejection of such sexually harassing conduct and/or communication by a student affects decisions regarding any aspect of the student's education, including participation in school-sponsored activities;
- b) Conditions exist within the school environment that allow or foster obscene pictures, lewd jokes, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other harassing activities of a sexual nature; and
- c) Such conduct and/or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an educational or extracurricular activity, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment; and/or effectively bars the student's access to an educational opportunity or benefit.

Complaint Process

Any student suspecting discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability may make a claim of discrimination using the procedure outlined below. Anyone who is aware of or has a complaint about sexual

harassment should also follow this procedure. This claim or complaint is filed with the Superintendent/designee, who will assist with the complaint process if necessary. The following information should be included on the complaint.

1. The exact nature of the complaint – actions, policies, or practices believed to be discriminatory and any person believed to be responsible.
2. The date, time and place of the alleged discriminatory action(s).
3. The names of witnesses or persons who have knowledge about the complaint.
4. Any available written documentation or evidence that is relevant to the complaint.
5. The actions that could be taken to correct the complaint.

The Superintendent/designee shall cause a review of the complaint to be conducted (including necessary meetings and interviews) and a written response mailed to the complainant within ten school days after receipt of the complaint.

If it is agreed that discrimination occurred, corrective action will be taken to restore denied rights.

If there is no agreement, a written appeal may be submitted to the Board of Education indicating the reasons for disagreement. The Board of Education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the appeal.

A complaint of illegal discrimination may also be filed with the Federal Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

Title IX Coordinators for the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District:

James Pettit
Susan Bokman
585-928-2561

TITLE I PARENTS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*.

Although *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under *NCLB* was eliminated from the *ESSA*. Despite this fact, all educators in New York still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the *ESSA*, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

New York has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Bolivar-Richburg School District. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESSA*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,
Jeff Margeson, Superintendent of Schools

PESTICIDES NOTICE

As part of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District's pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Mr. Randy Harmon, Director of Facilities
Bolivar-Richburg Central School
100 School Street
Bolivar, NY 14715

Pesticides use Prior Notification Request
(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone Numbers

Daytime: _____

Evening: _____

Please Check One:

☐ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment inside the building

☐ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment on the grounds of the school.

☐ Both of the above.

Signature

Date

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day Bolivar-Richburg Central School received a request for access.
Parents or eligible students should submit to the Bolivar-Richburg Central School appropriate building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the appropriate school building principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the Bolivar-Richburg Central School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, Bolivar-Richburg Central School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

FERPA Directory Information:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Bolivar-Richburg Central School, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Bolivar-Richburg Central School may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications.

Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEA's) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.¹

If you do not want Bolivar-Richburg Central School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by September 30, 2026. Bolivar-Richburg Central School has designated the following information as directory information:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Student's name | • awards received |
| • Address | • The most recent |
| • Telephone listing | educational agency or |
| • Electronic mail address | institution attended |
| • Photograph | • Student ID number, |
| • Date and place of birth | user ID, or other unique |
| • Major field of study | personal identifier used to |
| • Dates of attendance | communicate in electronic |
| • Grade level | systems that cannot be |
| • Participation of officially | used to access education |
| recognized activities and | records without a PIN, |
| sports | password, etc. (A student's |
| • Weight and height of | SSN, in whole or in part, |
| members of athletic teams | cannot be used for this |
| • Degrees, honor, and | purpose.) |

¹These laws are: Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7908), as amended, and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c), as amended.



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE- PRECIOUS CARGO

The Transportation Department at Bolivar-Richburg Central School would like to thank everyone for their help in making the transportation of your children as safe and efficient as possible. Listed below are the bus routes for the coming year. Please communicate, as soon as possible, any information needed to ensure that each student is transported to their proper location.

Be aware that students will be picked up and dropped off at their legal address unless the school is notified in writing. Having your house number visible from the road makes locating your address much easier for the bus drivers.

Please be sure to talk to your children about safe riding rules, such as listening to and obeying any direction given by the driver. Also remind your children to stay in their seats while the bus is moving. The bus rider's manual will be sent home with each student. Please review it with your child.

Thank you for your help!

Ed Elling
Transportation Supervisor
585-928-2561, ext. 8

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Town hall - Plum St.

AM: (bus # 45)

PM: (bus # 45)

AM: bus stop at High School (bus # 45)

PM: Friendship St. & High School (bus # 40)

AM & PM: Liberty St. & First St. & Pleasant St. (bus # 47)

AM/PM: Second St. & Liberty St. & Railroad St. &

Boss St. (bus # 36)

AM & PM: Bus Stop at Pre-K & Olean St. (bus # 37)

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Richburg School & Richburg Fire Hall (bus # 43)



REGULAR BUS RUNS

Bus # 38	Bus # 37	Bus # 45	Bus # 47	Bus # 43
Driver: Nick Dodson High Street., Ceres Bells Brook School St., Ceres 417W. – Ceres	Driver: Wally Dillon Streeter Brook 417W – Little Genessee Coyle Rd. South Main St., Bolivar	Driver: Lisa Taylor County Rte. 18 County Rte. 33 Kansas Hollow (S.Bolivar) Beers Hollow Rd. 417E – Wellsville St.	Driver: Charlie Winchell Clarke Rd. McKee Rd. – White Hill Rd. Rte. 417E Homestead Rd. Phillips Hill Rd. Kansas Hollow Rd. (Bolivar side) Kossuth Rd. – Olive St.	Driver: Ray Mannix Rte. 275 County Rd. 8 Dimmick Rd. Zimmer Rd. Pleasant Valley Rd.
Bus # 46	Bus # 42	Bus # 41	Bus # 39	Bus # 40
Driver: Tim Trip Scott & Anderson Hollow Horse Run Rd. Mead & Miller Hollow 417W – Bolivar Refinery Rd. Bartlett Rd. South Main St., Bol. Forman Hollow	Driver: Troy Steiner County Rte. 1 Rte. 305N Moulton Hill Rd. County Rte. 40 Jordan Hill (Rte. 40 side)	Driver: Lynn Pinney Daggett Hollow Rte. 305 Higby Rd. Cty. Rt. 40 to Stewart Rd. Stewart Rd. (lower & upper) Harland Ames Rd. (upper) Pine Grove Rd.	Driver: Don Skinner Phillips Rd. Emerson & Blaine Rd. W. Notch Messer Hill Rd. Deans Flats	Driver: Jeff Harmon Sanford Hollow Rte. 417W Salt Rising Rd (Rte. 5A) County Rd. 5 Halls Crossing Rd.

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
100 SCHOOL STREET
BOLIVAR, NY 14715

Board of Education:

Amanda McDonnell, President
Aaron Duell, Vice President
Erin Baldwin
Donielle Champlin
Stephanie Blankenship
Michelle Clark
Norene Ferris

Administration:

Jeffrey Margeson, Superintendent of Schools
Susan Bokman, Director of Data and Accountability
Megan Duke, Elementary Principal
Angela Schryver, Elementary Assistant Principal
Jessica Talbot, Secondary Principal
James Pettit, Secondary Assistant Principal
Amy Rozler, School Business Administrator

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1825
Olean, NY
14760

Current Resident

or Local Postal Patron



**New York State makes it easier
for you to get SNAP Benefits.**

The only way to know if you qualify is to apply.

*Check your eligibility for a range of
benefits and apply for SNAP at*

myBenefits.ny.gov

For more information

800-342-3009



Nutritional Support for Your Family



SNAP
Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program

A Program of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance