

The Reader

SUMMER 2023

A Message from the Superintendent

I am so proud of our students, staff, and community for how we supported and celebrated each other over this past year. Evidence of this can be found in the following pages of this newsletter, all of which demonstrates our mantra, Educating Everyone Takes Everyone. The district has wrapped up the 2022-23 school year and we are now preparing for the return of students and 10-month staff in September.

Over the course of the summer, we are hosting several summer programs that help support our students, working on our reopening plans for the fall, and setting districtwide goals for improving our teaching and learning opportunities. As we do so, we will continue to communicate with all stakeholders through our frequent Scotties Recaps, website postings, direct emails and social media posts with district happenings and information. Please keep watch of our website and your email for details on upcoming events and important dates.

The district is pleased to welcome several new leaders to our administrative team as we prepare for the 2023-24 school year. As announced earlier, Matthew Robinson was selected to serve as the new High School Principal. He most recently worked as an administrator in the Troy City School District and is now meeting students and staff during summer programs at BSHS, and is busy as they prepare for the opening of schools on September 7, 2023. The district also welcomed John Fay as the new Coordinator of Transportation earlier this summer. He joins the district after serving the Shenendehowa School District most recently as an assistant coordinator.

Upon the retirement of long-time district leader Sharon D'Agostino at the end of June, the district has selected Kevin Flores, Assistant HS Principal, to serve as the Director of Student Support Services. Kevin has served the district for 16 years in various roles. Finally, Alicia Backus joined the district in December as our Elementary Assistant Director of Special Education. Please join us in welcoming them to their respective roles.

We look forward to the reopening of school and the start of classes for the 2023-24 school year on September 7, 2023. Please enjoy the remainder of the summer break and I hope you are able to take full advantage of all of the opportunities that our village, towns, county, and region provide.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gianleo Duca,
Superintendent of Schools

Ballston Spa

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



BSTA Presents 2023 Scholarships

This year, the Ballston Spa Teachers' Association (BSTA) is proud to award \$5,500 in scholarships to five graduating seniors in two categories. The BSTA Field of Education Scholarship was created in 1960 to recognize students who plan to attend an accredited college or university in order to pursue a career in education or an education related field such as guidance, social work or psychology. The current amount of this scholarship award is a one-time payment of \$1,500. This year's recipients from the Class of 2023 include Madison Ballou, Lee McKinley and Payton Messina.

The second scholarship is the Community Service/First Responder Scholarship which was created in 2018. The intent of this BSTA Scholarship is to recognize students who have demonstrated that they are community oriented, plan to attend an accredited college or university and enroll in a program of study with the intent to pursue a career related to being a First Responder. The amount of this award is a one-time payment of \$500. This year's recipients are Christopher DuMais and Jared Gilston.

Congratulations to these well deserving students! Since 1960, through the generous donations from the active and retired BSTA members, the Ballston Spa Teachers' Association has awarded \$141,900 in scholarships to graduating students from Ballston Spa High School.

District Budget Vote Results

The Ballston Spa community approved the district's 2023-2024 budget proposal of \$104,232,811 with 73% supporting the budget proposal during the annual statewide school budget vote in May. Voters overwhelmingly approved the propositions for school vehicle replacement and to collect funds for the Ballston Spa Public Library. Three candidates were elected to the Board of Education, Matt Dreher, Katie Whittemore, and Julia Routbort Baskin. The Board of Education approved the proposed budget in April which represents a 5.7% increase in expenditures over the 2022-2023 budget. The projected tax levy to support the 2023-2024 budget is \$58,016,479 - which represents a 3.1% increase over the 2022-2023 tax levy. Final tax rates will be determined and approved in August after the Town Assessors update tax rolls for their respective towns.

Morley Literacy Award Presented to Students

Ballston Spa fifth grade students were recognized at annual 5th Grade Moving-Up ceremonies at their elementary schools before the summer break. During the ceremonies, students at each school were presented with the Maurice "Christopher" Morley Literacy Award. The 2023 award recipients include Chase Bruder from Milton Terrace Elementary, Elizabeth (Liz) Evanchuk and Logan Wood from Gordon Creek Elementary, Draven Campbell from Wood Road Elementary, and Michael Ahern from Malta Avenue Elementary.

This award was created in Mr. Morley's name and is awarded to students from each elementary school who are moving up to the Middle School and have demonstrated exceptional determination and perseverance on the road to literacy. The award includes a recognition certificate along with a gift certificate to a local bookstore. The award is supported by the Rotary Club of Ballston Spa and is presented annually by each elementary school principal.



Students Earn New York State Seal of Biliteracy

Ballston Spa High School once again provided the opportunity for graduating seniors to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) with over 50 students qualifying in the Class of 2023. The NY State Education Department established the NYSSB in 2012 to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.

The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for qualifying students and is a statement of their accomplishment for future employers and college admission. Ballston Spa students received the seal on their diploma at graduation ceremonies in June.



Music Department Receives National Recognition, Again!

The district has once again been honored with a Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Ballston Spa is one of the top 6% of public-school districts across the nation receiving the prestigious award in 2023. The district has now received the recognition for seven consecutive years, starting in 2017. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

This award recognizes that Ballston Spa is leading the way with music learning opportunities as outlined in the federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The district annually celebrates Music In Our Schools month during March with several special events, including an annual Pops Concert for the school community and acknowledging students who have performed in state and regional honors groups at a Board of Education meeting. Additional information about the music programs in the Ballston Spa schools is available on the department's webpages via www.bsbsd.org or call 518-884-7150.



District Recognizes 2022-2023 Staff Retirements:

The district would like to recognize the retirement of staff members who are retiring during this school year. The dedication and service that they brought to the district during their collective 542+ years of service will definitely be missed. Please join us in thanking them all for their commitment to the students of Ballston Spa during their many years of service: Sharon Armer, Lorna Ashline, Lynn Baker, Stephen Baldes, Christine Chetwynd, Sharon D'Agostino, Christine Duguid, John Ellis, Elaine Hutchins, Francis Kane, Lesa Krogh, Joseph McClements, Caroline Mitchell, Susan Morrissey, Amy Patrick, David Penesso, Dawn Petry, Erin Pezzulo, Koren Quinn, Elizabeth Robertello, Diane Sabanos, Odilia Shaw, Candace Stalters, Mary-Jo Thompson, and Kathleen Welch.

Interscholastic Athletic Accomplishments and Recognitions

All seven of our Spring 2023 athletic teams earned recognition as a NYS Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHAA) Scholar-Athlete Team based on the academic accomplishments of 126 student athletes (combined GPA of 93.394).

Several outstanding spring sports athletes received congratulations and recognition from the Board of Education and Administration for their athletic accomplishments. Harriet Healey was recognized for her very successful track season, including placing 1st in the 400m and 400m hurdles and earning Top Female Athlete at the Eddy Meet Invitational. Healey also won the NYSPHAA State Championship in the 400m hurdles and won the 400m hurdles at the East Coast Championships. Spring athletes Livia Wiltsie, Madalyn Wilson and Dominick Zichelli, were selected for inclusion on Suburban Council All-Star 1st teams, while Madelyn Perrone, Nick Rychcik, Troy Gottmann, Landon Potter, Sean Dwyer and Aidan Davis were selected for inclusion on the Suburban Council All-Star 2nd teams.

Student athletes Jacob Armer, Ashley Beck, Joseph Fodera, Troy Gottmann, Harriet Healey, Darrien Insogna, Lee McKinley and Andrew Peet were all recognized for earning eight or more Varsity Letters during their athletic participation throughout their time at BSHS.



The Athletic Department also recognized six graduating athletes who are joining a Division I or II level college team next year. Student athletes honored (with sport and college) include: Charles Burmaster, Lacrosse – Franklin Pierce University; Shane Slezak, Baseball – The College of St. Rose; Sean Dwyer, Lacrosse – The College of St. Rose; Dominick Zichelli, Lacrosse – The College of St. Rose; Troy Gottmann, Lacrosse – The College of St. Rose and Jacob Armer, Track & Field – St. Bonaventure University.

Congratulations to all!

Additional information on student athletic achievements, as well as team information, is posted on the Athletic Department page of the district website. Also, follow our BSCSD athletics on Twitter @B_Spa_Athletics or via the Live Twitter Feed on the webpage.

Wellness Day 2023

Another great Scotties Stampede 5K and Wellness Expo

The District hosted the annual Scotties Stampede 5k Run/Walk as part of the district's Wellness Day 2023. The event followed a highly popular Kid's Color Run with close to 300 students enjoying a run around the campus amidst clouds of colored chalk. The top three finishers of the Scotties 5k were Andrew Wade - 1st place, Ari Bishop - 2nd place, and Robert Diamond - 3rd place. Complete results are available via ARE events website at: <http://www.zippyraceresults.com/search.php?ID=8724>.



Thank you to our generous sponsors of the Scotties Stampede 5K Run/Walk! The Gold Level Sponsor of the event was Empire BlueCross and Blue Shield, Silver Level Sponsors included Roundabout

Runners Club, CDPHP, Adirondack Cabling, Inc., New York State Sheriffs' Association, NYSSA – C-Pass, Ballston Spa National Bank and Speckled Pig Brewing Co., Bronze Level Sponsors were High Rock Realty, Inc., John W Danforth Company, Leonard Bus Sales Inc., Adirondack Trust Company, Elliott Property Services and T-Shirt Graphics and the Community Level Supporter was Harold R Clune, Inc.

The Wellness Expo once again offered information from community organizations, a free bike raffle, live demonstrations and plenty of great giveaways during the event. The goal is to bring the school community together annually for a fun-filled day and encourage students and families to participate in healthy and active lifestyles.

As in year's past, proceeds from the event will support the district's Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. Please call The Office of Community Relations and Program Support at 518-884-7195 x1369 or contact Kelly Delaney-Elliott at kelliott@bscsd.org for more information.

Athletic Hall of Fame Celebrates the Class of 2020 Inductees

The Ballston Spa Athletics Hall of Fame Committee honored inductees into the 2020 Ballston Spa Athletic Hall of Fame after the ceremony was paused for 3 years due to the pandemic. The celebration of the 2020 inductees was held in May at BSHS. The five individuals and two teams inducted included: Rosina Brooks, Steven Hart, Regan Johnson, Patrick Shaw, Mark Thomas, the 1992 Men's Soccer Team and the 2006 Women's Volleyball Team. Nominations for the Class of 2024 will be accepted until January 15, 2024. To submit a nomination, or for more information, please visit ballstonspaathleticshalloffame.com.



Ballston Spa Central School District

70 MALTA AVENUE
BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

518-884-7195



**SCHOOL STARTS
SEPTEMBER 7TH**

Board of Education

Jason Fernau, **PRESIDENT**
Katie Whittemore, **VICE PRESIDENT**
Holly Barker-Flynn
Matthew Dreher
Law Ryan
Tim Turbiak
Julia Routbort Baskin

Dr. Gianleo Duca
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Written by Stuart J. Williams
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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EDUCATING EVERYONE TAKES EVERYONE

www.bsccd.org

Upcoming Events

September 2023

- 4 Labor Day** – District Closed
- 5-6 Superintendent Conference Day** – Staff only
- 5 GC Open House and Kindergarten Orientation**
- 6 BSHS 9th Grade & New Student Orientation**
- 6 Elementary Open Houses and Kindergarten Orientations** (MA, MT, WR - times vary)
- 6 Board of Education Meeting**, BSHS Library, 7pm
- 7 Classes Begin for the 2023-24 School Year** - Kindergarten-12th grade

Please check the district website at www.bsccd.org for the latest info, or call the appropriate school office. Also, follow the district on **Twitter @BSCSD**, **Facebook @BallstonSpaCSD** or **Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD** for updates and information.

Kindergarten Student Registration

The district welcomed over 250 parents of incoming Kindergarten students at the annual Kindergarten Parent Orientations held earlier this spring. If you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten this September and you have not been in touch with the BSCSD Registration Office, please call 518-602-0256 or via email at akavanaugh@bsccd.org.

Transportation Department Opportunities Available

The Transportation Department has ongoing openings for various positions to assist with the daily transportation of our students to/from school, including a need for people interested in learning to be a school bus driver. The positions are ideal for parents of school-aged children or retired people who are looking for extra income. No prior experience is necessary. Please visit the website for more information at <https://www.bsccd.org/Page/279> or contact the Transportation Department at 518-884-7140.

Educators Awarded Spring 2023 Grants

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) recently presented \$7,732 in grant awards to educators for educational enrichment projects including \$430 for a Function Machine at the Middle School (MS), \$391 to fund yoga mats/bricks at the High School (HS), \$765 to fund flexible seating options at Gordon Creek Elementary School and \$713 to fund cameras for the Wood Road Elementary School. An additional grant for \$5,432 was given to the MS/HS for Physics Lab equipment for use in 8th grade science and physics courses utilizing funding from the generous Fred Reiners Memorial Grant for Educational Enrichment.

The BSEF has, since its inception in 1996, funded over \$436,135 in enrichment grants to the school district. BSEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an all-volunteer board whose mission is to raise and distribute resources for educational enrichment opportunities outside the realm of the daily operational needs of the District. For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.bspsaedfoundation.com>.