

The Reader

FALL 2022

Ballston Spa
Central School District
EDUCATING EVERYONE
TAKES EVERYONE

A Message from the Board of Education

JASON FERNAU, PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to share highlights on the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. This Fall we are pleased that academic instruction, sports and other extra-curricular activities, transportation, and facility use is occurring without most of the Covid-19 restrictions that have impacted student learning and the school environment during the last couple years. Our dedicated, professional instructional staff and support staff can better fulfill their roles without obstacles for the benefit of our students. Our students will now be able to fully engage in all academic and enrichment activities.

Student and staff health and safety are a top priority, and the Board continues its commitment to investments in additional counseling, social worker, and behavioral support staff. This

year the district, with the Board's support, will continue its focus on instructional interventions for struggling students and Special Education programming. The goal is an education that is inclusive and supporting for every student.

The district will continue to invest and focus in the long-term initiatives of Literacy, Math, and Science programs in the elementary schools, the International Baccalaureate Middle Years program at the Middle School, and the many pathways to graduation offered at the High School with Regents and Advanced Placement opportunities, Clean Technologies Early College High School program, International Baccalaureate, Spa Academy, and BOCES programs.

These initiatives will provide consistency to our students as they progress through the grade levels as they are complimentary and build upon each other year after year. These initiatives will actively challenge our students and aim to develop them into active learners and internationally minded young people with very strong academic skills and the ability to empathize



with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. They will be prepared for higher education, technical schools, the workforce, or any other avenues of their choosing.

These long-range plans and successful student outcomes are not possible without the support of all members of our community and your support of our annual budget, and the Board thanks you for that support. It is an honor for the Board to support Interim Superintendent Duca, the administrative leadership team, our instructional staff, all the support staff, our parents and caregivers, and community members. We give thanks to all who join together with us to create success in our most important mission of providing an excellent education that maximizes the potential of each student.



School Board Appoints Interim Superintendent

The Board of Education has appointed Dr. Gianleo Duca as the new Interim Superintendent for the 2022-23 school year.

"Dr. Duca's experience as a strong instructional leader within our district uniquely qualifies him to support our students and staff as we continue to move forward with district initiatives and the search for a permanent Superintendent during the coming school year," indicated Board President Jason Fernau.



Dr. Duca holds a Bachelor's Degree in History/Education from Western New England University, a Master's Degree in Education from Salem State University and received Administrative Certification from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. In December of 2019, he received his Doctorate Degree from The Sage Colleges, Esteves School of Education. He holds New York State Certification as a School District and a School Building Leader.

Dr. Duca said "I am grateful for the opportunity and truly honored to lead our district. I have a tremendous respect for the students, staff, caregivers, and the community of Ballston Spa. Together we will continue our work on developing innovative programming options while simultaneously meeting the needs of all our students."

Dr. Duca, who has been with the district since 2015, served as an Assistant Principal and Interim Principal before being appointed Principal in July 2018. The school currently has over 1,200 students enrolled in the 9th-12th grades. Prior to his service at Ballston Spa, he held Social Studies teaching positions at South Colonie High School and Medford High School (MA). Dr. Duca currently resides with his family in Waterford, NY.

School Board Appoints New Member

The Board of Education (BOE) recently appointed a new member to fill a vacant seat for the remainder of the year. Dr. Julia Routbort Baskin was appointed at the September 7, 2022 Board of Education meeting to serve until the next BOE elections are held on May 16, 2023. School board member Wayne Evans Jr. resigned in July 2022 with two years remaining on his term in office. District voters will elect a candidate to fill the seat for the balance of the term in the May 2023 elections.



Dr. Baskin is a longtime village resident and mental health professional who is a parent of two Ballston Spa High School graduates. She has worked in multiple educational settings and is currently employed at Skidmore College as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs for Health and Wellness. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where she completed both the child and adult clinical tracks.

For additional information, please visit the Board of Education section of the district website at www.bsbsd.org or call the District Office at (518) 884-7195 ext. 1320.

Scotties Backpack Program Provides Food for Students

The district's weekend backpack program continues to operate in all elementary school buildings. Through the work of many volunteers, it provides easy-to-prepare food for the weekend to students who may otherwise go without. When started in 2017, 30 Ballston Spa students received weekend meals and for the 2021-2022 school year nearly 200 students benefited from the program. This will be the 7th school year we'll be offering the Scotties Backpack Program in collaboration with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY.

The district recently received a grant from the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation for \$6,000 to support the purchase of meals for children this school year. In addition, the Class of 2022 provided an end of year donation of \$1,031.88. Additional supporters of the program for the 2021-22 school year included The Rotary Club of Ballston Spa, the Ballston Spa Elks Lodge #2619, TCT Federal Credit Union, Nourish Designs, Gordon Creek PTA, Arnoff Moving & Storage and many donations from individuals.

The cost for one student for the school year has increased from \$183 to \$228 for the 2022-23 school year. This increase means an additional \$9,000 will need to be raised to support the same number of students as last year. Revenue to support the program is generated entirely by individual and corporate donations as well as any available grant sources. Individual and corporate sponsorships are always welcome and very much appreciated! The program is managed by Kelly Delaney-Elliott, Coordinator of Development in the district's Community Relations and Program Support Office. For additional information please contact kelliott@bsbsd.org or (518)884-7195 x1369 and/or for the link to donate online visit www.bsbsd.org/backpack.



Generous Donation of School Supplies for Students

TCT Federal Credit Union, a longtime supporter of the District, recently donated 100 backpacks full of school supplies. Supplies will be distributed to students/families in need. We are so thankful for all of the ways TCT supports our students and recognizes our outstanding staff throughout the school year.

In addition, over the summer months the district was fortunate to receive school supplies, hygiene products, gift cards and donations from the following sources: First Baptist Church, CB-20, Empire State College, Ballston Spa Rotary Club, Malta Sunrise Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church, and Round Lake Public Library. This is a wonderful support for our students to start a new school year with. Families in the Ballston Spa schools who need assistance in obtaining school supplies for their students should contact Deb Dugan, 518-884-7195 X1356 or ddugan@bsbsd.org.

Supporting Students' Athletic Interests and Developing Scholar-Athletes

DAVID M. SUNKES JR. CAA,
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Our athletics program at Ballston Spa Central School District is founded on the principle that the playing field is indeed an extension of the classroom and the athletic experience contributes to the growth of community pride, mind and body. The cornerstones of the "Scotties" tradition were laid generations ago by some of the community's most respected student athletes, many of whom continue to be involved in the athletic program as supportive parents and sports boosters. While the names change from year to year, the core principles they embodied remain the same – the will to succeed, dedication and desire, cooperation and compassion, and the importance of working collectively toward a common goal. These are just some of the ideas that echo across the Ballston Spa playing fields, arenas and gymnasiums.

Beginning in 2012-13, we have made a commitment that students need to succeed in the classroom, be productive



There are 27 teams with 519 students participating in grades 7-12 on our fall sports teams as we begin the 2022-23 school year. All teams are competing in the Suburban Council at the Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, Modified 9 and Modified levels.

contributors to the school community and be dedicated to the athletic team/teams they participate on. We also have recruited coaches who embody the team approach and the development of scholar athletes along with athletic success. Our coaches/advisors strive to provide a positive experience for students through quality instruction based upon personal and professional development.

The athletic department will continuously challenge and encourage each student, individually and as a member of their team/teams. Our goal is to provide both the opportunity and the experience for the student-athlete to compete in a competitive athletic environment. Sportsmanship and fair play through team membership are key values learned through athletics. The student's academic attention and focus should be reinforced and enhanced by athletic participation.

What is the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme?

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) is an educational programme for students between the ages of 11 to 16 around the world as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum. The MYP has been in existence since 1994 and has made a profound impact on schools all over the world. Currently there are approximately 1,300 MYP programs in over 108 countries and BSMS is one of these schools!

At BSCSD, we believe in our students and know it is our duty to provide opportunities for them to see their greatest potential. We want to inspire critical thinking with our students and grow our students both academically and socially. IB has been implemented for many years at the Ballston Spa High School and now our middle schoolers will enjoy this amazing experience.

In the Middle Years Programme students are required to receive instruction in all eight subject groups: Language Acquisition, Language and Literature, Individuals and



Societies (Social Studies), Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Design (Technology and FACS). Through the use of the IB unit planner our teachers weave our current NYS standards and curriculum into the IB framework that requires a deep dive into a question of study, known as an Inquiry Statement. Teachers use these inquiry statements to guide their lessons and help students to connect the information to other subjects (like a thread) and the real world.

Through IB we work to empower our students to see how they can create a better world for all. At the center of IB are 10 Learner Profile traits:

- Caring
- Balanced
- Open-minded
- Knowledgeable
- Communicators
- Risk-takers
- Principled
- Reflective
- Inquirers
- Thinkers

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Facilities Improvements during the Summer of 2022

ED MARTIN, COORDINATOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

It was another busy summer for facilities improvements in the District. Several projects that were included in the District's Phase III Facilities Improvement Bond Referendum (that was approved by the voters in October 2018) were completed during the summer break. Specifically, the cafeteria and first floor classrooms, as well as hallway improvements, were completed on the first floor in the Grove Street section of the Malta Avenue Elementary School. The final outdated science classrooms and bathrooms at the Middle School were reconstructed during the third summer of the three year phased project.

High School renovations included the completion of the HVAC replacements and related control systems in central areas of the school building. Athletic improvements include the completion of the front field improvements in the coming months.

Our cleaning staff did an outstanding job this summer getting our classrooms and buildings ready for

the return of students and staff. In addition to routine repairs, maintenance staff surveyed and performed preventive maintenance on school building roofs, air conditioners and kitchen coolers. Beyond that, the District will be examining the roof of the High School and developing a plan for replacement of the 25 year old roofing materials and developing a five-year facilities improvement plan (required by NYS).



Clean Tech ECHS Offers Info Night – November 9th

Our Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School in Malta offers an Information Night for prospective students, currently in 8th grade, who are interested in joining the Clean Tech ECHS P-TECH Program. School district leaders, parents and 8th grade students interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend on November 9, 2022 at 6:00pm. The agenda for the evening includes presentations from current students and program staff.

High school students in the program have the opportunity to complete an Associate's Degree at no cost to families in one of the program's college and career pathways; Clean Energy, Community Health Navigation/Public Health, Cybersecurity, Engineering Sciences, Entrepreneurship, and Surgical Technician.

Come learn about this exciting opportunity for real world problem based learning! Applications for the program are due to the program from each home school by May 12th.

The Clean Tech ECHS was developed by the Ballston Spa Central School District in partnership with Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in 2011. It now has over 50 partners from business and industry, higher education, and non-profit and government agencies. The Clean Tech ECHS was awarded a NYS P-TECH grant which expanded opportunities for students in the program to take college coursework in one of several career pathways.



Students in the program create solutions to real world problems during their experiences in the program while collaborating and connecting with business and industry partners. They also enroll in college coursework with college professors at Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART in Malta (at no cost to families). For more information and to register, please visit the website at <https://www.bscsd.org/domain/839> or contact ECHS Program Coordinator Adrienne Snow at asnow@bscsd.org.

Gordon Creek Celebrates Return to School

The Gordon Creek Elementary School kicked off the start of the 2022-23 school year with their 12th Annual Welcome Back BBQ. The event included the opportunity for students and families to tour the school and meet teachers. This was followed by a gathering in the courtyard to eat food, enjoy shaved ice, and reunite with friends on the playground. Over 550 students, staff, and family members were in attendance to celebrate our community and look towards what will be an amazing year at Gordon Creek!



District Recognizes Community Partner

The District recently recognized Arnoff Moving & Storage at the annual back-to-school staff convocation. Arnoff Moving and Storage, located in Malta, began assisting the district with transporting the food for the district's Scotties BackPack Program during the 2019-2020 school year. This school year begins their fourth year that they have consistently supported the program by sending a truck and driver, each week, to the Northeastern Regional Food Bank in Latham to pick up and deliver the food for the program.

The Scotties Back Program continues to grow each year and the assistance Arnoff provides in getting the food delivered reliably and consistently throughout the year, allows this beneficial program to continue. As a fifth-generation company of nearly 100 years, Arnoff has a long history of supporting causes that address food insecurity. They expanded their operations to Saratoga County several years ago and the district is very happy to have them as a neighbor. The district sincerely appreciates the contributions they make to the BSCSD and specifically the Scotties BackPack Program.



Shown in the photo with Interim Superintendent Gianleo Duca (center), is Craig Arnoff, Chief Operation Officer (right) and Dan Arnoff, Chief Relationship Officer (left).

High School Troupe Presents *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

The Ballston Spa High School Troupe is preparing for their annual fall production. Based on Robert Fulghum's book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, this show takes a funny, heartwarming look at everyday life. The performance includes a series of mini-stories with colorful characters celebrating the whimsy of being a child to the knowledge of age.

Performances will be at 7:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 17, 18 and 19, 2022. There is also a matinee at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Tickets are available at the door, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors. Performances will be at Ballston Spa High School Auditorium, 220 Ballston Avenue. Please contact the High School Office at (518)884-7150 for additional information.

The Scottie Scoop

Have you seen the latest Scottie Scoop?

We continue to answer questions from parents and post the answers on the Scottie Scoop. Please visit the page via the quick link on the website to see the latest Q&As as well as the link to submit your question.

Here's a sample:

Q: How do I share photos with the district for potential use on social media, website or publications?

A: Please share your photos and information for use by the district's social media or publications by email at socialmedia@bscsd.org.

Scottie's Closet Offers FREE Clothing to Families

The Middle School will host a Scottie's Closet on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9 am to 1 pm. This school community event provides gently used clothing, books, coats, and shoes annually to about 300 students, families and individuals for free. It is organized by Middle School social workers, along with parent representatives, school and community volunteers. All of the items donated by the school community are provided free to students, families and members of the community. Please contact the Middle School for additional information at (518) 884-7200 or email cjones@bscsd.org.

Upcoming Community Events – Fall 2022

October

- 10 **No School, Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day Observed**
- 13 **High School College Financial Aid Info Night**, 6:30pm, High School Library
- 18 **High School College Fair**, 7:30am-10:30am, High School Cafeteria
- 19 **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00pm, High School Library
- 20 **SWCMEA All-County Band Festival**, 2:30pm-7:00pm, High School
- 22 **SWCMEA All-County Band Festival**, 8:00am-5:00pm, High School
- 27 **NJHS Induction Ceremony**, 7:00pm, High School Auditorium

November

- 2 **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00pm, High School Library
- 3 **High School College Financial Aid/FAFSA Workshop**, 6:30pm, High School
- 5 **Scotties Closet**, 9:00am-1:00pm, Middle School Cafeteria
- 9 **ECHS Fall Information Night**, 6:00pm, TEC-SMART, 345 Hermes Rd
- 10 **Emergency Release Day** – Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early, K-12
- 11 **No School, Veterans Day**
- 14 **High School Winter Sports begin**
- 16 **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00pm, High School Library
- 17-19 **High School Troupe Production**, 7:00pm, High School Auditorium – *"All I Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten"*.
- 19 **High School Troupe Production**, 1:00pm, High School Auditorium – *"All I Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten"*.
- 21 **Modified Winter Sports begin**
- 23-25 **No School, November Recess**
- 29-30 **Elementary Parent Conference Days**, ½ days (AM) K-5

December

- 1-2 **Elementary Parent Conference Days**, ½ days (AM) K-5
- 2 **Ballston Spa Holiday Parade**, 6:30pm, Milton Ave, Ballston Spa
- 5 **8th Grade Winter Concert**, 7:00pm, High School Auditorium
- 6 **Milton Terrace Winter Concert**, 7:00pm, Milton Terrace Cafeteria
- 7 **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00pm, High School Library
- 8 **Gordon Creek Winter Concert**, 7:00pm, Gordon Creek
- 12 **High School JV Winter Concert**, 7:30pm, High School Auditorium
- 13 **7th Grade Winter Concert**, 7:00pm, High School Auditorium
- 15 **High School Varsity Winter Concert**, 7:30pm, High School Auditorium
- 20 **6th Grade Winter Concert**, 7:00pm, High School Auditorium
- 21 **Board of Education Meeting**, 7:00pm, High School Library
- 23-31 **No School, December Recess**

Complete event information is located on the district website's events calendar. Please check often for the latest information, or call the appropriate school office.

➤ MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME CONTINUED

The learner profile traits assist us in nurturing dispositions such as curiosity, compassion as well as knowledge skills and cognitive development. They also focus on the importance of social and physical well-being. Through IB we work to ensure that students learn to respect themselves, others and the world around them.

We celebrate our students' journey through the 8th grade community project. This project is currently a pilot this year and we are planning to bring it to all 8th graders next year. Through this project students learn they have a voice and the ability to bring influence, attention and change to a topic that they believe is important and impactful to our community. Through this project students will learn that every voice matters and they can make our community a better place through service and bringing attention to a need.

Students at BSMS began the IB journey on September 30th with a celebration, learning about IB and the Learner Profile traits. Throughout the day students had the opportunity to make connections with the Learner Profile traits through conversations with teachers and peers as well as fun games and activities. BSMS looks forward to a rich learning experience that will encourage all students to be curious and kind community members who understand the importance of seeking out knowledge and applying it in their daily lives.



BSHS Guidance staff join in Country Day during School Spirit Week 2022

New School Year, New Staff at BSCSD

Ballston Spa Welcomes New Employees

PAMELA MOTLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! The Human Resources Department worked diligently last spring through early fall to hire and welcome over 50 new faculty and staff members to join in the ranks of professionals who are dedicated to serving our students in various roles and capacities. Our new employees bring rich backgrounds in a variety of disciplines, as well as a wealth of experience from neighboring districts. Collectively, our new teachers hold approximately 90 years of experience in neighboring districts and sought the opportunities to bring that experience here and join our Ballston Spa team!

Our New Employee Orientation and Training took place over three days in late August. This was the second year of implementation to give new employees an intimate look into our systems, processes and programs. During these three days, professionals had opportunities to meet with administrators, receive an overview of our technology platforms, receive an overview of our professional development program, tour the surrounding district, delve into curriculum programs for a half day, and spend an entire day with their mentors navigating their buildings as well as their teaching and learning spaces.

The strength of our organization has always been our people and as such, our department will continue Professional Development work during the upcoming year to target opportunities each month for new employees to learn and grow their strengths as related to our BSCSD goals and priorities.

BSCSD Staff News and Notes

Milton Terrace Elementary School Literacy Specialists **Miranda Eldridge** and **Katie Brunson** were recently designated as finalists for the Goyen Literacy Fellowship program. After additional screening in the selection process, Ms. Eldridge was selected to receive the fellowship, as one of only 12 applicants being selected nationwide. She will be working with the organization throughout the year to promote the school's experiences with the Science of Reading. Feel free to follow her on Twitter @MTEReading and @MiltonTerrace.

Middle School Psychologist **Chelsea Cangelieri** was recently selected to be the School Psychologist of the Year for Chapter F of the New York State Association of School Psychologists. Chapter F consists of Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties. She received recognition at



a recent Board of Education meeting where NYSASP representatives presented her with the award.

High School Physics Instructor **Theresa Rousseau** participated in a Material Science Camp at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this past summer. Ten high school teachers were selected to spend a week at MIT in July where they were introduced to the Materials Genome Initiative (MGI). Their studies included designing and making Frankensteel, a metal alloy supported by a network of wires made of a shape-memory alloy. She will now work with the BSHS students to recreate the calculations and experiments involved in the project.

The Board of Education appointed **Richard Murphy** as the Interim Ballston Spa High School Principal for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Murphy was the Principal at Shaker High School in the North Colonie Central School District for 15 years before retiring from full time service in 2021. His experience and success in leading a large Suburban Council High School will be a tremendous asset in helping BSHS continue our goal of providing a top-quality education to our students.



The High School also welcomes three new Assistant Principals (APs) to the administrative team. **Kevin Flores**, former High School Counselor and Director of School Counseling, has been selected as one of the three APs. Kevin's knowledge of the district, our high school, and our students and families will serve the high school administrative team well in the coming years. **Alfred (Al) Mattice**, former Assistant Principal in the Amsterdam City School District, was selected for an AP position and also brings a wealth of experience to the high school administrative team. **Scott Seligman** was appointed as a new AP to oversee freshman transition and our Spa Academy.

Ballston Spa Central School District

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Written by Stuart J. Williams
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Boxholder Ballston Spa Central School District

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region
BOCES Communications Service.

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Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year

Students and teachers returned to the school buildings, classrooms and fields as the school year began on September 6, 2022. Over 4,100 students are now busy learning in their new classes and getting involved in many academic and extracurricular activities throughout the district. Please read about some of the happenings in this newsletter, including information on district initiatives, community opportunities, student activities, and staff members. Additional information is always available on the school and district webpages, as well as the events calendar, so be sure to check for the latest details or call the school offices directly. Also, follow the district on **Twitter @BSCSD**, **Facebook @BallstonSpaCSD** or **Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD** for frequent updates and additional information.



School Bus Driver Opportunities in Ballston Spa

The district has ongoing openings for school bus drivers. 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 webpage for more information at <https://www.bscsd.org/Page/279> or call (518) 884-7140.