A Message from the Superintendent

By Ken Slentz, Superintendent of Schools

Spring ahead! It’s among the many things we look forward to each year as winter begins to recede. For the district, springing ahead this year takes on many forms including preparing the annual budget, breaking ground on facilities projects, continuing our focused work on reading instruction and curriculum development, beginning of spring sports, the High School Troopers’ spring musical (Bye Bye Birdie) and a number of other initiatives. You will find more information on these items – few of which would be possible without the critical partnership between the district, parents, and the larger community – within this edition.

All of our collective efforts combine to demonstrate the truth of the district motto Educating Everyone Takes Everyone. From this motto to our vision of A Meaningful Diploma for Every Student, our work must be focused on that which matters most – ensuring that our students can read, write, think, and learn well. This in turn will give every student the opportunity to be well physically, mentally, and socially and to become an informed, contributing member of our democratic society. One could argue that this work has never been more important than in our time given the global challenges that we are presently facing.

How we choose to confront those challenges rests wholly on the choices that we make with our limited resources, the most limited of which is time. To this point, it is worth noting that each of our elementary students receives approximately 900 hours of instruction each year if they have perfect attendance. At the middle and high school level, students receive just over 950 hours, again if they have perfect attendance.

With this in mind and with all of the expectations that our students are to meet based on federal, state, and our own local standards, each of our choices must be based on what we know or what we have good evidence to support will work best in helping each one of our students meet or exceed those expectations. That is our job and one that we could not be more serious about.

But it must be said that these choices are not without disagreement and that sometimes tensions exist around why choices were made. This is where we as adults must be willing to have and model open and honest discussions about what is best for all of our children.

For the district, this is often best seen in each of the components of our budget, in our policies and in our answers to questions such as do our expenditures match our values and what evidence tells us is best for children? Do our policies reflect the care that is necessary to ensure a safe and healthy teaching and learning environment for students and staff? Do our long-term curriculum and expenditure plans provide us consistency, predictability, and stability in our program offerings for our students? Do we seek out new learning experiences and opportunities for our students, particularly those which evidence suggests will further improve their ability to learn and improve their subsequent life outcomes? Can we report to the Board of Education and our school community the return that we are getting with each of the investments that we make focused on improving the student experience? Can we get better each day, each week, each year?

The development of the 2020-2021 General Fund Operating Budget officially began in December with the presentation of the Budget Principles document to the Board of Education. At the December 18, 2019 meeting, the Board was presented with the 2020-21 Budget Goals. Both of these documents as well as the district’s Priorities and Goals can be found on the website. As we progress through the development process, we will be guided by these documents which, in sum, suggest that we will provide the best possible program opportunities to our students within the confines of the tax paying community. Each year this is a difficult balancing act as there are inevitably changes in requirements, learning standards, etc., from the state and federal governments which in turn often require additional training and resources to ensure that we comply with these requirements, while all maintaining a very high standard for teaching and learning within the district.

The Board will adopt the budget proposal in April so please stay tuned to the development of the budget plan, attend upcoming Board of Education meetings on March 4 & 18 and April 1 & 22, and/or contact us for more information. This year’s final Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 6 and the statewide school budget vote is on May 19, 2020. For more information, please visit the website or contact the district office at (518) 884-7195.

The Ballston Spa Central School District
Follow us on Twitter @BSCSD

Gordon Creek
Elementary School
884-7270

Milton Terrace
Elementary School
884-7210

Wood Road
Elementary School
884-7290

Malta Avenue
Elementary School
884-7250

Ballston Spa Middle School
884-7200

Ballston Spa High School
884-7150

Ballston Spa District Office
884-7195

Transportation Facility
884-7140

The approved bond referendum totaled $23,980,000 for the coming years. After necessary design and approvals, the Board of Education has started to award bids to begin the projects this coming spring and summer in the various facilities. Most of the work will be completed when buildings are unoccupied during the summer months and will be completed over a three year time period.

The improvements include renovations in the Grove Street section of the Malta Avenue School as well as the outdated classrooms, bathrooms and locker rooms at the Middle School. High School renovations include the replacement of the original cogeneration equipment and related control systems, replacement of classroom heating and cooling systems, upgrades to the auditorium and technology classroom access. The athletic improvements include rehabilitation of fields in front of and behind the Middle School, the construction of a new multipurpose field on the south end of the campus and a new athletic storage building. The approved bond referendum totaled $23,980,000 for the Phase III facilities improvements. Additional information about the plan, site and building drawings, video tour, as well as photos of facilities are located on the Facilities Improvement Project pages of the district website.

Continued on page 2
each month, and each year in practicing our teaching and our leadership for the district? These are the critical questions that we grapple with each day in the district in an ongoing effort to best serve the children, our families, and the larger community.

On behalf of the district team, my thanks to all of you who are joining us in this work. We will continue to report out on our progress at Board of Education meetings, in the media, on social media, in district updates including newsletters, and in our various presentations over the coming months. In the meantime, as we move into spring and our pace inevitably quickens, my hope for each of us is that we will take the time to again model for our students and stop to smell the actual and the metaphorical flowers that this wonderfully unique community has to offer.

Happy spring to you all!

---

**Taste of Ballston Spa Hosted by the Ballston Spa Education Foundation**

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) will host the annual Taste of Ballston Spa on April 6, 2020 in the High School cafeteria from 6 – 8:00 pm. The dinner offers participants a chance to sample foods from a variety of local restaurants while providing support for the foundation. Additional information is on the BSEF website at www.bspaedfoundation.com.

---

**Instructional Technology Vision**

Our diverse community of learners will apply innovative digital experiences that enhance and personalize learning while promoting collaborative, authentic and mindful interactions. Integrating new and emerging technologies into best teaching and learning practices will ensure that our students are ready for college, career, and global citizenship. By building a solid foundation of ethics and digital citizenship, we will ignite students’ passion and imagination while encouraging responsible use of resources. We will shape and connect our entire community of learners by providing equal access and opportunities. Technology will teach Ballston Spa students the necessary skills to adapt to their ever-changing society and navigate their world.

---

In the coming weeks and in accordance with the BSpa Connected 1:1 Chromebook Initiative, secondary students will be introduced to a new platform called Hapara. This tool will allow teachers to manage Chromebooks more efficiently in a classroom setting. The elementary school level continues to use Reflex Math, iReady, DIBELS and e-Doctrina to assist educators in analyzing gaps in learning, while ensuring that the needs of every learner are met through differentiated instruction and data driven practices. Schoology continues to be vital as a learning management system for our students and to the district’s professional development program. Blended and online course offerings provide faculty and staff the opportunity to further enhance their knowledge in an asynchronous learning environment. Schoology will also serve a dual purpose this year and become a communication platform with parents and guardians that allows for easier access to the happenings of the classrooms, athletic teams, clubs and activities, etc. Stay tuned.

In addition to the two Scotties Virtual Learning Centers (which are the epimote of cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR)) and were created in collaboration with GlobalFoundries, the district also has three classroom Centers (which are the epitome of cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR)) and were created in collaboration with GlobalFoundries, the district also has three classroom Virtual Reality (VR) pods that allow students and teachers to tour colleges, and get an inside look at different technologies and careers, explore various museums and monuments, take a trip to National Parks, explore different biomes, go to outer space, take a trip through the inside of the human body and so much more! The possibilities are endless with VR!

The district continues to partner with BrightBytes Technology & Learning platform to understand how technology influences teaching and learning in addition to helping improve technology environments that provide meaningful learning experiences. In addition, the district has recently purchased the Early Insights platform via BrightBytes which serves as an early warning system to help better accommodate both the academic and socio-emotional needs of our student population.

We assess our instructional technology programming on a regular basis and will announce new endeavors as they develop. Additional information can be found on the Instructional Technology website, or by contacting Nicole Holehan, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, at nholehan@bscsd.org or (518)884-7290 x3509 or by following on Twitter @BSpa_EdTech.

---

**Students Participate in Ballston Spa Holiday Festivities**

Ballston Spa Holiday Festivities

**Students Participate in**

---

**Instructional Technology in Our Schools**

---

---

Did you know:

- Ballston Spa CSD has a rigorous software application vetting process? Our district takes pride in ensuring that the instructional products selected to increase student learning outcomes also keep our student and staff data safe, while complying with New York State Education Law §2-d?
- K-12 students participate in Digital Citizenship curriculum created by Common Sense Media to ensure both the appropriate use of technology and to drive home the importance of a digital footprint?
- Each K-5 Computer Lab is equipped with a Digital Literacy curriculum to appropriately scaffold technology skills by grade level?
- BSMS, Gordon Creek, Malta Ave., Milton Terrace, and Wood Road will be fully operational with 2020 Computer Based Testing?
- By July 1, 2020, all software applications being utilized by the district will be posted to a public dashboard?

The power of technology allows us to rethink education and approach student learning in new ways. Scotties of all age levels continue to immerse themselves in the use of embedded instructional technology tools.
Malta Avenue Students Complete Dance Residency with SPAC

Students from Malta Avenue Elementary School had the opportunity to participate in a SPAC Dance Residency program again this year. For the first time, the students performed “Sensational Soul,” which featured music by Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, and many others. The students also performed a choral arrangement of “Respect” by Aretha Franklin, and danced to “Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher and Higher” recorded by Jackie Wilson.

As part of the program, the SPAC teaching artists also collaborated with the school’s music and art departments, allowing students to create drawings based on the soul music icons studied throughout the residency. Selected designs were incorporated into the students’ performance shirts and the Dance Recital official program.

In January, the students began working with dance professionals and former Broadway actors to learn dances during their Physical Education courses. The lessons were designed around teaching Broadway-style soul dance inspired by the music and choreography of the 1960s and 1970s.

Fifty-five 5th grade students from the school received instruction from SPAC’s Senior Director of Education, Dennis Moench, alongside Broadway star Alicia Albright, currently in the musical Frozen, and SPAC teaching artists Nathan Braim, Cristiane Santos, and J. Michael Zygo. Brian Melick and Alan Thomson also provided live musical accompaniment for the program.

The program ended on February 10, 2020 with an exuberant performance for students and parents at Malta Avenue Elementary School.

Get Ready for the 5th Annual Scotties Stampede

Everyone in the Ballston Spa school community is invited to join together for the 5th Annual Scotties Stampede 5k. It will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 9:00 am, starting at the district’s tennis courts on Garret Road. The primary goal of the 5k is to bring our community together for a fun, fitness event and encourage students and families to participate in healthy and active lifestyles. Financially, 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.

Registration is now open so please mark your calendars and visit www.scottiesstampede.org to register early. $20/adult and $10/student. Please call 518-884-7195 x1369 with any questions.

Incoming Kindergarten Student Registration Events

The annual Kindergarten registration process for all incoming Kindergarten students is held in each of the district’s elementary schools (ES) during the spring. The district Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be held on March 11, 2020 at Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafeteria from 6:30-8:00. The four elementary schools have also established the following schedule for screening and registration appointments during the Spring of 2020:

- Milton Terrace ES & Malta Avenue ES on April 6-8
- Wood Road ES on April 28-30
- Gordon Creek ES on May 11-13

Anyone with an incoming Kindergarten student who is not already in contact with the school is asked to call the Registration Office at (518) 602-0256.

National Geographic GeoBee Held at Ballston Spa Middle School

Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS) students recently participated in the first stage of the National Geographic GeoBee in their social studies classes to prepare for the annual competition. On January 23, 2020 over 50 students competed in the school round of the GeoBee.

Students who proceeded to the final championship round included Cayden Billings, Donovan Calvert, Evan Farrar, Gregory Kaatz, and Alexander Wade. By accurately answering two of the three questions in the championship round, Gregory Kaatz became the BSMS GeoBee champion of 2020. This is the second year that Gregory has won the BSMS National Geographic GeoBee.

As winner of the BSMS GeoBee, Gregory advances to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. An examination score in the top 100 will qualify him for the state level competition which will be held in April in Albany, NY. All state champions will advance to the national championship and compete for the first prize, a college scholarship, at the national competition in May in Washington, D.C.

Oceans Studied at Super Science Saturday

The district’s four elementary school PTAs recently hosted the annual Super Science Saturday. The event provided elementary students with the opportunity to participate in many exciting hands-on science experiments focused on Oceanography. The district also provided a sneak peek and details about the Elementary Science and Engineering Fair, which is scheduled for March 5, 2020. The Science Fair is open to students from the four elementary schools in grades K-5. It is designed to teach them about the Scientific Method by asking them to do a scientific investigation on a topic area of their choice and prepare a display board to present their findings.

The Super Science Saturday PTA chair members and district staff would like to extend their appreciation to all the parent and student volunteers who made the event possible as well as all the local businesses who donated items. Thank you to all the PTA leaders, volunteers and organizations who participated - another great event for the students in BSpa!

National Geographic GeoBee Held at Ballston Spa Middle School

Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS) students recently participated in the first stage of the National Geographic GeoBee in their social studies classes to prepare for the annual competition. On January 23, 2020 over 50 students competed in the school round of the GeoBee.

Students who proceeded to the final championship round included Cayden Billings, Donovan Calvert, Evan Farrar, Gregory Kaatz, and Alexander Wade. By accurately answering two of the three questions in the championship round, Gregory Kaatz became the BSMS GeoBee champion of 2020. This is the second year that Gregory has won the BSMS National Geographic GeoBee.

As winner of the BSMS GeoBee, Gregory advances to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. An examination score in the top 100 will qualify him for the state level competition which will be held in April in Albany, NY. All state champions will advance to the national championship and compete for the first prize, a college scholarship, at the national competition in May in Washington, D.C.

Incoming Kindergarten Student Registration Events

The annual Kindergarten registration process for all incoming Kindergarten students is held in each of the district’s elementary schools (ES) during the spring. The district Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be held on March 11, 2020 at Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafeteria from 6:30-8:00. The four elementary schools have also established the following schedule for screening and registration appointments during the Spring of 2020:

- Milton Terrace ES & Malta Avenue ES on April 6-8
- Wood Road ES on April 28-30
- Gordon Creek ES on May 11-13

Anyone with an incoming Kindergarten student who is not already in contact with the school is asked to call the Registration Office at (518) 602-0256.

National Geographic GeoBee Held at Ballston Spa Middle School

Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS) students recently participated in the first stage of the National Geographic GeoBee in their social studies classes to prepare for the annual competition. On January 23, 2020 over 50 students competed in the school round of the GeoBee.

Students who proceeded to the final championship round included Cayden Billings, Donovan Calvert, Evan Farrar, Gregory Kaatz, and Alexander Wade. By accurately answering two of the three questions in the championship round, Gregory Kaatz became the BSMS GeoBee champion of 2020. This is the second year that Gregory has won the BSMS National Geographic GeoBee.

As winner of the BSMS GeoBee, Gregory advances to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. An examination score in the top 100 will qualify him for the state level competition which will be held in April in Albany, NY. All state champions will advance to the national championship and compete for the first prize, a college scholarship, at the national competition in May in Washington, D.C.
Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries
ECHS Provides New Opportunities for Students

Students Connect with Business and Industry
Seniors in the Clean Tech ECHS program had the opportunity to present their solar energy projects to business and industry partners, receive feedback, and make changes for their expo presentations in January. Representatives from Apex Solar, Applied Materials, BPI Center for Economic Growth, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Hodgdon Russ Attorneys, HVCC, Polyset, and Regeneron provided students with valuable real world expertise. All students in the Clean Tech ECHS program have the opportunity to complete a 40 hour work based learning experience in business and industry during the summer before their senior year. These job shadow experiences provide students the opportunity to be actively and productively engaged in the workplace. They are designed to give students hands-on experience in a field of interest, learn and practice occupational skills, and provide the opportunity to learn about career options. If you are interested in hosting a student for a job shadow related to Clean Energy, Computer Information Systems, Cybersecurity, Entrepreneurship, or Mechatronics, please contact Adrienne Snow, ECHS Program Coordinator, at asnow@bscsd.org.

ECHS Students Participate in National Manufacturing Month Events
The students from the Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School (Clean Tech ECHS) in Malta recently participated in a series of regional manufacturing tours and activities with industry partners as part of National Manufacturing Month. Throughout the second week of October, juniors participated in tours across the region, including RASP Inc., located in Gansevoort, to learn about industrial controls manufacturing; Applied Robotics in Burnt Hills to learn about the manufacturing process of machined parts; and Momentive Performance Materials in Waterford to learn about advanced manufacturing, design and engineering.

The Clean Tech ECHS was developed in 2011 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). The program continues to leverage its relationship with over 45 leaders in business and industry, the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the State University of New York (SUNY) and HVCC to provide authentic learning experiences for students.

The program has grown regionally from originally serving 25 students in two school districts, to now serving over 275 students from across 19 school districts in ten counties. Students in the program earn up to 30 college credits from HVCC in this ECHS model. Students have the option to explore one of five career pathways including Clean Energy, Computer Science & Information Systems, Cybersecurity, Mechatronics, and Entrepreneurship.

The program is held in HVCC’s TEC-SMART at 345 Hermes Road in Malta, NY. For more information, please contact ECHS Program Coordinator Adrienne Snow for the Ballston Spa Central School District at asnow@bscsd.org or (518) 629-4981.

Program Connects Education and Workforce
The Clean Tech ECHS hosted a Business & Education Breakfast in November focused on the topic of the education to workforce pipeline. Kate Maynard, Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, discussed the Future Leaders in Planning Program that was piloted by the Clean Tech ECHS students this past summer and its benefits to students, the community, and the workforce. Shawn Farrell, current ECHS senior from Mechanicville High School, discussed how he became more prepared for the workforce through his summer internship at Momentive in Waterford. Program staff discussed outcomes of alumni in the workforce and how through business engagement with students we are able to provide a strong workforce.

Following the program, business partners, educators, and families attended a Student Project Exhibition, where juniors showcased their bioenergy and water quality projects and seniors presented their innovative solutions to real world problems using nanotechnology.

Clean Tech ECHS Program Makes Changes for Future Students
The Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School recently presented their new program model to school counselors and administrators from participating school districts, followed by the Winter Student Project Exhibition. The program will soon offer college majors in Cybersecurity, Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, and Liberal Arts & Sciences through a partnership with Hudson Valley Community College. Students will have the opportunity to apply to the program during ninth grade and begin coursework in tenth grade. The program will hold information nights at HVCC’s TEC-SMART facility in Malta in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Following the program, business partners, educators, and families attended a Student Project Exhibition, where juniors showcased their micro home models and seniors presented their solutions to local and global human needs using solar energy.

Schools Receive Support of GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation
The Ballston Spa schools were among the community organizations selected to receive funding from the GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation as they announced their awards for 2019. The district received $3,500 in funding for the annual Tech Valley Robot Rumble Off-Season Robotics Competition held at the Ballston Spa High School in the fall. The Ballston Spa FIRST Robotics Team #3044 was also awarded a $4,000 grant to support the team’s participation in regional competitions. The district’s Scotty’s BackPack program received $3,200 in support to provide food for students on the weekends and the Malta Avenue PTA received $1,550 to provide science programs in the school.

The Ballston Spa Middle School’s Launching Pad Productions received $1,500 to support their performance of Frozen Jr. in February. The Ballston Spa High School’s Student Book Club received $2,000 to purchase books and support club activities, the Young Adult Reading Project received $750 for books, and the drama department received $2,500 for sound equipment. The Ballston Spa High School PTSA was awarded a $4,000 grant to help with Arts-In-Education programs and the annual After-Prom activities implemented by the parent organization each spring. The GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation recently presented its 2019 slate of grants totaling over $160,000, supporting over 40 local organizations and community projects. The Foundation was developed to fund organizations, programs and projects that provide tangible benefits of a public nature to diverse groups serving the citizens of the Town of Malta, including not-for-profit corporations, charitable organizations, community arts and theater groups, community historical sites, special events, education programs, and sports and recreation activities. For more information, visit the Foundation’s web site at https://sites.google.com/site/gfmaltafoundation/home.

For more information on school programs, please visit the Ballston Spa Central School District website at www.bscsd.org or call the District Office at 884-7195.

BackPack Program Continues to Receive Generous Community Support
At a recent Ballston Spa Board of Education meeting, Mark Dolch accepted recognition $5,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Ballston Spa, $3,500 in funding for the Malta Sunrise Rotary club while Galene Kortz accepted a certificate on behalf of the Brookside Museum. The groups raised over $6,000 to support the district’s BackPack Program and help feed needy students in the district. They are shown in the photo with Ballston Spa School Superintendent Ken Deitz (L) and Board of Education President Lissa Schach (R).
Ballston Spa National Bank Continues Support for Innovation

The district has once again received generous support from Ballston Spa National Bank (BSNB) to fund the Ballston Spa High School Robotics Team’s participation in the annual US FIRST Robotics competition. The $6,000 in funding, combined with additional corporate sponsorships and team fundraising, will allow the district’s team to design and construct a robot according to this year’s specifications, participate in regional competitions, and continue to support STEM initiatives for additional students in the district.

The district continues to focus on partnerships with business and non-profit organizations throughout the region as part of the Partnership for Innovation in Education program. The Ballston Spa High School Robotics Team uses the support they receive to mentor and sponsor six STEM related teams in the elementary and middle schools, and to participate in regional competitions. Since sponsoring the first High School team eleven years ago, BSNB’s ongoing commitment has helped our program grow to eight teams across the district this year and helped our students compete three times in the World Finals.

FIRST Robotics competitions combine the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team brand; hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Through the programs students get to learn skills from professional mentors; build and compete with a robot of their own design; learn to use sophisticated software and hardware; and compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments.

For additional information on the BSCSD Partnership for Innovation in Education program, please visit the district website at www.bscsd.org or contact the Coordinator of Development at (518) 884-7195 x1369.

Students Explore Science & Engineering with RPI Ambassadors

The Ballston Spa Middle School recently welcomed the Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors into the school to share research topics that they have studied at RPI and to inspire the students about the role of engineering and technology in society. Over 600 Middle School students participated in the science and engineering program during their science or technology classes. The college aged ambassadors taught the younger students an engineering lesson and provided a demonstration or a hands-on design activity.

The Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors are a group of RPI engineering students devoted to inspiring younger students with what they are doing in their chosen major, the newest technological breakthroughs in their field, and the obstacles yet to be overcome. This year’s topics that were presented to the different classes included Humanitarian Logistics, Designing an Athlete, Getting Into Orbit, Drag Force, and Safe Roller Coasters. Ballston Spa Middle School invites the Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors to visit each year to allow students to identify careers they can pursue as well as for them to learn what they will need to do over the next several years to achieve their goals. The Ambassadors provide invaluable perspectives and serve as great role models for the students.

The Ambassadors offer these hands-on demonstrations and short presentations at no cost to school districts due to the generosity of Rensselaer Schools of Engineering and Science and corporate sponsors such as United Technology Corporation, Rise High, Stewart’s Holiday Match Fund and The Bender Family Foundation. For additional information, please visit the RPI Engineering Ambassadors program website at http://engineeringambassadors.union.rpi.edu/.

Interscholastic Athletic Accomplishments – Fall 2019

Nine of the Ballston Spa fall varsity teams qualified for recognition as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team based on the academic accomplishments of 184 student athletes (combined GPA of 93.03). Congratulations to all! #GoScotties

The Girls Swim & Diving Team completed the season with two athletes qualifying for the NY State Championships including Emma Hoffman and Connie Pepper.

The Boys Soccer Team had two athletes selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams including Ethan Shuhart (1st team) and Ian DelFippis (1st team). Ethan Shuhart was also selected as the Suburban Council Goalie of the Year.

The Girls Soccer Team finished as the Section 2 Class A Semi-Finalist and second in the Suburban Council Grey Division. Two athletes were selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams including Sarah Rule (1st team) and Madelyn Barnum (2nd team). Sarah Rule was also selected as the Spectrum Sports Scholar Athlete of the Week.

The Girls Volleyball Team was the Section 2 Class AA Semi-Finalist and had three athletes selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams. Anna Pilkey was selected for the 1st team Suburban Council All-Star; Samantha Russell and Hunter Campion for the 2nd team Suburban Council All-Star.

The Varsity Football Team had eight team members nominated to the Grassio Division All-Star 1st team, James Prasto, David Rodak, Michael Lupo, Aidan Thomas, Brandon Stedy, Tyler Beverly, J.J. Adriance and Jack Veirs, and two team members selected for the Grassio Division All-Star 2nd team, Keegan Zoller and CJ Guarino.

The Boys Cross Country Team had two team members selected as Suburban Council All-Stars, Ben Guerin and Patrick Garand were selected to the 2nd team Suburban Council All-Star.

The Girls Cross Country Team earned 6th place in the Suburban Council Meet, 6th place at the Section 2 Meet and Faith Demars was the Section 2 Class A Individual Runner-Up. She was also selected to the 1st team Suburban Council All-Star and participated in the NYSPHSAA/NYS Federation Championship Meet.

The Boys Golf Team placed 9th in the Suburban Council Tournament and won the Ballston Cup vs Burnt Hills.

The Girls Tennis Team was the Section 2 Class AA Quarterfinalist, and earned second place in the Suburban Council Grey Division with six individuals qualifying for the Section 2 Tournament.

Additional information on student athlete achievements as well as all athletic team information is posted on the athletic department page of the district website. Also, follow us on Twitter @B_Sp_Athletics or on our Live Twitter Feed on the website.

Robots Team Qualifies at Ballston Spa Tournament

Ballston Spa High School’s FIRST Robotics Team #3044 and FIRST Tech Challenge Team #6945 recently hosted a Hudson Valley FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Qualifying Tournament. Eight FLL teams participated in the tournament. The first place winner was the B306ots team from Christian Brothers Academy in Albany. Other teams that received awards at the tournament include:

- Robot Design Award & Robot Performance Award (BS Pointers, Saratoga County 4-H)
- Project Award (Motors in Action, Wood Road Elementary School)
- Core Values (Bionic Builders, Ballston Spa Middle School)

This year’s FLL challenge, City Shaper, required students to design a LEGO robot that was programmed to operate independently on the competition table and accomplish several design and construction related tasks. The teams were judged based on the robot’s performance, design, core values and on a project. The theme of this year’s project asked students to think like architects, engineers and construction workers to identify a problem with a building or public space in their community and design a solution to the problem.

The tournament was sponsored by Hudson Valley FLL, Dutchess Community College and their Foundation, IBM, and NY Tech Valley FIRST. FIRST programs are growing in New York Tech Valley as a result of the overwhelming support of our industry sponsors to engage more students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and develop the needed workforce to support their businesses. Sponsors for New York Tech Valley include GLOBALFOUNDRIES, GE, ASML, National Grid, KLA-Tencor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, LAM Research, Applied Materials, AMD, Turner Construction, SCREEN USA, infrastructure, Edwards, Regeneron, Pickett Family Foundation, Acumetra, Tokyo Electron and Westerwood Global.

Additional information is available by contacting Ballston Spa K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin, dirwin@bscsd.org, or at the High School by calling 884-7150.

Ballston Spa Central School District Winter 2020
Congratulations to Our Students Performing with Music Honor Groups

Many Middle and High School students represented our school district in Honor Music Groups at the County, Suburban Council, Area All State and State level earlier this school year. Congratulations to all the students on your achievements, and thank you for representing our district so well with your effort and talent! The students will be recognized by the Board of Education at the March 4, 2020 meeting in honor of Music in Our Schools Month at 7:00 pm in the Ballston Spa High School Library.

The following Elementary, Middle and High School students represented our school district in Music Honor Groups at the County, Suburban Council, and Area All State level this school year, including:

**All County Band**
- 6-7: Hannah Fryer, Lyra Hall, Krista Lincoln, Eric Lumley, Hudson Seplowitz, Amy Taylor, Sarah Helly, Mallory Cszimba, Anna Harmon, and Sabrina Hu.
- 8-9: Sam Carioto-Savoie, Brooke Cearley, Justin Dubiac, Rebekah Marvel, Ryan Otten, Sarah Skystad
- 10-12: Zachary Baskin, Elijah Sutton, Andrew Wade

**All County Orchestra**
- 6-7: Matthew Adams, Mia Butler, Reese Dewey, Miriam Evans, Jonathan Forster, Levi Jenkins, Madelyn Perrone, Nicholas Sharp, Molly Taylor, Livia Wiltiie
- 8-9: Reese Ahern, Madison Ballou, Madeline Caffrey, Madeline Frederickson
- 10-12: Zarah Costigan, Caitlin Doyle, Paige Dubiac, Jillian Fernau, Madison Franco, Jenna Gold-Wienik, Hannah Kalinkewicz, Levi Leavitt, Claire Maurer, Thomas McLean, Ryan Mullin, Emma Rask, Alyssa Stoffel, Kentaro Tan

**All County Jazz Band**
- Eli Sutton

**All County Chorus**
- HS All County Choir: Angela Capuano, Mallory Cox, Grace Glastetter, Makayla Howard, Andrew Peet, Mary Grace Sprissler, Saade White, Sierra Beckenstein, Jacob Otten

**Suburban Council Music Festival**
- Band: Eli Sutton
- Choir: Jacob Otten
- Orchestra: Zarah Costigan, Caitlin Doyle, Paige Dubiac, Jillian Fernau, Dooyeon Kim, Thomas McLean, Ryan Mullin, Kentaro Tan

**Area All State Music Festival**
- Band: Eli Sutton, Riley Zadoorian
- Orchestra: Zarah Costigan, Caitlin Doyle, Jillian Fernau, Hannah Kalinkewicz, Thomas McLean

**Melodies of Christmas Chorale**
- Angela Capuano, Molly Filburn

Join us for additional events during the month including the annual Pops Concert on March 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Ballston Spa High School Library.

---

**BSHS Student Artwork Featured at the Saratoga All Stars Exhibition**

Ballston Spa High School students were recently selected to exhibit their work at the annual Saratoga All Stars Art Show. Their work was on display in January and February at the Saratoga Arts Center with the work of other students from throughout Saratoga, Fulton & Montgomery counties. Students who had their artwork selected for the show include Mason Malpass, Leah Thimineur, Lindsey Warner, Shelby Whitney, Alexys Donnley, Brandy Wallace, Savannah Ingram, Lexi Lumley, Sarah Helly, Mallory Cszimba, Anna Harmon, and Sabrina Hu.

Additional information is at https://www.saratoga-arts.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/.

**BSHS Students Presented Mamma Mia!**

The High School Troupe proudly presented the play *Mamma Mia!* as their Fall 2019 production. The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propelled this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. An amazing cast and crew, non-stop laughs, and explosive dance numbers combined to make *Mamma Mia!* a smash hit at BSHS.

---

**Frozen, Jr. Presented by Middle School’s Launching Pad Productions**

Launching Pad Productions, the Middle School drama club, presented the musical *Frozen, Jr.* as this year’s annual production. With 50 kids in the cast and another 60 working behind the scenes, this was a show not to miss! The cast received national media attention after spontaneously singing for a little Elsa in a local restaurant, including a spot on Good Morning America. The show was directed and produced by Middle School teacher Joseph Shaver; choreographed by Sarah VanAernem; music directed by Laurie Huck; scene and lighting design by Patrick Ferlo; and costumes by Melissa Glastetter and Dawn Nolan.

---

**High School Troupe Presents Bye Bye Birdie**

The High School Troupe is proud to present the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* for their annual spring production. Performances are scheduled for 7:00 pm on March 19, 20, and 21 (and 1:00 pm on March 21) at the Ballston Spa High School. Tickets are $12 for adults and $7 for students and seniors. This is a family friendly show. Please visit the BSHS website for more information or call the school at 884-7180.
Teachers Receive VFW Teacher of the Year Awards

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 358 in Ballston Spa honored two Ballston Spa teachers during a recent awards ceremony. The Veterans of Foreign Wars offer a variety of nationally accredited awards and scholarships for both students and teachers.

Megan LaRoe, a fifth grade teacher at Gordon Creek Elementary School, and Dan Horntick, a Social Studies teacher at Ballston Spa High School, were awarded the Smart/Mahar VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award from the local post. The VFW annually recognizes the nation’s top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history and traditions effectively. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award.

Congratulations to the Ballston Spa teachers receiving this notable recognition. Information about all of the scholarships and programs the Veterans of Foreign Wars have to offer can be found at VFW.org.

Ballston Spa Staff Recognized for National Certification

The Board of Education recently recognized those staff members who have earned National Certification in their respective professional roles and expressed congratulations on behalf of the school community. Jessica Lamb received National Board Certification in Special Education. She currently is a Special Education Teacher who works with the students and families at Gordon Creek Elementary School.

Reid Keefe received National Certification as a School Psychologist. She currently works with students and families at the Ballston Spa High School.

Christina Carlson recently joined the school district as a Guidance Counselor specifically working with the students in the district’s Clean Tech Early College High School. She received her National Board Certification in School Counseling.

Shannon Hansen, Science Instructor at Ballston Spa High School, also was recognized for receiving re-certification as a National Board Certified Science Teacher.

Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association President Kim Pusateri presented information on the national certifications and commended the staff members for their commitment to their profession and to the students in Ballston Spa. Additional information on national certification is available at https://www.nbtbs.org/national-board-certification/.

Staff Members Support Alzheimer’s Awareness at BSMS

Staff members throughout the district raise awareness and support for various causes throughout the year. In the fall, over 60 Middle School staff members showed their support by wearing purple clothing to school and contributing over $600 to Alzheimer’s Awareness Day.

School Resource Officer Update

The district has selected a new School Resource Officer from the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Office to serve the elementary schools for the remainder of the school year. Deputy Jillian Lyons recently left the district to pursue a position with the Federal Protective Services in the Department of Homeland Security. Deputy Diana Buehler, who has been in the district occasionally throughout the year will serve the elementary schools while a permanent replacement plan can be finalized.

The district welcomed two Deputies from the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Office to work with all four Middle Schools where he works with students and staff.

Jon Becker who is located at the Ballston Spa High School, is a School Resource Officer program in September 2018.

Ballston Spa Educators Awarded BSEF Grants

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) recently presented $6,047.80 in Fall 2019 grant awards to educators in the Ballston Spa Central School District for educational enrichment projects throughout the district. The recent fall cycle included the following grants: $1,000 to fund the Scotties Pantry at the Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS), $2,177 to fund the purchase of a large format professional art printer for the Ballston Spa High School, $1,470.80 to fund Sensory Paths at Gordon Creek Elementary School and $1,400 to fund a karaoke machine for BSMS.

With these latest grant awards, the BSEF has, since its inception in 1996, funded over $390,000 in enrichment grants to the school district. The Ballston Spa Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an all-volunteer board made up of community members whose mission is to raise and distribute resources for educational enrichment opportunities outside the realm of the daily operational needs of the Ballston Spa Central School District. For more information, please contact the BSEF at P.O. Box 276, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, or visit the website at https://www.bsampedfoundation.com.

Teachers Continue to Provide New Books for Students

The Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association (BSTA) is participating in a statewide program, NYSUT/AFT’s Leaders for Literacy, which provides brand new, high quality books to at-risk students in our community. As part of this program, community members complete registration forms which generate additional new books. To date, the Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association has distributed over 66,000 books to students in the Ballston Spa school community through very popular Book Bonanzas at various events throughout the district.

The BSTA will continue to collaborate with additional school and community organizations to set up registration tables at events in order to qualify to receive additional books for students. The district extends its appreciation to the BSTA for their commitment to supporting literacy and putting books in the hands of students who will benefit the most.

District Selects Director of Student Support Services

Over the past 18 months, school district administrators and the Board of Education have reviewed the leadership structure to ensure that we have the correct roles in place to accomplish the work outlined in the district’s priorities and goals document.

During that time, the Board of Education approved the elimination of an Assistant Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent positions. They also approved the creation of a Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, a Director of Human Resources, and a Director of Student Support Services positions. With the former two positions now being filled by Mrs. Kathleen Skeile and Mrs. Pam Matler respectively, Mrs. Sharon D’Agostino will now be the Director of Student Support Services after serving 17 years as Principal of the Malta Avenue Elementary School.

Mrs. D’Agostino’s commitment to Ballston Spa students, staff, and community, her understanding of the work required in this area, and her desire to improve our student support systems allowed her to stand out from the 37 applicants who applied for this position. Congratulations to Mrs. D’Agostino! The district will appoint an interim Malta Avenue Principal for the remainder of the year while beginning a search for a successor to lead the school.

Save the date, April 4 for the Scotties Stampede

Our Own Ballston Spa 5k for Education

Staff News and Notes

Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association President Kim Pusateri (R) at the Board of Education recognition ceremony.

Ballston Spa Teachers and Staff members are shown with Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association President Kim Pusateri (R) at the Board of Education recognition ceremony.
Board of Education

Dottie Sellers, President
Lillian McCarthy, Vice President
Christiane Farnan
Jason Fernau
Melissa Glastetter
Jeanne Obermayer
Mike O’Donnell
Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent of Schools

Written by Stuart J. Williams, Coordinator of Community Relations
Layout/Design by Patricia Ball, Assistant to the Superintendent

Wellness Expo and Scotties 5k Return April 4

A districtwide Wellness Day focused on health and wellness will be held on April 4, 2020 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm at the BSMS/HS Complex. Everyone in the Ballston Spa school community is invited to join together for the 5th Annual Scotties Stampede 5k at 9:00 am at the district’s tennis courts on Garrett Road. The Wellness Expo will immediately follow, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in the High School cafeteria/gymnasium.

The Wellness Expo is a FREE family-friendly event that is open to all residents of the district. Each school building will be showcasing service learning projects and educational activities that have taken place throughout the school year. Over fifty health and wellness professionals from throughout our community and around the region are planning to attend and provide educational information on fitness, healthy eating, and related wellness topics. Free bicycle helmets will be available again this year to students as well as the fingerprinting identification program for children. There will be drawings held throughout the day, including for free bicycles (for current students), and many other giveaways from the exhibitors.

BSHS Book Club Supports Animal Shelter

The BSHS student book club recently collected pet supplies and related items for donation to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter from family and staff members. The book club members delivered the items to the shelter and also were able to read to the cats in the cat socialization room.

Upcoming School/Community Events - Winter/Spring 2020

MARCH
3-4 – High School Dodgeball Tournament, High School Gym, 4:00-8:00 pm
5 – Elementary Science Fair, Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafetorium, 6:15-7:15 pm
7 – High School POPS Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
11 – Incoming Kindergarten Parent Night, Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafetorium, 6:30 pm
16 – Superintendent Conference Day, No PM classes - Grades K-12
19-20 – Spring Troupe Production, Bye Bye Birdie, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
21 – Spring Troupe Production, Bye Bye Birdie, High School Auditorium, 1:00 & 7:00 pm
28 – High School Annual Bunny Breakfast, Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafetorium, 9:00-11:00 am

APRIL
2 – Ballston Spa’s Got Talent, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
4 – Wellness Expo/Scotties Stampede 5k Fun Run/Walk, Middle School, 9:00 am
6 – Taste of Ballston Spa, High School Cafeteria, 6:00-8:00 pm
9 – Walk About Program ends
19-17 – Spring Recess – No School
30 – National Honor Society Induction/Junior Awards Ceremony, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm

Complete event information is located on the district website’s events calendar. Please check often for the latest info, or call the appropriate school office. Also, follow the district on Twitter @BSCSD or Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD for frequent updates and information.