

FOCUS

October/November 2016

Walk to School Day

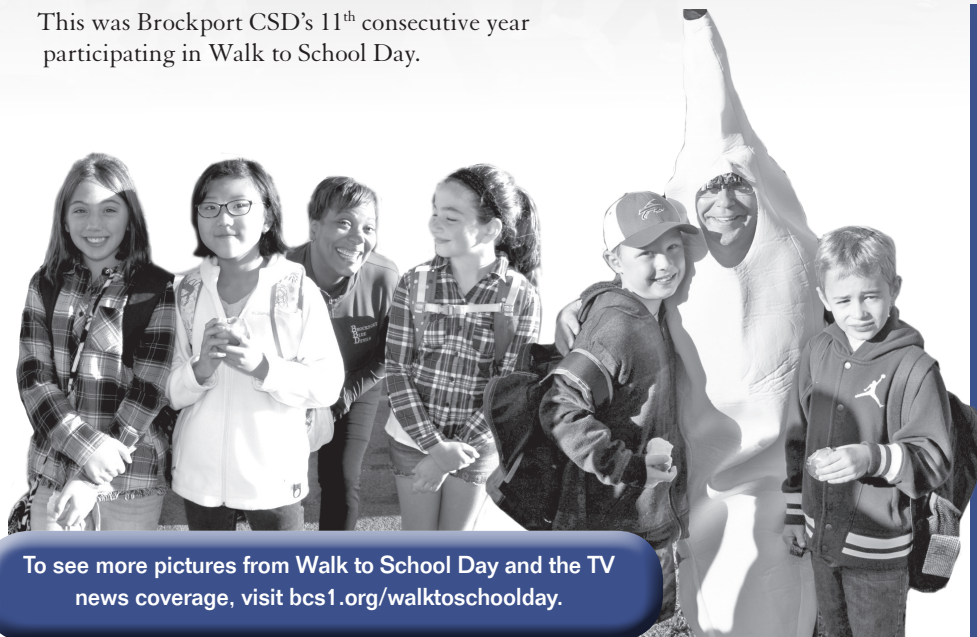
A record-breaking 670 Brockport students joined thousands of students around the world as they walked, biked, skateboarded and scootered to school during International Walk to School Day on Oct. 5. The event, organized locally by the Walk to School Subcommittee of Walk! Bike! Brockport!, promotes the benefits of physical activity.

Families who wished to participate but lived too far away had the opportunity to park and walk from Bill Gray's or the Village Optician. Tents were set up at each location so students could grab an apple for the road and a special trinket of appreciation for their participation. Student volunteers from the College at Brockport boys baseball team and girls basketball team accompanied the walkers and offered support and encouragement.

Congratulations to the Hill School for winning the coveted Walk to School Day Trophy, with 47 percent student participation! Barclay came in second with 41 percent and Ginther followed with 40 percent. Hill School was presented with the trophy during an assembly on Oct. 11.

Thank you to organizer Dr. James Goetz and the Walk to School Subcommittee of Walk! Bike! Brockport! for coordinating a successful event! Thank you also to Kalir Farm for donating apples, Tim Hortons for providing coffee, the Kiwanis Club for distributing the coffee, the College at Brockport student athletes for accompanying the walkers, the high school band "Element 36" for providing entertainment, community volunteers who were stationed at local intersections to greet students and all who participated in the event.

This was Brockport CSD's 11th consecutive year participating in Walk to School Day.



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To see more pictures from Walk to School Day and the TV news coverage, visit bcs1.org/walktoschoolday.

Dear Neighbors, Friends and Community Members,

On Opening Day, I introduced the theme for the school year: “do what matters.” This theme encourages all of us to take a step back and reflect on the big picture. To actualize our mission of engaging and empowering each student to achieve excellence as a learner and citizen, we must focus on the elements that matter. So what matters to me as an educational leader?



Lesli C. Myers, Ed.D.

High expectations matter. As our core belief states, we believe all students can learn and we hold high expectations for ourselves and our students. During Opening Day, I shared my goal for the year: to increase the quantity of time I spend inside classrooms interacting with students and staff. I believe it is essential for me to learn how classrooms operate at each grade level to be an authentic educator. I certainly enjoy receiving updates and reports from our administrators, teachers and staff, however experiencing the atmosphere first-hand offers me a more in depth look into the teaching and learning in our district. I plan to spend a full day every other week with a grade level. So far, I have spent days with UPK, kindergarten and first grade. These experiences have been incredibly insightful.

Effective teaching and a rigorous curriculum matter. During my time at Ginther, I witnessed kindergarteners use iPads for the first time in the classroom. It’s exciting to see our vision of being a leading, innovative, high-performing school district being carried out by introducing technology to students at a young age. We live in a digital world where students are digital learners and it is vital to adapt instruction to integrate new technology. I am looking forward to spending time with students in sixth grade to see our digital conversion in action. As part of the conversion, each Oliver Middle School sixth-grade student was assigned a laptop at the beginning of the school year. The goal of the digital conversion is to create a school community in which students are technologically literate and capable of using online tools and a variety of devices to create, collaborate and communicate in a digital setting. To learn more about the digital conversion at OMS, see page six.

Work ethic matters. Brockport Central School District is comprised of an extraordinary collection of dedicated, passionate individuals who strive to provide the highest quality of education to our students. It is evident that our educators work hard and take pride in what they do. My days at Ginther were certainly eye-opening and I have a renewed appreciation for our Ginther teachers and staff. While it is undoubtedly rewarding to educate our youngest learners, it is also tiresome to be “on” all day! Spending time in the classrooms also allowed me to witness the incredible work ethic on the students’ end.

Putting students first matters. My time within the classrooms not only enhances my knowledge of the unique aspects of each grade, but also opens my eyes to new opportunities to enhance the quality of learning for our students. I am able to see first-hand the topics in which I need to advocate for to our Board of Education, politicians and lawmakers. I am grateful for the abundance of resources available within our district currently, however it is important to consistently strive to be better.

Finally, you matter. The engagement of our students, families and community members is critical for our success. I am excited to announce that our community has been designated November’s Brockport’s Best. Your continued presence and support is evident, as showcased during events such as homecoming, in which you didn’t let the rain dampen your spirits. Thank you for your partnership in making Brockport great. We have had a wonderful beginning to the school year and I am looking forward to the rest of the year.

Remember, do what matters!

Yours in Education,

Lesli C. Myers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



District climate survey results

As you may recall, Brockport Central School District administered a district-wide climate survey in the spring of 2016 to gather feedback regarding the learning environment, quality of instruction and leadership within the district. A total of 2,638 surveys were completed by students (grades 4-12), staff (instructional and non-instructional), parents and community members.

The results provided valuable insight from stakeholders relative to areas of strength and room for improvement within the district. Our Strategic Planning Committee utilized these results to guide target areas within our 2016-19 Strategic Plan. Identified areas of growth were also incorporated into each school’s individualized strategic plan.

The full reports and summaries are posted on our website at www.bcs1.org/survey.

Instruction Office

Highlights

By Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Instruction Rachel Kluth

2016 Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for New York

Sometimes we don't stop to appreciate the wonderful things that are happening around us. Each and every day we come to work without second guessing our purpose. Supporting our students as they grow and learn through our leadership and guidance is the focus. In Brockport, there are heroes and role models that work alongside us daily.



Rosemary Catlin

Brockport Central School District is honored to announce that Rosemary Catlin was named the 2016 Outstanding Biology Teacher for New York through the National Association of Biology Teachers, or NABT. This award is also sponsored by Carolina Biological Supply Company. We are so proud of this accomplishment for Rosemary. She has been part of our Brockport school community for more than 25 years. She is extremely dedicated to her students and her passion for science is unmeasurable. Her classroom is a vibrant environment where students are engaged in meaningful learning. The impact that Rosemary has on the students and her colleagues is infectious. Her passion is contagious and models the way for being a thoughtful steward of the environment.

Rosemary will be recognized at the upcoming NABT National Conference in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016.

"Rosemary is most deserving of this award because of her passion for not only the subject area, biology, but for the students as well. In no other classroom will you find three science experiments going on at the same time. Her love of science is contagious and I know she has influenced many students over the years to focus on careers in science. Personally, I have loved coming to work for the past 22 years here at the high school because Rosemary is a teacher, colleague and friend of mine whom makes each day fun and interesting."

Kristeena Cyr, BHS science teacher

"Rosemary brings an unparalleled passion for life and learning to every class she teaches. Whether covering genetic expression with her AP Biology seniors or ecological succession with her wide-eyed sophomores, Rosemary conveys the material as if there could not be a more important topic to learn that day. She is an excellent educator not only because of the stately wealth of knowledge she possesses, but more so because of the degree to which she cares about each one of the young people that walk into her class."

Jeremy Moore, BHS assistant principal

Meet our new HS principal

Name: Dr. Brian Weller

Background:

- Principal, Pittsford Sutherland High School
- Assistant principal, Webster Thomas High School
- Social studies teacher (12 years)



Dr. Brian Weller

Education:

- Doctorate of Education from the University of Rochester
- Certification, bachelor's and master's degrees from the College at Brockport

Favorite Color: Blue (of course!)

Favorite Food: Steak

Favorite Movie: Gladiator

What you're most looking forward to this year at BCSD: helping students find their success as young adults.

Meet our new HS assistant principal

Name: Ashley Dame

Background:

- Acting assistant principal, Greece Athena High School
- Acting assistant principal, Greece Olympia
- Assistant Principal, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Summer Program



Ashley Dame

Education:

- Master of Science in Educational Leadership from St. John Fisher College
- Master's and bachelor's degrees from the State University of New York at Fredonia

Favorite Color: Pink

Favorite Food: Eggplant parmesan

Favorite Movie: The Notebook

What you're most looking forward to this year at BCSD: getting to know the students at Brockport High School! I am excited about supporting them with their academics as well.

School bus safety reminders

As the new school year has accelerated into full gear, the Brockport Central School District Transportation Department would like to remind motorists of important school bus safety practices.

Remember: the key is to remain alert. Watch for buses and students walking alongside the road traveling to bus stops or school buildings. Pay attention to the flashing amber lights indicating that the school bus is preparing to stop and red lights signifying that children are getting on or off the school bus. You must stop when the red lights are flashing; it's New York State law. Please know that Brockport school bus drivers are trained to pull over to relieve traffic, but only when they are able to do so safely.

Thank you for your partnership in helping create a safe environment for our students, bus drivers and community members!

SAFETY TIPLINE

Help keep Brockport CSD a safe place

Contact the district's confidential safety tipline if you are aware of any activity that could potentially put students, staff or our school property at risk.

Call 1-877-453-0006 or visit www.bcs1.org/tipline.

For emergencies, call 911.

Emergency procedure review

As we settle back into the school year, it is important to revisit our emergency policies and procedures. In the event of an emergency, our main priority is to keep our students, staff and visitors safe. It is our goal to communicate as quickly and accurately as possible.

Automated messaging

The district uses an automated messaging system to quickly communicate with families. In the event of an emergency, such as a lockout or lockdown, calls will be made to all parent/guardian's home, work and cell phone numbers, along with emergency contacts 1-4 listed on the Student Profile form updated every September or when there is a change in contact information. Messages will also be sent via email.

The district will periodically use automated messaging to share important information such as open house reminders or last minute event changes. Information classified as "non-emergency" will be sent to the primary home phone numbers and email addresses on file.

Website alerts

Oftentimes, when an emergency alert is issued, additional information is posted on the district's website at www.bcs1.org. Information alerts will appear on the homepage above the "Our Schools" listing in the right column. While the graphic varies depending on the alert or notice, in the event of an emergency you will see a red "Alert – Emergency Notification" graphic. You can click on the text or graphic to view additional information.

Lockouts and lockdowns

People often use the terms lockout and lockdown interchangeably. At Brockport CSD, a lockout is initiated when there is a potential risk outside the building or district (i.e., an armed person is threatening the community; a suspicious condition, chemical spill, or rabid/aggressive animal exists in the area). During a lockout, exterior doors and windows are locked, outside activities are terminated and instruction continues as normal inside the building.

A lockdown is initiated when there is an impending risk to the building or district (i.e., an armed/violent/aggressive person threatening or attacking a school building or the district; an imminent threat that may involve a specific building or the district). In this case, the same protocols would be followed for a lockout, however, classroom doors are locked and instruction is halted.

How parents can help during an emergency situation

- Listen carefully. Please listen to the entire automated message, then visit the district's website for more information at www.bcs1.org.
- Don't panic. Just like you, we make your children's safety our main priority. We have solid procedures in place to keep them safe. We practice emergency drills multiple times each year with our students and staff, practice table top drills and conduct safety meetings.
- Avoid calling your child's school. We will notify you as more information becomes available.
- Don't rush to campus. If there is an actual emergency on our campus where law enforcement or emergency personnel need to respond, it is critical to keep the campus clear so they can quickly resolve the situation.
- Keep your contact information up to date. It is important to have a current email address on file in addition to home, work and cell phone numbers.

PLEASE REMEMBER

to notify the registrar's office when your contact information changes by calling 585-637-1857 or emailing registrar@bcs1.org.

OPENING DAY 2016

DO WHAT MATTERS

“Do what matters!” The theme for the 2016-17 school year was introduced to faculty and staff during Opening Day on Aug. 31. Opening Day commenced with a video featuring several BCSD students reciting lines of a palindrome poem. The first half of the poem portrayed modern education in a cynical light, but then the lines reversed and transformed the message into one of hope and optimism.

Following the video, Dr. Lesli C. Myers dove deeper into the theme and stressed the importance of doing what matters both personally and professionally.

“We live in a society where the little things we do often get overlooked and it has a way of making us believe that those things don’t matter,” said Dr. Myers. “They do. Compassion, understanding, small acts of kindness, or a willingness to simply reach out to others in any way can all make a huge difference.”



Students then offered their insight into the theme as they were captured in a brief video responding to the question, “what matters to you?” They replied with a wide variety of answers, ranging from “teachers” and “education” to “my cat.”

Subsequently, attendees were given the opportunity to share their opinions regarding what matters by way of a text message poll. The overwhelmingly most common answer was “family,” but “friends” and “students” were widespread as well.

Dr. Myers continued the Opening Day presentation by relaying interesting facts about each school and department. For instance, the Food Service Department served 345,351 lunches and the Transportation Department traveled 1.4 million miles.

New staff and tenure recipients were recognized during Opening Day and Board of Education President Lisa Ireland read the list of those being honored for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service.

The gathering concluded with a skit mimicking a popular State Farm commercial. Thank you to our actors and actresses: High School Science Teacher Dan Viola, Elementary Music Teacher Becki Place, Assistant Superintendent for HR Jake Reimer, 11th-grader Peter Howlett and fourth-grader Vincenza Viola.

To see the videos and skit from Opening Day, visit our website at bcs1.org/openingday2016.

Meet our new teachers



Left to right: Superintendent Dr. Lesli C. Myers, Maggie Bruno (Ginther), Sara Worley (Ginther/Barclay), Lisa Lancia (HS), Meagan Gruver (HS), Caitlin Vigliotti (Ginther), Katelyn Marasco (Barclay), Alyssa Placito (Barclay), Alana Schiller (Ginther/Barclay), Joe Goehle (OMS/HS). Not pictured: Elizabeth Blosenhauer (Ginther), Matthew Komendat (OMS), Amy Nesbitt (HS)

Urban Suburban Program orientation



Dr. Lesli C. Myers welcomes our new students during the Urban Suburban Program orientation on Aug. 23 – LaVar Colquitt, D’Mari Rainey, Philiosophia Wood, Ikran Abdi, Madison Howard and India Williams.

Going digital at OMS

Sixth-graders at Oliver Middle School took a leap into the digital world this fall as OMS implemented its 2016-17 Digital Conversion Plan. New this school year, each sixth-grade student was assigned a laptop. Students were instructed to begin each school day by picking up their laptop from homeroom and conclude each day by plugging their computer in to charge. The real magic occurs between device pick-up and drop-off.

While each teacher incorporates the new technology differently, the school is collectively piloting a learning management system called Schoology. The system allows users to create, manage and share content and resources. Teachers have the flexibility to utilize other programs too, such as OneNote and Office 365. Math Teacher Veronica Cellura is currently using Office Mix, a PowerPoint tool in which allows users to record a voiceover and draw on the screen to create videos. Cellura says the program is beneficial because she has the ability to work one-on-one with students who have questions, while other students refer to the videos. Furthermore, the videos promote repetition as students listen to the same facts and same method of teaching.

“Having Office Mix allows me to help kids at home when they forget,” said Cellura. “It makes it easier than ever before for students to learn and remember because of the repetition.”

She also said the laptops allow opportunities for adapted learning that didn’t exist before. For instance, a student broke his hand,

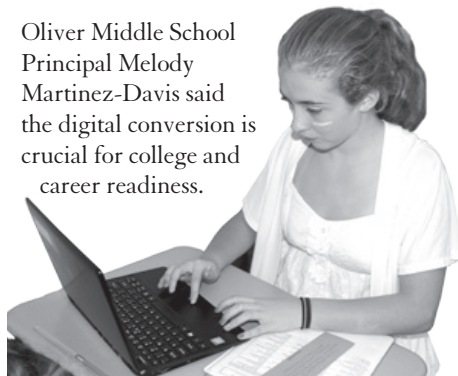
which affected his ability to write properly, so Cellura uploaded a digital version of the worksheet online so he could type instead of handwrite.

Other teachers are choosing more of a blended learning approach, combining new technology with classic resources such as paper and markers. Social Studies Teacher Lisa Rice had students in her class use their laptops to research topics, then create posters with their findings.

Students and staff alike are excited about the transition and the opportunities it offers. Beyond the benefit of the lack of heavy books and binders to carry around, students appreciate the ease of typing notes and the instant access they have to submit assignments and communicate with their teachers. They also understand the importance of technology education given the digital society in which we live.

“Things are getting more technological and things are more online, so this prepares us for being online,” said Molly Howlett, OMS sixth-grader.

Oliver Middle School Principal Melody Martinez-Davis said the digital conversion is crucial for college and career readiness.



College students regularly use learning management systems so introducing the concept to students at the middle school level allows them an advantage. Students planning on beginning careers immediately following graduation will also likely be faced with the need for computer experience, as most job applications require submittal online. Furthermore, she said the digital age is upon us and therefore educators have the responsibility to adapt to it.

“This is reality. Our students are natives and fluent in the world of technology. We, as educators, are the immigrants and need to adjust and assimilate into their world,” said Martinez-Davis. “That’s how students learn and communicate nowadays – via technology. This is their world and we need to embrace it.”

Martinez-Davis says the digital conversion has been years in the making. The process started with a small group of teachers in 2013. Those teachers each received a mobile cart containing a class set of tablets. The following year, teachers interested in obtaining a mobile class cart were required to complete a proposal, participate in professional development and open their classrooms to others. The program continuously expanded, resulting in this year’s one laptop to one student initiative. Additional mobile carts were also provided to seventh- and eighth-grade classrooms this year.

The goal is to have a fully completed digital conversion in grades six to eight by September 2017.

iPads at Ginther

Brockport students as young as kindergarten are being immersed in technology. Ginther Elementary is now a 1:1 computing school, meaning every kindergarten and first-grade student has an iPad. Students are using iPads in classrooms to access apps such as IXL, RAZ Kids, Handwriting Without Tears, Keyboarding Without Tears, Lexia Core 5, Book Creator, Pebble Go, Starfall, Padlet, Bugs & Numbers, Word Wizard, Splash Math and Show Me. Students also have the ability to access many of those apps from home by using their school usernames and passwords.



Urban Suburban Breakfast

Our annual Urban Suburban Breakfast was held at Brockport High School on Sept. 29. Superintendent Dr. Lesli C. Myers, High School Principal Dr. Brian Weller and Urban Suburban Program Director Theresa Woodson spoke at the breakfast, welcoming students and commending them for their dedication to the program. Following breakfast, the seniors in the program stood and introduced themselves and shared their post-graduation college and/or career plans.



School HIGHLIGHTS



Brown Bear, Brown Bear

Students in Liza Aguglia's Skindergarten class brought the story "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See" to life on Sept. 16. The class read the story, then made brown bear masks and retold the story through the masks.



Hill students persevere

Fifth-graders at Hill School used problem-solving and perseverance during a grade-wide activity on Sept. 7. They were tasked with trying to "rescue" two gummy worms trapped on a capsized boat (cup) without touching them. The life vests (lifesaver gummies) were stuck underneath the boat and the gummy worms were not allowed to touch the water (desk) because they could not swim. Paperclips and brain power were the only tools allowed!

Barclay

Twenty-seven Barclay students were recognized with certificates and ice cream on Oct. 5 in honor of being selected as Citizens of the Month. Students are chosen each month for being "Barclay bucket fillers" and demonstrating good citizenship.



OMS Club Fair

Oliver Middle School's second annual Club Fair was a huge success! The event was held during all lunches on Sept. 16 and featured tables with information on more than 25 clubs. Approximately half of the student body signed up to join at least one club, with the most popular options being Drama Club, Baking Club and Computer Coding Club.



Lunch on the Lawn

Freeze pops, lawn games, a movie ticket raffle and face painting made for an exciting lunch period at Brockport High School's Lunch on the Lawn Sept. 9. The lunch is part of the high school's PBIS kickoff to welcome students and staff back and reiterate high academic and behavioral expectations.



PBIS is back in action!

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) teams at Ginther, Barclay, Hill, Oliver and BHS worked diligently this summer to prepare outstanding school openings for all students and staff. Teams developed kickoff ceremonies to teach the K-12 universal expectations of be respectful, be responsible and be a learner. Staff led students through thoughtfully designed lesson plans that modeled, taught and reinforced expectations for behavior in classrooms, cafes, hallways, bathrooms, large space areas and playgrounds.



Student reflections

"Going to the assembly and seeing kids get chosen for Bee Bucks for their good behavior was my favorite thing this year."

– Hannah Plassche, first grade

"It was cool, interesting and fun to watch the drops [contestants] guess the correct answer to the PBIS questions. It's surprising to see your principal dressed as a bucket but it's funny. Maybe next time Dr. Myers can come dressed as a bucket; that would be amazing!"

– Tristan Hollamby, third grade

"I liked Lunch on the Lawn because there was face-painting and games. It was cool to see Mr. Moore and teachers passing out popsicles. It was nice having options on what we could do during lunch time. I wish it happened more often!"

– Javier Castillo, ninth grade

"The PBIS kickoff refreshes all of the guidelines and expectations for school that we forgot over the summer. It helps get you in the right mindset for the year and gets all of the good traits in mind."

– Molly Rich, eighth grade

Staff reflections

"I have a couple new students this year (in first grade) and watching the PBIS videos really help the kids learn what matters in our school."

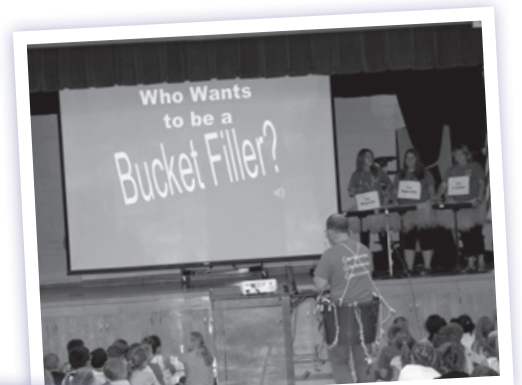
– Laura Burke, first-grade teacher

"Our PBIS kickoff lessons created a culture that supports our district message of 'do what matters.' During 'Stop, Drop and PBIS,' students learned about how important it is to have a growth mindset. This positive attitude will enable all of us to take our learning to the next level!"

– Lisa Byrne-Emmerson, fifth-grade teacher

"I really loved the enthusiasm from staff and students during our school-wide Kahoot! I noticed that it brought people together and promoted teamwork. I thought it was a fun way for students to get information about the school and it got kids invested and excited about PBIS."

– Ashley Lysiak, high school teacher



Administrator reflections

"As a member of the OMS administrative team, I observed our students and staff doing what matters by spending time connecting with one another and learning our school climate and culture, along with our expectations. This set a very positive tone for the 2016-17 school year."

– Jerrod Roberts, OMS assistant principal

"It was incredible to see how excited the students were when their classmates were picked as Bee Buck winners. It is amazing to watch 4- and 5-year-old children learn in less than two weeks that showing you care about other people is something that really matters."

– Mitch Daly, Ginther assistant principal



"Anywhere you travel within the building the positive energy simply pervades. Students and staff are contributing great ideas to set high expectations, and then working together to make them a reality. Two new initiatives I am most looking forward to this year are the formation of a Student Rep Team and the Advisement Challenge. We could just sit back and run any old PBIS program, but everyone at BHS is committed to making it our own and making it truly fantastic."

– Jeremy Moore, BHS assistant principal



PBIS coach reflections

"The students were engaged in the game 'Who Wants to be a Bucket Filler' from the beginning to the end. The students enjoyed the interactive aspect of the game show when the contestants phoned classes in the audience. Classes collaborated in order to give the correct responses to the questions posed by the Bucket of Ceremonies (Principal Scott Morrison). The assembly ended with the students spontaneously singing along with the Bucket Filler song."

– Jen Moore, Jodie Shatzel, Liz Schuth, Barclay PBIS team

"Our Hill PBIS kickoff assembly started with being greeted by our Hill Hawk mascot. We focused on 'doing what matters' with a video that highlighted students talking about our core values at Hill: being respectful, being responsible and being a learner. We then recognized some outstanding fifth-grade Hill Hawks (Sophia Moore, Dimitri Murphy and Estella Watt) for being positive role models and regularly demonstrating our core values. We ended our assembly picking some Hill Hawk tickets to recognize students who are currently 'doing what matters' at Hill. It was a great start to the school year!!"

– Jill Corner, Hill



"Being respectful, responsible and learners is the foundation of our Ginther school community. To promote a 'do what matters' atmosphere with the district's youngest students, our PBIS kickoff focused on explicitly teaching, role-modeling and practicing expected rules and routines around the school. Our kickoff culminated in kindergarten and first grade assemblies that announced our first Bee Buck winners of the year, recognized the positive choices our students are making and celebrated everything that our students had learned so far about the 3 B's."

– Peter Kramer, Ginther

Meet our new varsity coaches

Jamie Hugelmaier - varsity girls volleyball

Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach Jamie Hugelmaier began her Brockport coaching career as an assistant coach to the boys varsity volleyball team. Following that, she was the assistant Genesee Community College girls volleyball coach, where she helped lead the team to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Finals Volleyball Tournament. During her second year at GCC, she became the interim head coach and led the team to the NJCAA National Finals Volleyball Tournament. She received two awards at GCC: District Coach of the Year and Region Coach of the Year. Hugelmaier is a former Brockport volleyball player and has a family history playing Brockport volleyball.

Amy Nesbitt - varsity girls lacrosse

Varsity Girls Lacrosse Coach Amy Nesbitt has 11 years of lacrosse coaching experience. Nesbitt began her coaching career at Spencerport High School, where she launched the lacrosse program from scratch. She wrote a grant to US Lacrosse and won it, resulting in funding to begin the program in 2000. She served as head coach for eight years, leading the team to a co-championship with Honeoye Falls-Lima in 2005. She took a few years off to stay home with her young son before retuning and coaching junior varsity lacrosse at Spencerport for three years. She now teaches physical education at Brockport High School.

Tom Rispoli - varsity wrestling

Varsity Wrestling Coach Tom Rispoli currently teaches physical education at the Hill School. He served as the Brockport junior varsity coach and program assistant for two years under former head coach Mike Ferris, who saw the wrestling team win back to back sectional championships. Prior to Brockport, Rispoli coached junior varsity wrestling at Spencerport High School for two years. He was originally from East Meadow, Long Island and made his way to Western New York to attend school at the College at Brockport.



Amy Nesbitt, Tom Rispoli, Jamie Hugelmaier

Athletic Wall of Honor inductees

Congratulations to our 2016 Athletic Wall of Honor inductees! Kathy Wyand Wood, student-athlete, Class of 1978; Nathan Van Duzer, student-athlete, Class of 1985; Woody VanDenburg, teacher/coach, and Charlie Hage, coach, were honored during an induction ceremony at Oliver Middle School on Sept. 16. They were also honored during halftime of the varsity football game that night.

The Athletic Wall of Honor recognizes those who have made an impact on the district's interscholastic athletic program. Each inductee is honored with a plaque containing their name and biography, which is placed on the Wall of Honor.



Charlie Hage, Nathan Van Duzer, Woody VanDenburg, Jeanie Berry (on behalf of Kathy Wyand Wood)

Fun Run draws record number of participants

More than 360 students in grades 2-6 participated in the annual Brockport Central School District Cross Country Fun Run held on Sept. 30. The cross country team did a fantastic job organizing the event, leading the participants in warm-ups before the run, encouraging them along the way and distributing ribbons when they finished. The run started and ended at the high school stadium, where parents, students and staff filled the stands to cheer on the runners. Students in grades 4-6 ran a full mile and students in grades 2-3 completed a half mile course. Thank you to the student participants, cross country team, physical education teachers, PTSA, staff and families for making the event a huge success!



Sixth-grade boys and girls take off running.

Homecoming 2016



School spirit outshined the rain during our 2016 homecoming celebration on Sept. 23! An estimated 1,500 community members participated in the festivities despite the weather.

Students showcased their school pride the week leading up to homecoming by participating in spirit week. High school spirit days included Tie Dye Day, America Day, Disney Day, Superhero Day and Class Color Day. The excitement built on Friday as OMS and the HS hosted pep rallies.



To view a slideshow of homecoming photos, head to our website at bcs1.org/homecoming.

The celebration continued with the second annual homecoming festival, featuring food trucks, music from a local DJ, community vendors, a silent auction, a dunk tank and carnival games (hosted by Brockport Student Council). The festival began prior to the parade this year, allowing families to play games and grab a bite to eat before the parade started. While all the food trucks were a hit, the local Jimmy Z's food truck drew quite a crowd! Other food trucks present included the Brunch Box, Kona Ice, Lugia's, Macarollin, the Meatball Truck and Wraps on Wheels.

The dunk tank was another popular spot as students, families and staff tested their aim and attempted to hit a target that dropped high school administrators into a pool of water.

Following the festival, nearly 20 different groups walked or rode in the 2016 homecoming parade, including floats, fire trucks, bands, sports teams, community groups, horses and more. The parade began at Oliver Middle School and wound its way through campus, stopping in front of the judges' tent before ending at Dahn Walrath Stadium. Each high school class decorated a float according to this year's theme: seasons. Freshman represented spring, sophomores depicted summer, juniors portrayed winter and seniors illustrated fall. The judges, Brockport Mayor Margaret Blackman, Board of Education President Lisa Ireland and Superintendent Dr. Lesli C. Myers, had a difficult time selecting a winner, but the senior class emerged victorious.

"It was exceptional to see community stakeholders and the district engaged together for a meaningful event," said Katie Cappella and Marc Palmer, Student Council co-advisors. "Thanks to everyone who lent their support, either by watching or marching. We will continue to build off the success next year as we hope to add even more groups, marchers, floats and spectators!"

The festivities concluded with a football game against Greece Athena. While the Blue Devils were defeated, the BCSD spirit and camaraderie resulted in an exciting event. Thank you to the Class of 2017 and all who contributed to making homecoming a success!

BHS 40 and 50 year reunions

BCSD was excited to welcome the Brockport High School classes of 1966 and 1976 back to campus for tours of the district during homecoming weekend.

Members of the class of '76 returned to campus to celebrate their 40th reunion during homecoming weekend. The group created a float and rode in the homecoming parade, then stayed and joined up with about 50 more members to cheer on the football team that evening. Following the game, about 120 people gathered for pizza and reminiscing. Approximately 15 alumni returned to BHS for a tour on Saturday, Sept. 24. Director of Buildings and Grounds Christian Hansen and Retired Physical Education Teacher Bob Jones showed them around the high school, focusing on areas of the building that have been added or renovated since 1976, such as the library, Forum, cafeteria, music rooms and fitness center.

Class of '76 grad Jay VanDuzer posted about the reunion on Facebook: "I so very much enjoyed and want to thank everyone that worked so hard putting it together. It really struck home to me the connection we have with each other. The years dropped away and I realized how very much I was blessed to grow up in Brockport and have you all as classmates. We really are family!"

The Class of 1966 also held its reunion during homecoming weekend. Head Custodian Elaine Rich and Retired Oliver Middle School Principal Jack Milner led about 30 members of the class around Oliver, showing them the preserved auditorium and gymnasium, renovated areas of the building (library and classrooms) and post-1966 additions.



The Class of 1976 recreated their yearbook class photo during the reunion at Salmon Creek.



Thank you, BHS Class of 1976, for participating in our homecoming parade!

Thank you for your service!



Food Service Department service award recipients



Brockport High School service award recipients



Ginther service award recipients



Oliver Middle School service award recipients

To view more photos and a complete list of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 year service award recipients, visit our website at www.bcs1.org/openingday2016.

School Board Recognition Week, October 24-28, 2016

***Thank you for your commitment
and dedication, Board of
Education!***

Front: Vice President Terry Ann Carbone, President Lisa Ireland, Trustee Kathleen Robertson; back: Trustee Gary Zimmer, Trustee Michael Guerrieri, Trustee David Howlett, Trustee Daniel Legault



By PTSA President Lynn Moulton

PTSA hopes that your school year has had a smooth start! It's an exciting time with plenty of activities and fun events to juggle – extracurricular activities (like sports, clubs and BHS musical rehearsal), as well as your own student's and family's commitments outside of school...and don't forget homework, meals and sleep! As you settle into your routine, remember to "do what matters!" - the BCSD theme for the year. From a PTSA perspective, that means 1) get involved in your child's education, 2) stay informed of school and district events and 3) advocate for your student.

Back to School

PTSA has had a busy year already too!

- We provided a panel of parents for the BHS principal search over the summer (thanks to Barb, Andy, Denise, Lynn and Paula). Welcome to the new BHS Principal, Dr. Brian Weller!
- We have had information tables (and sometimes even cookies, thanks to Michelle) at open houses.
- We had a panel of parents at the BHS Ninth Grade and New Student Orientation (thanks to Paige, Mike, Sammy and Lynn). The common theme from the panel was to stay informed about your student's classes and options (clubs, graduation paths, sports, arts, etc.). Because every student is different, that may mean different levels of support, even for students of the same family (i.e., who will contact a teacher with a question, you or your student. It's best if they do, but some may need help; others are more independent already). There are tools online to help, such as Infinite Campus, the district website (bcs1.org), Twitter (i.e.: [@BrockportHS](https://twitter.com/BrockportHS), [@BrockportCSD](https://twitter.com/BrockportCSD) and more) and Remind 101 (an app used by some teachers). BHS also hosts parent information events or you can even make a phone call to the guidance department to check in on your student's progress. Keep communicating with your student also; their time at BHS will fly by!
- At the BHS Lunch on the Lawn held during the first Friday of school, PTSA added to the fun by providing a raffle game for students to win movie tickets. Kudos to BHS for organizing!
- Volunteers helped kindergarteners on and off the bus, as well as at Ginther lunchtime during the first week of school. Everything ran very smoothly!

Homecoming

PTSA was proud to participate in homecoming with a t-shirt sale and spirit sale to add a little more blue and white to the day. Thanks to Ultimate Sports and Apparel for the quick turnaround on the t-shirt orders and sponsorship!

Get-togethers

Meetings (with coffee and conversation!) have also started and are generally monthly throughout the year. Check our website BrockportCentralPTSA.org and click "About" and "Calendar" for details, or check the bcs1.org calendar. We have both daytime and evening meetings to fit your schedule. If there's a meeting topic that you would like to see, please let us know at BrockportPTSA@gmail.com.

Membership

There is still time to support PTSA with your membership. We are committed to making every child's potential a reality. You can help us reach our goal in Brockport. Your dues go toward funding our local programs and advocacy efforts, as well the advocacy work that NYS PTA and National PTSA carry out on behalf of all children. Membership forms can be found in school buildings as well as our website, where online memberships can also be submitted.

What are you required to do once you purchase a membership? Nothing. There are no obligations tacked onto your membership. We would love for you to attend our meetings, but you don't have to. We would love for you to volunteer at least one to three hours during the school year, but it is not required. If all you can do at this time is support us with your membership, that is completely understandable, and we appreciate your support.

Apple time!

Volunteers are needed to run the apple slicer at Ginther School! Every Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. we offer sliced apples to our students in the cafeteria. Our students love coming over to the table to get their apples sliced so please consider helping out for a day. We cannot offer this without volunteer help and it is truly a lot of fun!

Volunteering

If you want to volunteer for *anything* in the school district, a volunteer application and confidentiality agreement is required *every year*. Forms are located on the district website under the "Parents/ Caregivers" heading; then select "Volunteers."

Newsletter

This year we are utilizing MailChimp to manage our online newsletter distribution. The emails will be coming from newsletter@brockportcentralptsa.org, so if you already receive them be sure to add the address to your contacts so they come right to your inbox! You can sign up on our website BrockportCentralPTSA.org under "Links/Forms." Previous newsletters are archived there as well.

PTSA wishes all the best to you and your students for the 2016-17 school year! Keep in touch with us through Facebook, Twitter ([@BrockportPTSA](https://twitter.com/BrockportPTSA)) and email (BrockportPTSA@gmail.com). We'd love to have your input!



Left: Signing up for the PTSA movie ticket raffle at Lunch on the Lawn.



Right: Eleventh-grader Cole Penders won a Lunch on the Lawn movie ticket raffle.

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Alicia Strafel Bonifas, Class of 2000

"I still reflect on my days in Brockport growing up and the faculty at BHS that helped shape my path," said Alicia Strafel Bonifas.



Bonifas earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from North Georgia University and her master's in professional counseling from Texas Wesleyan University. She is now the Head of School at Montessori at Sundance Square in Fort Worth, Texas, a private school serving families of young children from infancy through kindergarten.

"I am really thankful to have grown up in a small town with such an amazing school district," said Bonifas. "Two of my favorite memories are lunchtimes in the Barclay School when we could choose to play outside or in the activity room and Science Fun Day at Hill School."

She is married and has a son named Brooks. In her spare time, Bonifas likes to travel and explore with her family. She loves the landscapes in Texas, but also enjoys visiting New Orleans for the food and music.

"I have lived in Georgia, Arizona and Texas, but Brockport will always be my favorite place on earth," said Bonifas. "I love that I grew up there and got to experience what it is to have a smaller quantity but greater quality of so many things (Wegmans, hello!). I miss everything about Brockport and I can't wait to visit and share it with my family."

Commended student

High school senior Jacob Rogers has been named a Commended Student in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students place in the top five percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Jacob Rogers

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," said a spokesperson for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

Rogers was presented with a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Way to go, Jacob!

STARR Card Breakfast

Eighty Brockport High School seniors were awarded STARR cards this September for demonstrating exceptional behavior throughout the past three years. STARR card eligibility is based on character, discipline, attendance, school involvement and academic success.



STARR card holders get free admission to most school sporting events and dances, discounts at local businesses such as Lift Bridge, Abbott's and Perri's, invitations to special events throughout the school year, entrance into a monthly gift card raffle and the ability to travel to the cafeteria during advisement without a pass. This quarter's STARR card recipients were treated to breakfast in the high school cafeteria on Sept. 21 to celebrate their achievement.



Congratulations to our August graduates!



Jherlyn Brady, Victoria Carpenter, Angelina Castrechino, Anthony Lee-Torres, Justin Harris, Conner Doerr, Lawrence Reis; not pictured Alona Melendez

Break of Reality

Band and orchestra students in grades 4 – 12 received a visit from a very special musical ensemble on Sept. 28. Break of Reality, a cello rock band, conducted a workshop at Brockport High School and spoke to students about the importance of thinking outside the box with their classical instruments and exploring different genres of music.

In addition to performing a variety of songs, the band members taught students about the magic of improv and challenged them to get together with a group of friends and try it. The ensemble demonstrated by improvising a song live on stage, which resulted in an astonishing round of applause from the students.

The band members shared their musical journeys and gave students several opportunities to ask questions throughout the workshop. Following the event, the band signed autographs and took pictures with the students.

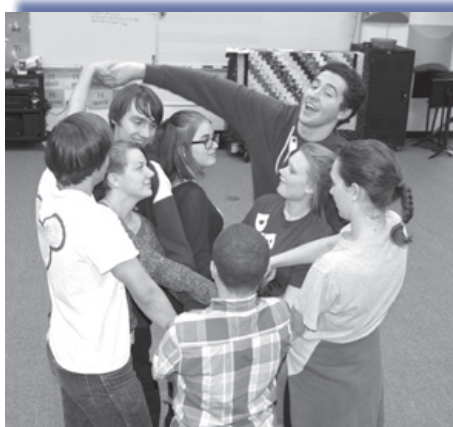
Break of Reality was formed at the Eastman School of Music here in Rochester in 2003. They have gone on to tour internationally and the members were appointed music ambassadors by the U.S. State Department in 2015.



Break of Reality band members: Tavi Ungerleider, Patrick Laird, Ivan Trevino, Cicely Parnas

HS Choir Tailgate Party

Dinner, games and music were all elements of the Brockport High School Choir Tailgate Party held on Sept. 16. The event led up to the varsity football game against Irondequoit High School, in which the choir sang the National Anthem.



YOLO, Be Drug Free.

Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 23 – 31

Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation, serves as a way for communities to unite and take a visible stand against drugs. This year's Red Ribbon Campaign theme is "YOLO (you only live once), Be Drug Free."

Each Brockport school will be hosting a variety of activities to raise awareness during Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23-31. The goal this year is to promote and celebrate positive decision-making and to support an all-around healthy lifestyle.

Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations. This is your opportunity to get an ongoing conversation started.

Visit www.redribbon.org to learn more about Red Ribbon Week and get tips for talking to your kids about drugs. If you have questions or feel that your child may be using drugs, please feel free to contact our Delphi Prevention Counselor Krystal Crawford at 637-1975 or krystal.crawford@bcs1.org.

PIONEER DAY



Hill students traveled back to colonial times during the school's annual Pioneer Day on Oct. 6. Hands-on activities, presentations and field trips gave fourth- and fifth-grade students a taste of authentic pioneer life.

Visit bcs1.org/pioneerday to see more photos.



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Term Expires June 30, 2018

Terry Ann Carbone, Vice President
Term Expires June 30, 2019

Michael Guerrieri, Trustee
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Jill Reichhart, Director of Finance

Kerry Sharp, Editor

Lisa Constantine, Graphic Designer

Calendar correction

November parent-teacher conference
times have changed. Please see updated
times below.

Nov. 9, 2016

Grades K-5: 5-8 p.m.
Grades 6-8: 4-8 p.m.

Nov. 10, 2016

Grades K-5: 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Grades 6-8: 10:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Foundation logo contest winner

Congratulations to seventh-grader
Laura Bishop for winning the Building
Excellence in Students Today (BEST) in
Brockport Education Foundation, Inc. logo
contest! Bishop's entry was unanimously
selected for portraying the organization's
mission to enhance the education of
students within the Brockport Central
School District. Bishop received a gift
certificate to Lift Bridge Book Shop and a
bookmark with the new logo on it.



BROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

The Addams Family

Nov. 10-12 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Brockport High School Auditorium

Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door

and can be purchased online at www.showtix4u.com or in person at
the Brockport High School greeter's desk during school hours.



Synopsis: In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family creates the focus Lippa, Brickman, and Elice's musical: the Addams kids are growing up. The Addamses have lived by their unique values for hundreds of years and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. Their dark, macabre, beloved daughter Wednesday, however, is now an eighteen year-old young woman who is ready for a life of her own. She has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family — the most un-Addams sounding person one could be! And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested and the Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change.

