

BCSD Dateline

PUBLICATION OF THE BEDFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



BCSD Explores Capital Improvement Project Possibilities

The Bedford Central community prides itself on consistently high expectations and sound investments in its schools. We are at a critical point in the district's future, requiring the development of a Capital Facilities Plan.

In short, BCSD schools and grounds conditions need updates and improvements. Many buildings have served students well for more than 70 years and now require basic updates and renovations for academic success. The aging of some facilities and systems combined with evolving programmatic needs require investment for BCSD schools to continue to deliver the quality and breadth of learning experiences its students need and the community expects.

The district's Bond Finance Advisory Committee, made up of staff, administration, Board of Education and community members has been touring buildings and working closely with district architects to formulate a vision for the future. Please check our website often for important updates.



Fox Lane High School Students Named Semifinalists & Commended Students in 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program

Fox Lane High School seniors Joshua Miller and Sebastien Schonfeld have been named semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. The duo are among 16,000 seniors nationwide who will compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships.

Juniors across the nation entered the program by taking the PSAT earlier this year. According to the National Merit Scholarship Program, semifinalists represent less than 1 percent of all high school seniors in the U.S.

In addition, Mason Abzun, Dylan Cousens, Zevin Faust, Samuel Green, Harry Griff, Isaac Ham, Olivia Hodgson, Andrew Horvath, Eiko Reisz, Thomas Rozgonyi, Erik Schneidenbach, and Jake Tetenman were honored as Commended Students, placing among the top 50,000 highest scorers in the country.



WANT TO STAY INFORMED?

Sign up for our community email list:
bcsdny.org/domain/674

**BCSD STRONG,
BCSD STRONGER TOGETHER**

Dear Bedford Central School District Community,

I am sure that you have noticed that I have taken to ending each of my regular community communications with the salutation: **BCSD Strong. BCSD Stronger Together.** As the proud Superintendent of the BCSD, I write in appreciation for all that we have accomplished together since the opening of this school year. I am proud to be leading a district of dedicated staff, supportive parents, and engaged students. While we are still leading and learning during a pandemic, I am ever optimistic that by committing to safe and smart practices and protocols this year will be one that will provide us with many celebrations of excellence in our classrooms, in musical and theatrical performances, on our athletic fields, and in all of our programs and schools across the BCSD. We are doing it! **BCSD Stronger Together**, indeed!

This fall, we returned — all of us — 100% in-person. We did not leave anything to chance. We planned carefully, we attended to data, and we proudly returned to school the way it is meant to be. I visit so many classrooms, K-12, and our students are back and engaged. Our teachers are utilizing instructional technology and developing new "best practices" to meet our students where they are and take them forward. We identified areas that need improvement and we recognize that there are old assumptions that define curriculum and learning by grade or age that might now need to be reconsidered, readjusted and realigned. Our 2021-2022 Success Plan states this commitment: **Analyze and monitor student assessment data, as it relates to unfinished learning during a global pandemic, to inform curriculum and instructional practices.** Our staff, at all levels and in all programs, are using data, informal and formal, to define both what we teach and how we teach this year.

As I visit schools, it is exciting to see each classroom embrace RULER as our approach to supporting student and staff Social and Emotional Learning. As parents visited classrooms during our Back-to-School programs, you might have noticed mood meters in each room, along with school, house and classroom charters that are being developed, inclusive of student voice, to identify how all students and staff should feel validated and committed to building a positive climate that supports experiences of growth and innovative learning together. We look forward to parent programs to share our RULER work this fall.

There is real energy permeating throughout our district. From Fox Night, to a number of league and sectional athletic championships, to car washes and pancake breakfasts, all BCSD schools are back and open for learning. We are coming together and building community. Up next are fall theater, music performances and art exhibits, the beginning of the winter athletic season, and many family and school festivals.

To me, **BCSD Stronger Together** speaks to our best selves as one school district. While there will always be a place and a space for hearty debate around how we solve challenges and meet the needs of our diverse community, what we have that makes me so proud is a community willing to embrace a common definition of why we are here: to support enriched learning and meaningful experiences while validating and supporting each and every student who attends the BCSD.

With respect and appreciation,

Joel Adelberg, Ed.D.



Did You Know ?

Live translation services are available at our Board of Education meetings. Headsets can be found at the entrance of the theater for "real-time" translation in an effort to be inclusive, accessible, and welcoming of all parents and members of our community.

Lea o escuche este boletín en español.





Bedford Central School District

A Look Inside Our Schools

2021-2022 SUCCESS PLAN

IMPROVE PROGRAMS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Advance **inclusive instructional practices** for all students.
- Continue to develop, integrate and refine quality **instructional technology** within curriculum and programs.
- Analyze and monitor student assessment data, as it relates to **unfinished learning** during a global pandemic, to inform curriculum and instructional practices.
- Implement professional development, instructional and assessment practices to address the needs of our students with a broad range of **reading** needs, including students with dyslexia.
- Research, develop and support **STEAM** programming, K-12.

IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Develop and implement a **Strategic Communications Plan** to reach all community stakeholders.
- Engage community stakeholders in creating a profile that will inform the **Superintendent hiring process** and conduct a search for the next Superintendent.

IMPROVE CLIMATE & SAFETY

- Examine ways to foster students' ability to connect across cultures, include multiple voices and perspectives, and support an **equitable experience** for all students within our District.
- Implement the RULER approach to support student and staff **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**.
- Continuously monitor and implement **health and safety** protocols to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in all District buildings.

IMPROVE FISCAL & OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Engage community stakeholders in the development of priorities and vision for a **District bond**.
- Engage community stakeholders in the development of a **Facilities Plan for the Future (long range)**.
- Develop a balanced budget that reflects current needs as well as a **Long Range Financial Plan**.



Choice-Based Art Gets Bedford Village Students' Creativity Flowing

Bedford Village Elementary fourth graders were deep into exploring their creativity during a recent art class. As with all of our elementary art classes, BVES works with the Teaching Artistic Behaviors model, which gives students a great deal of freedom and choice in their artistic endeavors.

One group of students was creating apparel for their band. Another was creating a map of a town made out of donuts. There were also students drawing, painting and collaging.

"I love the scrap bin," said Stephanie Naar, who was working on a collage. "There is so much you can use. It brings more joy into my art."

INSPIRING &
CHALLENGING
OUR STUDENTS

Reading Makes a Big Splash at Bedford Hills Elementary

Bedford Hills Elementary School students take their summer reading very seriously. Each year, the student who reads the most books in each grade gets a chance to dunk Principal Zbyněk Gold into a big tank of water.

This year 61 percent of students participated, reading 3431 books over the summer. Winners included Jack Dawes (fifth grade), Toby Najera Lopez (fourth grade), Kayla Hammond (third grade), Avery Belanger (second grade), Jennedith Asanza Jimenez (first grade) and Ava Liberati (kindergarten). It was Toby whose throw ultimately dropped Gold into the tank.

"It was my best day as principal for the year, because I inspired so many kids to read," Gold said.



Mount Kisco Elementary Donates School-Grown Fresh Produce to Local Food Pantry

Mount Kisco Elementary School's garden, which just had its 10th anniversary, is one of the school's most treasured spaces.

"Our MKES students understand the natural growth of plants, from seeds to sprouts. They understand the impact that rain, drought and other forces of nature have on garden and plant life," Principal Inas Morsi-Hogans told the crowd at the garden's rededication ceremony this fall. "More importantly, students at MKES are building lifelong social skills, learning responsibility, sharing, working as teams, having ownership and pride of their school and becoming leaders."

Part of the school's pride in the garden comes from the fact that it not only serves MKES, it serves the entire community. Since July, the garden has provided more than 400 pounds of food to families in the community.

West Patent Elementary School Remembers 9/11 with Day of Service

West Patent Elementary School students got outside and into the dirt as part of their annual Day of Service in remembrance of September 11. Each year, students and staff spend time working together on school beautification projects.

This year, students also got to meet the school's new chickens, Butterscotch, Oreo and Mocha, and learn about how they're going to take care of them. They weeded gardens, helped build chicken planters and a bath and decorated rocks. They also learned about plants and their life cycle and about the 9/11 attacks in an age-appropriate way.

"Our students were engaged in so many ways: enjoying the outdoors, touching the earth, feeding the chickens, talking about their environment," said Principal Judy Brewster. "This is what learning can and should be!"



Fox Lane Middle School Takes Literary Discussion Outdoors

With warm temperatures and lots of sunshine this fall, Bedford Central School District students have been able to enjoy the outdoors often. Fox Lane Middle School eighth graders explored two short stories during a recent outdoor lesson.

"Moving the discussion outside certainly added to the spirit of the conversation," 8 South ELA teacher John Nemsick said. "Students were able to congregate in a circular shape so no person had their back to another. The shape of the group and being outside in a casual environment created a dynamic where more students felt comfortable sharing their thoughts."

Nemsick plans to continue to take advantage of the campus's unique layout for as long as the weather allows it.



Big Bad Wolf Wind Challenge at Pound Ridge Elementary School

Allison Delesia's first grade class at Pound Ridge Elementary took part in a fun, interdisciplinary STEM challenge earlier this fall.

After reading different versions of *The Three Little Pigs*, students collaborated with a partner to build a house for their "little pig" using toothpicks and gumdrops. They had to make sure their houses could withstand "Big Bad Wolf wind" and not fall down.

"This experiment incorporated all of the elements of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) as well as literacy," Delesia said.

BCSD SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH CONTINUES

Since the announcement that Dr. Joel Adelberg will be retiring in June 2022, the Bedford Central School District Board of Education has been working to find the district's next superintendent. The Board partnered with a search firm that serves schools across the nation in their search for educational leaders.

In September, community members were invited to make their voices heard by participating in an anonymous online survey. The community was also invited to take part in virtual community forums. The community feedback provided through both the survey and the forums helped create a Superintendent Profile. This profile is what is being used to recruit potential candidates, ensuring that our staff, families and community members have a say in the type of leader that will steer the district into the future.

We will regularly update the BCSD website with the progress of the search, so please check for updates often:

<https://www.bcsdny.org/Page/2682>



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Bedford Central School District

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Joel Adelberg

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ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



CONNER IVES
Class of 2014

After graduating in 2020 from the prestigious Central Saint Martins, Conner was a finalist for this year's LVMH Prize, dressed Natalia Bryant in sustainable fashion at this year's Met Gala and has his work included in The Metropolitan Museum of Art's "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" exhibit.



HENRY DAVIS
Class of 2018

This summer, the University of Louisville catcher was selected first overall in the 2021 Major League Baseball Draft. Selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in July, Henry played in two games in the rookie-level Florida Complex League before he was promoted to High-A Greensboro in August.



SHIV PAI
Class of 2020

After emceeding Fox Lane's 2020 graduation, Shiv headed to NYU's Tisch School of The Arts. Since then, he has been cast as one of four stars in the Netflix comedy series *Freeridge*, a spin-off of *On My Block*, which is scheduled to premiere next fall.