



# Bulldog

## BULLETIN

July/August 2023

### Message from the Superintendent

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulldog Bulletin. We had a fantastic end of the school year; this edition captures many of the celebrations, ceremonies, and graduations in June. We are also enjoying a busy summer with hundreds of students engaged in our summer academies and our capital project work in some of our buildings. We are also busily preparing for the 23-24 school year with planning meetings and professional development sessions. I hope everyone is having a great summer and I will see you soon!

—Matt Landahl

## BHS Seniors Go out in *Style* 2023 class of

Families of over 200 Beacon High School seniors have a reason to celebrate – their children are now high school graduates with bright futures ahead of them.

Students, decked out in blue and yellow caps and gowns, were greeted with cheers from the audience at a graduation ceremony on June 22 at Dutchess Stadium.

In the fall, students will attend a total of 58 colleges from nearby Bard and Vassar, to as far as away as Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Several other students have successfully obtained employment in specific fields and already started working full time.

Salutatorian Shepard Rodgers noted the importance of embracing failure, cherishing relationships and how a person will be more likely to achieve something if they know what they want.

"High school, like most of your life, is what you make of it," Rodgers said. "I encourage you to stand up for things you want to see and make them a reality."



Principal Corey Dwyer complemented the graduating class on their abilities to balance schoolwork, athletics and extracurricular activities, along with social and home life in an ever-changing world. He would further call them a truly extraordinary class who exemplify the district's very best.

"Through the wins and the losses, the joys and the sorrows - you've made it," Dwyer said. "I hope that you are as proud of yourselves, as we are of you."

What Dwyer appreciated most about the students is the love and loyalty they have for one another and credits them for enriching his and school staff's lives more than they know.

"It's this spirit of community that embodies the best of us – the idea that your neighbor is your friend, your sister, your brother," Dwyer said. "You will always hold a special place in our hearts; we are rooting for you, always."

*Congratulations!*

### District wishes the best for Retirees

We want to give a shout out to all of our retiring employees for their numerous years of service and dedication to students and the district.



- Marta Brito, Facilities at BHS
- Jane Cervone, Teacher at Sargent
- John Cummings, Head Mechanic at Transportation
- Darcy Clayton, Speech Language Pathologist at RMS
- Mary Ann Corbett, Food Service Worker at RMS
- Ronald Finell, IT at District Office
- Jill Gilbert, Senior Account Clerk at District Office
- Karen Grant, Clerical at Sargent
- James Jones, Facilities at RMS
- Patricia Hasapis, Clerical at Sargent
- Helen Idosu, Foreign Language Teacher at BHS
- Jerry Landisi, Security at Sargent
- Phyllis Manson, Guidance Counselor at RMS
- Kelly Pologe, Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent at District Office
- Cindy Pomarico, Physical Education Teacher at BHS
- Betsy Purdy, Classroom Aid at Sargent
- Monica Taylor, Teacher at Glenham
- Debra Waage, Teacher at JV Forrestal
- Carmela Walden, Nurse at Sargent

During a June 20 Board of Education meeting, the retirees'

respective principals and supervisors shared their appreciation for their work, including Superintendent Matt Landahl. The Beacon Teachers Association celebrated their members Cervone, Clayton, Idosu, Manson, Pomarico and Taylor describing them as an inspiration to everyone who have a combined 150 years of service to the organization.



Congratulations on your retirement, you have earned it!



# Moving Up Ceremonies Celebrate Students



Kindergartners and fifth graders at Glenham, J.V. Forrestal, Sargent, and South Avenue are now ready for the next chapter.

These students were celebrated for all their accomplishments during moving up ceremonies, all on June 20. They will be starting first and fifth grades in the fall.



In addition to a traditional ceremony, J.V. Forrestal kids rang the school's bell. Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins wished the new sixth graders the best of luck at Rombout.

"During the closing weeks of this school year we shared so many celebratory moments and had a blast with our fifth graders," Sessoms-Wiggins said.

"Congratulations to our students and their families."

Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi most looked forward to celebrating her little ones as they move on up.

"I am so proud of everything our students accomplished this year," Biordi said.

The fifth graders enjoyed a special trip to Sharpe Reservation before the ceremony that was enjoyed by all. "We had loads of fun and made such awesome memories," Biordi said.

It's not just staff that are proud – family and community members wished the students the best of luck on social media.

Happy Summer!



## Beacon Students Graduate from BOCES' Career Programs

Fifteen Beacon High School students are some of the 275 students who are now on to college, the military or the workforce after graduating from Dutchess BOCES' Career & Technical Institute.

During a ceremony on June 9, the seniors were cheered on by their families as they enjoyed their success from completing the variety of programs BOCES has to offer.



As a parting message, Valedictorian Anna Bonelli encouraged her classmates to try new things and not be afraid to take chances.

"Challenges and obstacles may arise, but don't let that stop you from living your best life to its fullest," Bonelli said. "A new and exciting journey awaits us all."

**Congratulations to these students listed. Good luck on your future endeavors:**



- Anatasia DeCarlo, Career Exploration, will join the workforce
- Quincy Savage, Auto Mechanics, will attend University Technical Institute
- Jared Alston, Career Exploration, will join the workforce
- Cody Wansor, Career Exploration, will join the workforce
- Nicholas Dean, Construction Trades, attend Dutchess Community College
- Jason Mazzacone, Construction Trades, attend Dutchess Community College
- Joseph Spiconardi Jr., Construction Trades, will join the workforce
- Emani Paulin, Cosmetology, will attend Mount Saint Mary College
- Mia Ramirez, Cosmetology, will join the workforce
- Zy'on Mickel, Culinary Arts, will attend Dutchess Community College
- Jason Tumidaj, Culinary Arts, will attend Manhattan University
- Christian Irizarry, Graphic Design, will attend Dutchess Community College
- Libby Smith, Nursing Assistant, will attend SUNY Delhi
- Jonathan Montoya, Security & Law Enforcement, will attend Dutchess Community College
- Daniel Mack, Trade Electricity, will join the workforce

## Sargent ES Supports Pride

Students at Sargent Elementary School celebrated Pride Month this June culminating a yearlong effort to celebrate marginalized groups, including LGBTQ + people, and to create an affirming environment for students.



Every month, Sargent's Equity Team, consisting of teachers Nicole Winchell, Danielle Lizeweski and Jaclyn Forestiere, organized opportunities to read aloud books building wide which led to meaningful conversations in class. Some of the books read included "Love is Love" by Michael Genhart and "Stella Brings the Family" by Miriam B. Schiffer.

"These sparked meaningful discussions in our classrooms about differences, diversity and the importance of inclusion," Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi said. "

Activities like these not only create a culture of acceptance but they say loud and clear to all of our students that we see you and we care about what makes you, you."

In addition, the school's annual Camp Sargent end of the year party on June 16 also served as a Pride celebration where students got their faces painted, ran through sprinklers and had some ice cream.



Eight Beacon High School seniors are ready to play Division III sports at the collegiate level after signing letters of commitment to universities during a ceremony. Also, while it may be a summer vacation for most, these Beacon athletes were practicing, practicing, practicing. Their goal is to become even better for the next school year.



# SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM IS A SPLASHTASTIC TIME!

Students from Beacon's four elementary schools got together for three weeks in July at Beacon High School for unique learning opportunities and a little fun.

During the half-day program, students got their energy out by swimming in the BHS pool and playing Capture the Flag, but they also gave their brains a workout.



They participated in hands-on learning opportunities such as constructing a circle out of Pringles chips and tossing a beach ball to each other to practice math problems.

"We're not using our Chromebooks, it's more engaging opportunities," Glenham Principal Cassandra Orser said.

"It's to keep them engaged during the summer with a little literacy and math and lots of enrichment opportunities."

Students were excited to come to BHS for the program, where they quickly connected with kids from the other elementary schools. Orser praised faculty and staff for guiding students through the building with ease.

"By the end of the first week, they ruled the school and they know just what to do and where to go," Orser said of the young learners. "They are having a fun time."



## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MOVING ALONG AT BCSD

The first phases of BCSD's \$26 million capital project are coming along smoothly and are expected to be completed before the start of the new school year in September.

Roofing work is being completed at Rombout and BHS, with the former also receiving site work by the school's entrance. Sargent and J.V. Forrestal are receiving new



ceilings and lighting, as well as boiler replacements, with the former also getting new paving, sidewalks and an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant ramp in the front of the building.



"They're more for health and safety right now," Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi said of the work. "The hallways will be brighter, they added some windows back, and they did some painting."



Director of Facilities Jesse Morrill noted that while there are unexpected circumstances in construction, he predicts the work will be completed right on time. "We're adapting and we're getting through it," Morrill said. "There's going to be plenty for the staff and students to see when school opens."

The next phase of the tax neutral project, where residents' taxes do not rise, will involve renovating Rombout's and BHS' science classrooms, constructing a new library at Sargent and installing double doors at Glenham for security purposes. Bids for this phase will be sent out to vendors in September and work is expected to start next summer.

"Next summer is going to be action packed," Quartironi said. "We're very excited about doing all of the projects."

## Glenham goes 3D

What started with just a few fidget spinners in Special Education teacher Mike Werba's classroom at Glenham Elementary School has slowly grown into a mini empire with him making multiple 3D printed cupcakes and figurines of Baby Yoda, just to name a few.



Werba's initial intention was to make fidget spinners and stress balls that help satisfy students' sensory needs and increase their focus in classes. The items are designed on a laptop, with input from Werba's students, before they go to print.

"We don't have to worry about going to a box in someone's classroom; I can create it real quick," Werba said. "What I'm trying to create is a therapeutic setting, but giving them access to the electronics."

All of the 3D printed items are composed of Polylactic acid, a plant based plastic that is biodegradable and recyclable, making this a good activity for the earth.

"It's not like I'm throwing a bunch of plastic into the air," Werba said. "It's even better that we're using material that's reusable and it breaks down."

While Werba has not charged teachers for the printed items, he did create 100 tigers, the school's mascot, for a fundraising effort with all donations going to Sparrow's Nest. The fan base for Werba's creations has quickly grown districtwide with frequent requests coming in.

"I created it for all the service providers and basically opened it up to the school," Werba explained. "They made their way across the school and now they're going across the district."





## NCA CHEERLEADER CAMP MAKES A COMEBACK



Beacon students shook their pom-poms and showed their school spirit during the first annual two-day National Cheerleaders Association camp, held between July 24 and 25 at South Avenue.

The camp, open to incoming freshmen, sophomores and seniors, was started with the intention to potentially start a cheerleading competition program during the school year, which BHS has not had in years. This competition cheerleading team would involve students creating specific routines that could be judged at the Section IX and state levels.



“It’s one of our long term goals,” Varsity Cheerleading Coach Andonia Karnavezos said.

Karnavezos led the camp and former cheerleading Coach Jennifer Soltish assisted in getting the camp started. Over the two nine hour days, students went over conditioning and jumping drills and learned new cheers and dance routines. The coach praised her students for giving their best effort.

“They were awesome,” she said. “The kids kept a really great attitude and mindset.”

An ideal cheerleader for Karnavezos is one who works with their fellow teammates and has a positive attitude.

“It’s very hard to have a cheerleader who doesn’t want to be a team player,” Karnavezos said. “You’re supposed to pump people up.”



- Mikayla Sheehan, Softball at Western Connecticut State University
- Adam Sendelbach, Soccer at King’s College
- Gavin LaDue, Soccer at SUNY Oneonta
- Daniel Urbanak, Football at Western Connecticut State University
- Leibinson Perez Novas, Football at Western Connecticut State University
- Joey Vollaro, Baseball at SUNY Oneonta
- Adrian Beato, Basketball at SUNY Cobleskill
- Dylan Howard, Basketball at King’s College



## BHS STUDENT SCORES BIG AT CAMP



Soon to be BHS student athlete Avery Davis is a soccer superstar, in and out of school. The junior participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Hudson Valley College ID Camp, from July 14 to 16, where he was selected to the All Star team. The camp, held at Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak, is designed for current high school soccer players who aspire to play the sport in college. The campers are coached and trained by area college coaches.

“Only six underclassmen were selected for this game, so it was a massive accomplishment,” Camp Director Tim Hourahan said. “Avery performed very well.” The camp’s Twitter page describes Davis as “a ball winning machine” who plays with composure and confidence on the back line. Well done, Avery!

## FEMALE ATHLETES GET THEIR KICKS ON THE BHS TURF

This year marked the first time BCSD hosted a free soccer camp for girls entering second through eighth grades from across the county at the BHS football and soccer field from July 31 to August 3.



Varsity Girls Soccer Coach Mike Lentini noted that making the camp free was a way of giving back to the community and keeping girls interested in the game. The coach was impressed with the 54 campers’ talents.

“We’ve got a lot of talented younger youth players because they play a lot of club soccer,” Lentini said. “It makes things easier for us.”

One of Lentini’s goals for the camp was to get girls interested in joining the varsity and newly reformed junior varsity soccer teams next school year. “The numbers have been low for a long time,” Lentini explained. “This helps builds numbers and build excitement.”

Current varsity girl soccer players, including soon to be senior Devyn Kelly, volunteered their time to coach the younger girls, many of whom were previously in the campers’ shoes.

“They look up to the varsity players,” Lentini said of the campers. “It’s really nice for them [BHS students] to be here and take time out of their day for three hours to help out.”

Kelly was amazed by the campers’ skills and how they came together to participate in something they love. She was happy to be a role model for them. “It’s great to see that I can have an impact on girls now, as girls had an impact on me growing up,” Kelly said. “Having so many girls here is amazing.”

