



Bulldog

BULLETIN

End of Year 2025

Message from the Superintendent

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer! Our End-of-year edition of the Bulldog Bulletin is packed with all of the amazing students and staff we celebrated at the end of the school year. I hope you can take some inspiration from our amazing students and staff!

—Matt Landahl



Around 200 Beacon High School seniors are now officially alumni after the Class of 2025 graduation held at Heritage Financial Park on June 26.

Principal Dr. Corey Dwyer started writing his graduation speech during a late night when the seniors camped at school and he noticed all the fun they had singing karaoke, playing games in the gym and sharing meaningful conversations. He said these are the moments students should always remember.

Valedictorian Annabelle Arginsky noted that she struggles with taking in the present moment, so she asked her fellow graduates to join her in taking in the fact they were graduating, as life moves quickly. For Arginsky, no acronym better sums up the high school experience than PEG – proud, embarrassed and grateful.

“It helps us reflect; really, close one chapter, and step into the next,” Arginsky said. “Today feels like the closing of a chapter.”

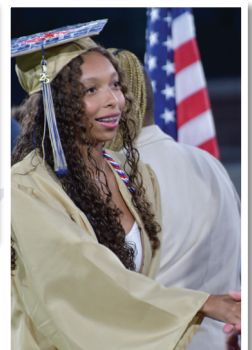
Salutatorian Addison Miller praised the Class of 2025 for being

an incredibly talented group of individuals, who dabbled in athletics, art, performing and going above and beyond in academics. She noted that everyone grew not from being perfect, but from being real.

“From admitting that you were struggling in a class, to stumbling through a few lines of a presentation you

were very nervous about ... It's these moments that have taught us how to keep going, even when we weren't at our best,” Miller said. “The world doesn't need a perfect you, it needs a real you.”

Congratulations
...and well deserved best wishes!



District Celebrates Tenured and Retiring Staff

Congratulations to you all!

Seventeen Beacon educators were celebrated for their efforts and rewarded with tenure during the Board of Education’s June 17 meeting.

It takes four years for an educator to become tenured where they are subjected to an evaluation system and are observed three times a year by different administrators. School principals then write a tenure recommendation based on the results. This year’s recipients show excellence in the classroom, but also spend ample time coaching, chaperoning events and field trips and being involved in the community.

Fifteen retiring staff members were also recognized for their efforts as they move on to travel, relax at home or do those pesky house repairs. Together, their efforts represent 334 years of service.

Superintendent Dr. Matt Landahl noted that it is always a neat experience to honor both tenured and retired staff on the same evening and gave each group kudos for their efforts.

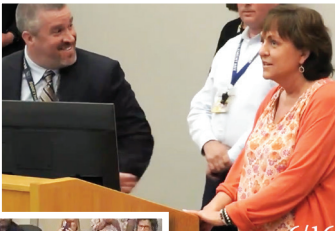
Tenured Staff:

- Lorrie Bonnes**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT ROMBOUT
- Kimberly Gonzalez**
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER AT ROMBOUT
- Michelle Green**
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT GLENHAM
- Melanie Hammitt**
BUSINESS TEACHER AT BHS
- Antonietta Lovieno**
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT ROMBOUT
- Andonia Karnavezos**
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER AT ROMBOUT
- Vanessa Kosteczko**
SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT ROMBOUT
- Agatha Lopez**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT SARGENT
- Carene Marino**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT ROMBOUT
- Taylor Modica**
HEALTH TEACHER
- Debra O’Connell**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT SARGENT
- Brianna Orlando**
KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT SARGENT
- Nicole Piacente**
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TEACHER AT BHS
- Jessica Ramdeen**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT FORRESTAL AT ROMBOUT
- Amanda Tarrant**
SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT ROMBOUT
- Maria Van Houten**
ART TEACHER AT BHS
- Frazer Winsted**
SCIENCE TEACHER AT BHS



Retiring staff:

- Brian Archer**
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND STUDENT SERVICES
- Ian Chippendale**
POOL OPERATOR FOR FACILITIES
- Jeanne D’Ottavio**
LIBRARY/MEDIA SPECIALIST AT ROMBOUT
- Gina Fontenot**
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT BHS
- Mary Ann Hamilton**
LIBRARY/MEDIA SPECIALIST AT BHS
- Cathleen Hotaling**
ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICE TEACHER AT GLENHAM
- Thomas Hoyle**
FIFTH GRADE TEACHER AT GLENHAM
- Lou Ann Joyce**
FIRST GRADE TEACHER AT FORRESTAL
- Theresa Losito**
KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT FORRESTAL
- Laurie Malin**
SCIENCE TEACHER AT BHS
- Karen Pagano**
DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES
- Jean Sablinski**
CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL SECRETARY
- Shannon Schnetzler**
TEACHING ASSISTANT AT FORRESTAL
- Deborah Smith**
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT BHS
- Sandra Taylor**
CLERICAL AT ROMBOUT



Distinguished Graduate Breakfast



Annabelle Arginsky and Addison Miller were named the Class of 2025’s valedictorian and salutatorian. They have multiple achievements between them.

Arginsky and Miller were honored during the annual Dutchess BOCES Distinguished Graduate Recognition Breakfast on June 6 at the Villa Borghese.

Superintendent Dr. Matt Landahl touted Arginsky’s leadership as president of the Beacon Players where she was described as passionate, caring and indispensable.

“It hasn’t been a title only kind of thing,” Landahl said of Arginsky’s tenure. “They could not have done those amazing productions without everything she poured into it while working outside of school.”

Miller was praised for being the epitome of a student athlete leader when she served as the girls tennis team captain this year. Miller’s teachers are thrilled to see a very caring person like her pursue a medical career. “She is so incredibly people-centered and we know we need people in that field that really care about people,” Landahl said of Miller. “Her leadership style was one based in kindness, empathy and being calm.”

VARSITY ATHLETIC AWARDS CEREMONY

All of the district's sports teams were recognized for achievements throughout the seasons during the Annual Athletic Awards Ceremony on June 4.

While students received recognitions and in some cases scholarships, their coaches did too. Special attention was called out to girls basketball coach Christina Dahl and varsity boys tennis coach Dave Ryley, as well as former varsity baseball coach Bobby Atwell for their efforts over the years.

Keeping the tradition going! Congratulations to these seniors who have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

- Matthew Apostolou will play baseball at John Jay College.
- Jude Betancourt will wrestle at SUNY Oneonta.

- Jaidyn Cacomo will play soccer at SUNY Brockport.
- Chris Carton will play baseball at SUNY Ulster.
- Avery Davis will play soccer at SUNY Cortland.
- Noelle Haase will play soccer at Western Connecticut University.
- Derrick Heaton will play baseball at Springfield College.
- Mercer Jordan will play football at Saint John Fisher University.
- Reilly Landisi will play soccer at SUNY Oneonta.
- Lindsay Pederson will play volleyball at SUNY Plattsburgh.

- Christine Robinson will run track at Muhlenberg College.
- Daveya Rodriguez will play basketball at Westchester Community College.
- Bethany Rudolph will play lacrosse at Manhattanville University.
- Ryan Smith will play baseball at Utica University.
- Saniyah Wiltshire will swim at Marywood University.
- Brody Timm will play soccer at SUNY Cortland.
- Morgan Varricchio will play football at Buffalo State University.
- Jazziah Whitted will play football at Buffalo State University.

BEACON SENIORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

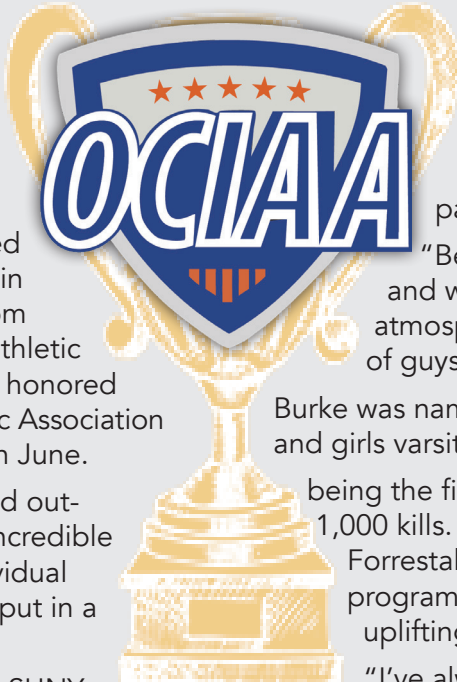


Two of Beacon's superstar student athletes, who distinguished themselves in the classroom and in the athletic realm, were honored

at the Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association (OCIAA) Scholar Athlete Awards Breakfast in June.

Avery Davis and Lila Burke were each named outstanding scholar athletes because of their incredible hard work. While they excelled in their individual sports, they also did well academically and put in a great deal of community service.

Davis, who has committed to play soccer at SUNY Cortland, was previously named a Beacon All Section and All-League Athlete for the 2024-2025 school year and



also was a varsity wrestler. Last summer, he introduced younger students to soccer at the Future Bulldog Soccer Camp and noted that winning and building camaraderie are his favorite parts of the sport.

"Being with the kids, enjoying the practices and working hard with everyone, it's a great atmosphere," Davis said. "It's a great group of guys."

Burke was named an All Section Athlete for volleyball and girls varsity basketball and broke barriers by

being the first Bulldog volleyball player to reach 1,000 kills. She also mentored fourth grade girls at Forrestal as part of the "Big Sister, Little Sister" program. She appreciates the competitive and uplifting nature of the sport.

"I've always had a great team around me," Burke said. "It's a very supportive environment."

SENIOR BATS 100 IN SOFTBALL



Katherine Ruffy, now a BHS graduate, has been playing softball since second grade and never thought she would reach 100 hits until the night of the last softball game of the year earlier this spring. "I was really happy to hit it in my final home game," Ruffy said. "It couldn't be more perfect than that."

On top of Ruffy's milestone, the softball team also won the game, ending the season on a high note. She credits Catherine Niebuhr-Oriani for being an encouraging and understanding coach during her tenure on the team.

"It just made softball a whole lot more fun with her as the coach," Ruffy said of Niebuhr-Oriani. "She's very supportive and always does well with the team." Ruffy was also named a Section IX softball all-star for the 2025 season.



E-SPORTS

E-sports team scores big again Rombout's E-sports team closed out its spring season on a high note by ending it undefeated

8-0, a first for the team, as well as being the only school to have won each game twice. The games they play are "Rocket League," "Madden NFL" and "Super Smash Brothers."

"We came a long way," E-Sports adviser Joseph Junjulas said. "The kids were able to come together as a team and have knocked it out of the park."

The team is getting buzz with elementary students asking Junjulas about it. "It keeps on growing and the interest keeps on growing," Junjulas said. "All the kids know about it because the word spreads." Eighth grader Silas Stampleman said he loved seeing the team improve from last year and appreciates the chance to play fun games with old and new friends.



DISTRICT STUDENTS MOVIN' ON UP



Congratulations to all of our pre-k, kindergarten, fifth and eighth grade students who are now on to the next chapter in their school journey.

Sargent Pre-K

The new batch of 29 Sargent kindergartners made their families proud during a June 17 ceremony and also entertained them with joyful



renditions of the Teresa Jennings songs "Big Dreams" and "It's been a Good Year." Principal Cathryn Biordi was proud of the pre-K young learners for their achievements and making a hard adjustment coming to school for the first time. "It's truly amazing how much growth you had and we cannot wait to welcome you to kindergarten," Biordi said. "We're looking forward to many, many more years to come."



Special education teacher Tara English praised her students for their growth throughout the year. "You guys will have a special piece of my heart forever," English said, while holding back tears. "We learned so much, we've come out of our shells and we made great friendships."

Forrestal Fifth Grade



Thirty-six Forrestal Falcons will march on up to Rombout after a June 25 heartwarming ceremony where they got to ring the school's famous bell, along with four retirees who will be dearly missed.

Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins told the students that middle school will be a new and different experience, but trusts that they will adjust to the change well as they did when they ascended to different grade levels at Forrestal. "Any change, although it might be hard, results in growth," Sessoms-Wiggins said.

"I hope that sixth grade is full of new memories, lots of laughs, a love for learning and opportunities to grow."

Oceane Kepler Cloutier is proud of herself for completing fifth grade but will miss her teachers the most. She shared what she is excited about for sixth grade. "I'm excited to make new friends and learn new things," Kepler Cloutier said. "It was just really fun to be here and experiencing all the learning."



Rombout Eighth Grade

Nearly 200 eighth graders will now start their school day across the street at Beacon High School following a lively June 25 ceremony.

Beloved school librarian Jeanne D'Ottavio read each student's name for the last time as she is now retired, which Principal Brian Soltish said always makes the ceremony special. The audience was treated to a recorded rendition of the Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars hit "Die With A Smile" performed by the seventh and eighth grade chorus.

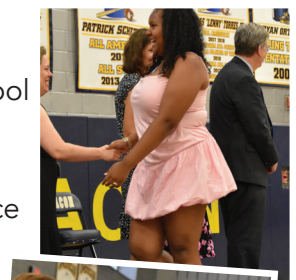


Soltish encouraged students to look back on the wonderful experiences they had, including trips to Boston and Washington, D.C. and cherish them before praising them for their efforts.

"You've all worked very hard to be here this evening and we are extremely proud of how you represented yourselves and your families," Soltish said. "Thank you for being model students."

While Hailey Day is nervous to begin high school and will miss her friends, she is looking forward to trying out for the varsity softball team and continuing with the varsity girls swim team.

"I low key feel good about it," Day said about beginning high school.



BeaconCSD Does BOCES Proud

BHS Senior Shows Passion for Fashion at Career & Technical Institute

Beacon High School senior Makhi Smith was one of six aspiring fashion designers in Dutchess BOCES' Fashion Design & Merchandising program to showcase his work during its 2nd Annual Fashion Expo in May.

BHS Recognition, Awards, & Scholarships



Thirty-eight Beacon High School students received awards and scholarships in recognition of their hard work during the annual Senior Awards Presentation on June 17.

The event serves an opportunity to recognize the academic accomplishments and volunteer efforts of the students, but to also welcome community members who generously give to the students as they prepare for their next chapter.

"This is one of our favorite events of the year," Principal Corey Dwyer said. "Students, as always, we are proud of you and we hope you enjoy this exciting time in your life."

Beacon CSD Does BOCES Proud

Smith, who modeled one of his own designs, felt accomplished at the end of the show, but understands there is always room for growth. “This was a good experience because I know what I would do differently next time,” Smith said. “I’m proud of myself for doing it.”

Smith credits BHS for playing a part in his advancement as a student and appreciates the number of resources readily available and teachers who are willing to help. “We have a lot of people we can go and talk to,” Smith said. “I’m pretty comfortable in my home school.”

Following graduation, Smith will attend Dutchess Community College studying business and management, but wants to study art when he moves on to a four year school. He enjoyed his time in the program where he credits instructor Sebastian Yeung and his classmates for helping him experiment with designs he may not have tried on his own.

Career & Technical Institute Awards Ceremony

Nathan Richardson and Joseph Williams were two of 37 students at Dutchess BOCES’ Career & Technical Institute to receive over \$14,000 worth of awards generously donated by the school’s community partners during a June 8 awards ceremony.

Richards, who studied Construction Trades, has demonstrated leadership and citizenship and was awarded the Administrators Supervisor Association of Dutchess BOCES Achievement Award for those efforts, while Williams, who studied Welding, was rewarded with the Welding Achievement Award from Hatfield Welding and Fabrication for his outstanding work in class.

Career & Technical Institute Recognition Ceremony

Congratulations are in order to 20 BHS seniors who completed their varied trade programs at CTI and were celebrated for their efforts during the annual Recognition Ceremony on June 12.

“They’re a hard-working, dedicated group,” BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Jodi DeLucia said. “They’ve done a lot of things on their own time this year, that they were not required to do, to become really successful, committed professionals.”



BHS Recognition, Awards, & Scholarships

Before awarding the City of Beacon Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association Scholarship to Michael VanBuren, Beacon police officer Jonathan Underwood, a BHS alum himself, offered the soon-to-be graduates some words of wisdom. “In this next chapter of your life, you’re going to learn a lot about yourself,” Underwood said. “You’re going to explore and you’re going to have some of the most fun you’ve ever had, just make good choices.” **Congratulations to everyone who was recognized!**

- Anabelle Arginsky: Beacon Teachers Association’s “Most Influential” Scholarship and New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Taryn Beardsley: I Am Beacon’s “Making a Difference Scholarship” and Joseph S. Guarneri Sr. Memorial Scholarship.
- Sally Betterbid: I Am Beacon’s “Making a Difference Scholarship.”
- Daniel Bridges: Beacon Paraprofessional Association Scholarship, Beacon High School PTSO Annual Scholarship and Robert K. Gould Award.
- Isabella Baffuto: Glenham Elementary School PTO Scholarship and Beacon Sons and Daughters of Italy St. Francis of Assisi Lodge #2629 Scholarship.
- Isabel Bunker: James V. Forrestal Elementary School PTSO Scholarship and New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Devin Byrne: Glenham Elementary School PTO Scholarship, Erika Thomaselli Memorial Scholarship and Leslie C. and Irene G. Roe Athletic Scholarship.
- Christine Chen: New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Avery Davis: Dennis Edward Walden Scholar Athlete Award.
- Ayanna Dennis: Southern Zone of Retired Educators of New York Scholarship.
- Sofia Diaz: Students Against Destructive Decisions’ Soaring for Soria Scholarship.
- Messiah Gardner: Les Soeurs Civic Club’s Olga Galloway Scholarship.
- Ava Maria Gianna: New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Ja’mes Gorden: Southern Dutchess Exchange Club’s Louise W. Wortman Youth Achievement Award
- Derrick Heaton: I Am Beacon’s “Making a Difference Scholarship” and Andy Vito/Harold Tompkins/ Ron Vece Scholarship.
- Charlie Klein: U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award, Beacon Teachers Association’s “Most Influential” Scholarship and James V. Forrestal Elementary School PTSO Scholarship.
- Rory LaDue: U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award.
- Reilly Landisi: Beacon Teachers Association’s “Today a Student, Tomorrow a Teacher” Scholarship, South Ave. School PTA Scholarship and Robert K. Gould Award.

- Lani Lopez: Mid-Hudson Ivy Foundation Collegiate Scholarship, New York State Seal of Biliteracy, Southern Zone of Retired Educators of New York Scholarship, I Am Beacon’s “Making A Difference Scholarship” and Sargent Elementary School PTSO Scholarship.
- Josephine Mallon: U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award.
- Ronan Moran: U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award.
- Rory Mowan: South Avenue School PTA Scholarship.
- Amelia Padilla: New York State Seal of Biliteracy.
- Lindsay Pederson: Miles of Hope’s Paulette Pettorossi Scholarship.
- Christine Robinson: George A. and Catherine V. Quill Scholarship, Joseph H. and Mildred C. McManus Scholarship and Mary McKenzie Memorial Scholarship.
- Daveya Rodriguez: Southern Zone of Retired Educators of New York Scholarship.
- Bethany Rudolph: H. Normington Schofield Scholarship.
- Breanna Rudolph: Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 Doc Roberts Scholarship.
- Chloe Sheffield: Students Against Destructive Decisions’ Soaring for Soria Scholarship.
- Makhi Smith: I Am Beacon’s “Making a Difference Scholarship.”
- Serenity Smith: Marc Anthony Grant Memorial BSU Scholarship.
- Jax Spodek, New York State Seal of Biliteracy.
- Serena Stampleman: NY-17 Congressional Community Service Changemaker Award and New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Mika-Gisselle Tates: New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
- Amya Thompson: Beacon Educational Administrators Association Award.
- Michael VanBuren: City of Beacon Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association Scholarship, Kathy and Rich Carroll Scholarship Fund for First Responders, Beacon High School PTSO Annual Scholarship and Hudson Valley Gun and Hoses Scholarship.
- Jazziah Whitted: Les Soeurs Civic Club’s Olga Galloway Scholarship.
- Saniyah Wiltshire: Dennis Edward Walden Learning Achiever Scholarship.
- Saoirse Woods: Kyle Schmidt Scholarship.

BHS Senior Receives Miles of Hope Scholarship

BHS’ Lindsay Pederson was one of 19 students from across the Hudson Valley to receive a scholarship, worth between \$1,500 and \$5,000 from the Miles of Hope Cancer Foundation.

“I was excited, I had a lot of family telling me I should apply for it,” Pederson said. “It was always my plan to apply.”

Each recipient’s life has been affected by breast cancer and Pederson, who will study a science related major at SUNY Plattsburgh, lost her mother to the disease in 2017.

“It’s definitely tough having to deal with cancer in any form with people who have it,” Pederson said. “Anything that I can really do that revolves around breast cancer, I always try to do it.”

For students going through something similar, Pederson recommends finding a way to help out, such as donating to breast cancer organizations. She has participated in the volleyball team’s annual “Pink Out” event that she had the chance to organize this school year.

“This past year, I took it over and I raised some money and redecorated the gym nice,” Pederson recalled. “Being able to find a way to give back to the people and having an outlet to express what it can be like is important.”



CALICO BALL

...takes audience on a world tour.



Beacon's third grade students, from all four elementary schools, showed off world dances they learned with help from artists involved with The Vanaver Caravan during the 35th Annual Calico Ball on June 11.



Held in the Pete and Toshi Seeger Theatre at Beacon High School, groups of students explained about a range of dances including the Japanese Nanchu Soran Bushi and the Irish Sweets of May before performing them complete with live or prerecorded music.



This partnership with Vanaver Caravan reflects the district's third grade social studies curriculum, while exposing students to diverse cultures and integrating the arts into learning.



"When we come to visit you tomorrow I'm going to ask you this question, 'Did you notice all the different styles of dance?'" Vanaver Caravan founder and artistic director Livia Vanaver said to the students. "In every country, people dance in different ways."



Former district arts and education coordinator Ann Marie Faust was recognized during the ball for spearheading the tradition and celebrating the fact that her two grandchildren, Duke Faust and Reagan Maietta, participated in the Chinese and Columbian dances, respectively.



In between the dances, a musical interlude was performed by Senegalese musician Amadou Diallo and all of the students closed out the ball singing two songs with positive messages, "This Pretty Planet" and "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

