Binghamton City School District

B TODAY

Fall 2025



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#BPatriotProud

BELIEVE ▪ BELONG ▪ BECOME

Fall 2025

> **“Binghamton is helping students believe in themselves, creating a sense of belonging, and inspiring them to achieve anything they set their minds to.”**

Superintendent
Tonia Thompson

Board of Education
Steve Seepersaud, president
Carrie Button, vice president
Mary Ann Callahan
Shaunté Middleton
Dr. Albert Penna
Jesula Saintus
Liza Turner

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Tonia Thompson

Writing-Editing-Layout-Design
Broome-Tioga BOCES
Office of Communications & Public Relations

Binghamton City School District
164 Hawley Street, P.O. Box 2126
Binghamton, NY 13902-2126

A letter from



Superintendent Tonia Thompson

Dear Binghamton Families,

This fall has been filled with incredible moments of Patriot Pride! From the very first day of school, our students have shown what it truly means to Perform Like a Patriot—both inside and outside the classroom. While we could never capture all the amazing things happening across our district, this edition of BToday highlights some of the best from the first quarter of the school year.

Inside, you'll meet our newest BCSD administrators—some familiar faces and some brand-new. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them in our buildings! You'll also read inspiring stories about alumni, including a BHS graduate serving our community as a first responder, and learn more about this year's Distinguished Graduates honored at our annual dinner in October.

Our Patriots Athletics program had an outstanding fall season! One team even made history by winning its first-ever championship. Keep reading to discover which team earned this milestone and to celebrate the athletes who advanced to the New York State playoffs. Plus, enjoy photos from our fall sports Senior Nights.

You'll also see how our talented student-artists are shining on some of the biggest stages in the state. And across the district, students are bringing local history to life through immersive, hands-on learning experiences.

Finally, this issue is packed with Patriot pictures—from the first day of school to homecoming to the fall play. We invite you to turn the page and see how Binghamton is helping students believe in themselves, creating a sense of belonging, and inspiring them to achieve anything they set their minds to.

With Patriot Pride,

Tonia

Dr. Tonia Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to Our Newest Administrators

The new school year brought in several new administrators to the Binghamton City School District. Some are familiar faces, and others are brand-new to BCSD. We're Patriot Proud to introduce you to:



Dan Miller

Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics

Mr. Miller is a long-time BCSD employee, most recently serving as Principal at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School prior to taking on this new role for the district.



Jackie Cash

Principal, Horace Mann Elementary School

Mrs. Cash joins the Binghamton family after previously serving as Assistant Principal at Johnson City Elementary School.



Nicole Kuehner

Principal, Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

Ms. Kuehner comes to Roosevelt after serving as an Assistant Principal at East Middle School.



Margarita Panko

Principal, West Middle School

Same school, new role for Ms. Panko! She previously served as an Assistant Principal at WMS.



Alyssa Stolarcyk

Principal, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

Mrs. Stolarcyk takes over at Wilson after Mr. Miller moved into his new role in the Athletics Office. She previously worked in the Greene Central School District.



Jessica Jordan

Assistant Principal, West Middle School

Mrs. Jordan takes over as one of our Assistant Principals at WMS after Ms. Panko moved into the role of Principal. Mrs. Jordan previously worked at the Ithaca City School District before joining Binghamton.



Alice Kiereck

Assistant Principal, East Middle School

Ms. Kiereck is the newest Assistant Principal at EMS. She previously served as the Chair of ELA & World Languages at Binghamton High School.



Angela Panigrosso

Assistant Principal, Binghamton High School

Mrs. Panigrosso is now an Assistant Principal at BHS after previously serving as the Dean of Students at the high school.



Jessica Zwierzynski

Dean of Students, Binghamton High School

Mrs. Zwierzynski takes over as Dean of Students, having previously served as the program coordinator of Patriot Academy & the PATS program.



Michele Gregor

Chair of Guidance

Mrs. Gregor is our new Guidance Chair for Binghamton and previously worked as the Chair of Special Education at Johnson City School District.

Better Attendance, Better Outcomes

By the time you receive this issue of BToday, if your student has missed six or more days of school they are considered chronically absent! Statistics show that students who are in school consistently achieve better scores on tests, are more likely to be reading at grade-level or above, and will ultimately have a better chance at graduating on time. If you're concerned about your student's attendance or would like to discuss issues your family may be facing that is affecting your student's attendance, please contact building administrators or school counselors. You can always view your student's report card, grades and attendance throughout the year using the SchoolTool Parent Portal.

BELONG

Four Alumni Honored at 31st Annual Distinguished Graduates Dinner

A CEO. A baseball coach. An Air Force trumpeter. And a beloved educator. Four Binghamton alumni who took four very different paths, but down roads that departed from, and led back to, the Binghamton City School District.

Aaron Callaway (BHS '92), Ryan Connolly (BHS '05), Nick Del Villano (BHS '01) and Karry Mullins (BNHS '82) were honored on October 22nd as this year's BCSD Distinguished Graduates. The evening opened with a reception in the school's main lobby, with hors d'oeuvres while the high school string quartet performed for guests. Then, the nearly 100 guests filled the Binghamton High School cafeteria-turned-banquet hall for dinner and the evening's program. Following an opening performance from the Binghamton High School Davidge Choir, attendees dined on a gourmet meal prepared by Chef Thomas Dello; BHS culinary arts students assisted with catering and served guests their food and beverages.

After dinner, student host Olivia McKan (BHS '27) led the program with four of her classmates introducing each Distinguished Graduate. Chloe Collins (BHS '26) welcomed back Callaway, who is now the CEO AMS of tech company Input Zero Technologies. He also founded the Binghamton Arts & Athletics Fund to give back to his native community and help current and future Binghamton Patriots find their passions.

"We don't give out opportunities here in Binghamton; we earn them," Callaway said during remarks in which he thanked current and former BCSD staff, his coaches and friends. "I'm grateful to have earned the opportunities that I did during my time here."

Mary Grace Minor (BHS '26) followed Callaway with an introduction of Connolly, the current Director of Baseball Operations for Kansas State University. Connolly was unable to make the trip from Manhattan, Kansas and addressed the dinner via a video message in which he talked about the impact his upbringing in Binghamton had on his life and how teachers at BHS prepared him for his career.

"Most young people don't find their niche until they get to college and find themselves, but Binghamton accelerates growth," Connolly said. "Look at those being honored tonight and look through the list of past honorees: you have a passion for art, for music? You can travel the world and teach. You can parlay the IB and AP education to the highest levels of academia or business. Bottom line is that you can find your passion because it's right there in front of you."

Connolly's mother, Penny, accepted his award and was followed by Jason Banks (BHS '26) who shared Del Villano's journey since graduating from BHS. Del Villano is currently a technical sergeant in the United States Air Force and a trumpeter for the USAF Heritage of America Band. Currently deployed to the Middle East, Del Villano, whose award was accepted by his parents Madeline and Scott Hawley, also shared a video message for the audience.

"I recently took one of those online quizzes that helps you get to 'know yourself.' I normally don't trust those things, but this one focused on strengths…I realized that the seeds of all five of my strengths were planted at Binghamton High School," Del Villano said. "Those seeds were planted by incredible teachers, mentors, and friends. Thank you to the school counselors for listening to and advocating for students…and thank you to the teachers who work to bring the best in every student, thank you for helping us to find our strengths."

The final honoree of the evening was introduced by Jazmyn Ross (BHS '26) who detailed Mullins' life as part of the Binghamton City School District. It started at Theodore Roosevelt as an elementary school student in the 1970s and concluded as an assistant superintendent for the district. She continues to share her passion for teaching by operating her own education consulting firm. Mullins' family's roots in BCSD go back to 1913 when her great-grandmother graduated from Binghamton Central. Since then, and to this day, her family has chosen BCSD; she currently has great-nieces attending school in Binghamton.

"Students: remember where you come from," Mullins said. "If you have an opportunity to return, you will have the opportunity to continue the amazing legacy of Binghamton Schools."

Remarks from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tonia Thompson and a final singing performance by McKan concluded the evening. Both offered messages about the importance of remembering one's home and upbringing.



Scan the QR code to see the full album

EYE ON ALUMNI:

Allison Ryan, 2012

When Allison Ryan visited students from Binghamton City School District's PLAAY program, no one would have known she just finished a 24-hour shift at work. Full of energy, she spent more than an hour explaining what she does for a living, why she loves it, and answering questions about her career.

"It can be grueling, but if you fall in love with it, it's really something special," Ryan said.

Ryan is a member of the City of Binghamton Fire Department. After graduating from Binghamton High School in 2012, she attended LeMoyne College. Then, Ryan returned to her hometown where she worked in administration at Lourdes Hospital, but when the fire department offered its exam for new recruits she decided to follow in the footsteps of her firefighter father and grandfather.

"I always thought about it growing up, but truly it never really crossed my mind until I was working at my previous job, which I loved, but there was something missing," Ryan said. "The opportunity to take the (firefighter) test came up, I studied for it, ended up getting a 100 on the exam and once I got that result I knew that's what I was going to work towards."

There is no shortage of harrowing tales from a day's work for Ryan and the rest of the fire department. In addition to fighting fires, she works BFD's ambulance, has participated in water rescues on the Susquehanna River, and has even delivered a baby. Not only is she the third generation in her family to perform these heroic duties, Ryan is also one of just six women currently serving in the ranks of the Binghamton Fire Department.

"It's important to show young women that if it's something you want to do and want to be a part of something bigger, you can do it," Ryan said. "Whether you're male, female, tall, short, if you put the work in, you can do it: we all do the same job, we all took the same test, we all passed the same requirements."

While every member of the fire department is considered an equal, it is still important for students, especially girls, to see that anyone can work in a profession that has been historically comprised of mostly men.

"Even if it's something that you never thought about doing, there's always an opportunity," Ryan said. "It's important to keep these options open for kids and letting them know that no matter where you come from and your background, if you put your mind to it you can literally do anything."

It's a message that Ryan will continue to share with schools, community groups, and anyone else who wants to know about serving as a firefighter. And it's one that she believes in because she's lived it herself.



Board of Education Honored During School Board Appreciation Week

The Binghamton City School District Board of Education was honored for its efforts during National School Board Recognition Week. Students at Horace Mann hosted board members to celebrate their work and dedication to our schools, staff, and students.

Mann's chorus and orchestra shared their talents with board members while they enjoyed a breakfast catered by BCSD Food Services. Following the breakfast, students presented the Board of Education with hand-painted artwork as a thank you for their commitment to the district.

Binghamton City School District Board of Education:

Steve Seepersaud, President
Carrie Button, Vice-President
Mary Ann Callahan
Shaunté Middleton
Dr. Albert Penna
Jesula Saintus
Liza Turner



Fourth Grade Students Immersed in Haudenosaunee Tradition

On a late-October day in Binghamton, a man in a headdress and other traditional Haudenosaunee clothing shares stories with district 4th graders. Perry Ground brings his professional storytelling to BCSD every fall. This special assembly complements a trip to Roberson Museum and Science Center to visit the Haudenosaunee exhibit there, as well as interactive digital longhouse construction. These activities bring to life the People of the Longhouse, their culture, and traditions.



"I think they make an emotional connection to it. They've read some of these things in books and now it's real life in front of them," Ground said. "When we can go to that place, when we can meet somebody from that tribe, we make a different connection with it. They have a touchpoint, me, that they can say 'I saw that guy and he taught me something in a fun way.'"

Haudenosaunee history and tradition are part of the New York State 4th grade social studies curriculum. Students learn about the first inhabitants of what is now New York, their culture, government, and connection to the land. The Binghamton City School District builds on this curriculum by providing hands-on, immersive experiences through the district's Challenge Enrichment program.

"Teaching the Haudenosaunee curriculum is essential for our 4th graders because it deepens their understanding of local history, culture, and the values of cooperation and respect that continue to shape our region today," said Debbie Miller, teacher and coordinator of the Challenge Enrichment program. "Through reading, research, writing, and hands-on enrichment experiences, students connect meaningfully with Indigenous perspectives and learn to honor the traditions and contributions of the Haudenosaunee people."

A Lesson in Legacy: Binghamton Tubman Statue Artist Visits BHS

Arm extended, holding a lantern to light the way to a future of freedom and opportunity, Harriet Tubman's likeness stands along the Chenango River in Downtown Binghamton. The bronze-cast statue, dedicated last March, is the capstone piece along the Downtown Binghamton Freedom Trail. As the new school year began, the artist who created the life-size statue visited Binghamton High School to talk with IB Art students about the project and her work.

"I felt that what she had to say about her art process and how she really likes creating things really reflected my personal experience with art and, I'm sure, a lot of my fellow students," said BHS Senior IB Art student Finch Schatz. "I think it's a really interesting and creative way of expressing yourself…a way to express who you are, your beliefs, what you are, and what you know."

Zoe Dufour dedicated about two years, from inception to completion, creating the Tubman statue. It now is the first stop along the trail that marks a series of locations around the city dedicated to influential people who worked for the abolition of slavery and securing civil rights.

"Harriet Tubman is a remarkable person and represents things that we all want to be synonymous with us as Americans," Dufour said. "I hope that the cultural landscape in America is emphasizing people like her, so I'm glad to be a part of that and that the overall quality of work withstands the test of time."

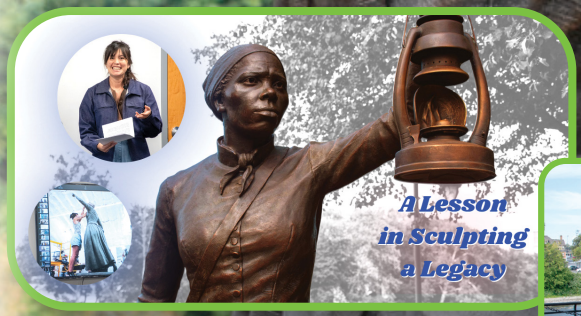
Dufour shared images and videos of the process that went into the statue's creation. From digital concepts of the statue, to creating the mold, pouring the bronze, and assembling the pieces, the IB Art class got an up-close look at Dufour's work. It's not quick, and it's certainly not easy; and seeing that firsthand is something the students' teacher wanted to stress to her class.

"Real world connections are incredibly important and the point that I hope the students took away is that the process, the creation part, that's what was most meaningful to her," said BHS IB Art teacher Carly Barvinchak. "Yes, you end up with a beautiful product at the end, but really understanding the meaning behind the sculpture itself: who she was creating, why she was creating it for our area, the whole process is a learning experience."

As 11th & 12th graders, these students are beginning to think about what they want to do after graduating from BHS. Dufour hopes that sharing her work and the process behind it may inspire them to consider careers in art.

"Art offers a different perspective on learning than other types of academic work and the things you learn in this field are great life skills. It would be great if art could be included in discourse more and considered viable," Dufour said. "It can be challenging and unique work has to be put in to make a career as an artist or craftsperson, but there are also enormous tradeoffs; you have a lot of freedom, you have a lot of choice, you have a lot of control into how you're shaping your life."

And at the very least, Dufour hopes that whatever field the students go into, they approach their future work with creativity and maintain a love for art.







Binghamton Students Project Artistic Excellence at LUMA

As buildings throughout Downtown Binghamton came alive at the LUMA Projection Arts Festival, one served as a canvas for Binghamton student artwork. Nine BCSD students were selected to have their creations included as part of the September event, which is the largest projection arts festival in the United States.

The students featured at LUMA are:

Adelyn Borne, West Middle School

Avery Crandell, Thomas Jefferson

Brock Haynes, Thomas Jefferson

Jadorae Holloman, West Middle School

Charley Lisio, MacArthur

Ania Smeu, West Middle School

Fiona Smeu, Horace Mann

Sadie Walker, MacArthur

Amelia Yurka, MacArthur



BHS Vocalists Selected to Perform at All-State Festival

We're singing "congratulations" to two Binghamton High School students who have been recognized for their outstanding talents! BHS seniors Corey Agosto and Francis Otero have been selected to join the Mixed Chorus at this year's All State Festival. The pair of Patriots sang at the event in Rochester during the weekend of December 4th. Francis and Corey are under the direction of BHS Choral Director, Mrs. Jennifer Easley. Bravo!



All State Musician Corey Agosto



All State Musician Francis Otero

BECOME

NYSSMA®
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

PATRIOTS FIND SUCCESS AT SECTIONALS

The Binghamton Patriots boys soccer team captured its first Section IV championship in program history, topping Vestal 1-0 in the Class AA title game. It was also the Patriots' first appearance in a Sectional final. The game's lone goal came off the foot of Alexis Lara Salinas with 13 minutes left in the first half; Shaquaine Wright had the assist. Keeper Armani Torres manned the net for the duration of the game and posted the shutout for the Patriots .

From the pitch to the pool, Binghamton sophomore Frances Miller was the fastest Class A swimmer in the Section IV 100 breaststroke final. Her time of 1:09.95 gave her the top podium spot and earned her an appearance in the NYS Championships.

And on the golf course, senior Brady McManus posted the best score at the Section IV Championship with a 71. He helped guide the Patriots to a second-place finish in Section IV and will look to qualify for States in the spring.

Congratulations to all our Patriots athletes!







HOMECOMING



















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Welcome
Back To
School















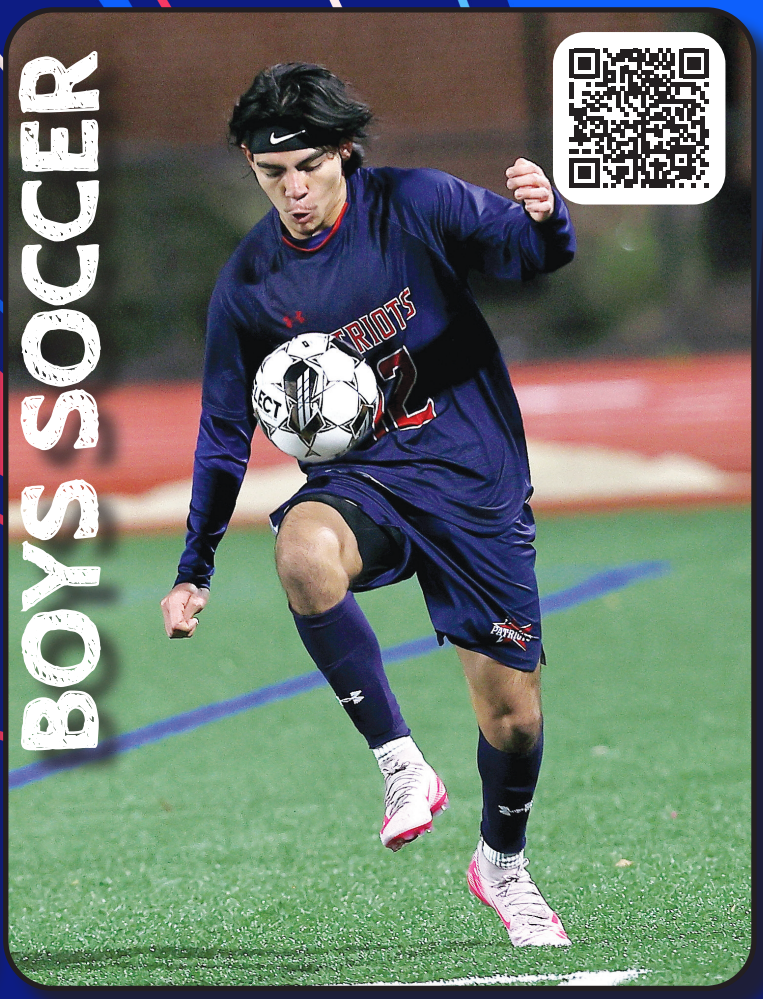

First Day of School






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SENIOR NIGHT

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Treasure Island
























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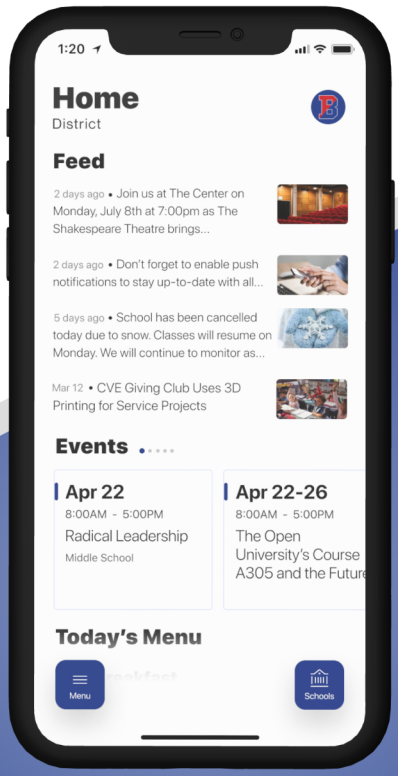
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