



Bath CSD News

Bath Central School District • 25 Ellas Avenue Bath, New York 14810 • 607.776.3301 • www.bathcsd.org

Home of the Rams

Spring 2025

A message from the Board of Education

As we approach the annual district meeting and budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, the Bath Central School District Board of Education is proud to share the proposed 2025–26 general operating budget with our community.

This year’s proposed budget totals \$50,861,699, a 6.2 percent increase over the current year. This increase is necessary as we continue to navigate the fiscal cliff created by the expiration of federal COVID relief funding. To help offset the impact, the district has reduced 25 positions – including administrative, instructional and non-instructional roles – primarily through attrition and the phase-out of grant-funded positions. These reductions also reflect declining enrollment and, while they do lower overall staffing levels, student programs remain fully intact.

How the budget is funded

Approximately 61 percent of our funding comes from state aid, reflecting our designation as a high-needs rural district. Local property taxes will cover about 18 percent of the budget, with the Board approving a 2.10 percent tax levy increase for 2025–26. The remaining 21 percent of projected revenue will come from other local sources and the strategic use of our fund balance. We are pleased to have limited tax levy increases to an average of only 1.2 percent annually during the past ten years, while continuing to maintain our academic programs and all extracurricular activities.

Board of Education election

Voters also will elect two new members to the Board of Education. One seat carries a five-year term, and the other a two-year term. The candidates receiving the highest and second-highest number of votes will be awarded the respective terms. The Board offers our sincere thanks to former members Pamela Cleveland and Amey Rusak for stepping in this past year due to seats vacated by resignations.

Stay informed

We encourage you to review the enclosed budget materials and attend our Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Superintendent Kelly Houck or any member of the Board. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly about the budget and the decisions behind it.

Vote day

The Annual District Meeting and Election/Budget Vote will take place on Tuesday, May 20 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the District Office.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and schools.

Respectfully,

Michael W. Mishook, President

On behalf of the Bath Central School District Board of Education

On Tuesday, May 20 you will vote on:

Proposition 1:

The 2025-26 school budget in the amount of \$50,861,699.

Board of Education election:

There are two vacant seats. The candidates are Michael Walden, Kelsey Folckemer, Chauncey Watches and Daniel Chapman.

To vote you must be:

A citizen of the United States, who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee ballots:

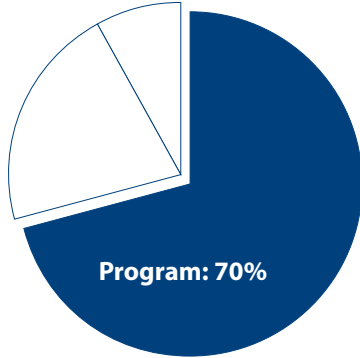
Absentee ballots may be obtained from District Clerk Donna Patterson at the District Office. Requests for ballots to be mailed to the voter must be received at least seven days prior to the vote. Ballots being picked up personally must be picked up the day before the vote.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20 to be counted.

Contact Donna Patterson at 607-776-3301, ext. 1107 with questions.

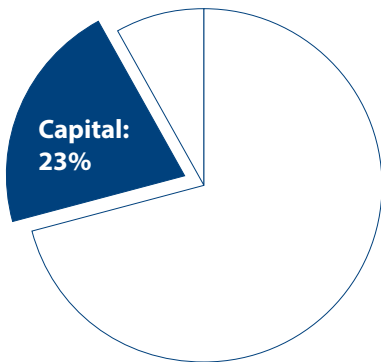
Every student. Every day.

Three-part budget breakdown



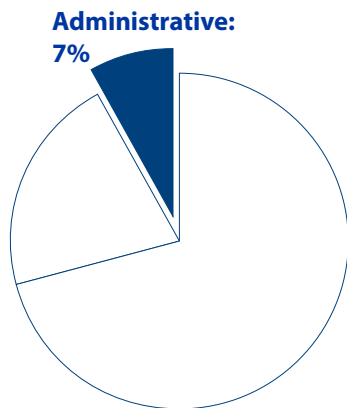
Program \$35,429,056 70%

The Program Component includes all instructional program expenditures, including the salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrators or supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and all transportation operating expenses. This total includes regular instruction, education of those with special needs, occupational education, curriculum and staff development, summer school and pupil services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular, athletics and transportation.



Capital \$11,968,254 23%

The Capital Component includes all transportation capital, debt service and lease expenditures, as well as costs resulting from court judgments, administrative orders and settled or compromised claims. It also includes all facilities costs of the district, including facility lease expenditures, annual debt service and total debt for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district, costs of construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of school buildings and all expenditures associated with custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities and maintenance repair of school facilities.



Administrative \$3,464,389 7%

The Administrative Component includes office and central administrative expenses, travel expenses, salaries and benefits of all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative or supervisory duties, all expenditures associated with the operation of the school board, the superintendent, general administration, the school business office, any consulting costs not directly related to student services and program planning and all other administrative activities.

Tuesday, May 20 • Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Where does the money come from?



Local Tax Levy: 18%

State Aid: 61%

Other: 21%

How is the money spent?



**BOCES
Services: 14%**

**Debt
Service:
14%**

**Other:
5%**

**Fringe Benefits:
30%**

**Other
Salaries:
9%**

**Instructional Salaries:
28%**

Meet the Board of Education candidates

Michael Walden

"My name is Michael Walden. I am running for Bath Central School District Board of Education. I feel it is an important time to get involved in school board elections. I am a parent of two children in the district and a respected, hard-working member of my community.

I have worked for the Village of Bath Street Department for more than seven years. I have helped coach different youth sports and always enjoy donating to and supporting the different youth programs in our community.

Our schools should be a safe haven for our children as they are facing new challenges in everyday life and education. As a candidate, I am focused on continuing to guide our district toward prioritizing what truly impacts and empowers our children: to be prepared to contribute productively to society."



Kelsey Folckemen

"My name is Kelsey Folckemer and I am honored to be a candidate for the Bath Central School District Board of Education.

I grew up in Dundee, New York, and have proudly called Bath my home since 2006. I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Management from Keuka College in 2005. My two children have attended Bath Central School since UPK and are currently in eighth and eleventh grade. Both are actively involved in school and community programs. My daughter participates on the Varsity Swim team and several school clubs; while my son is a member of the nationally-ranked Drone Soccer team, as well as the swim and baseball teams.

I bring 20 years of professional experience in higher education to this role. I have served as a Student Advisor at Keuka College and as Assistant Registrar and CRM Specialist at St. Bonaventure University. Currently, I work at Binghamton University as the Online Admissions Systems Analyst.

In addition to my professional background, I am an active member of our local community. I serve on the Small Animal Committee for Steuben County 4-H and am the Treasurer for Keuka Lake Players. I believe that my combined experience in education, technology and community service will bring a thoughtful and informed perspective to the school board. I am committed to supporting the district's mission of "Every Student, Every Day" and to ensuring all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. It would be a privilege to serve and support the students, families and educators of the Bath Central School District."



Board of Education candidates, continued

Chauncey Watches

"I am Chauncey Watches, a Haverling alumni ('03) with a strong commitment to education and the well-being of our students. Our family (Kate '05, Allison and Jonathan) moved back to Bath in 2021 and have enjoyed being with family, engaging with school activities and coaching soccer. With my background in engineering and management from Clarkson University and 17 years of experience with Corning Incorporated, I am well-equipped to help lead as a member of the school board.

With Corning, I have a proven track record of working collaboratively with diverse teams to achieve business objectives while balancing constraints (time, money, quality). I also am an active full-time faculty member for Corning's year-long Innovation Delivery advanced leadership course, responsible for building curriculum and developing future leaders.

Overall, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my skills, experience and passion for education to the school board. My goal is for Haverling to continue to grow as a welcoming place for all students and the foundation for a successful future. I am confident that my dedication to student success, leadership skills and collaborative problem-solving approach make me a strong candidate for this important role. Thank you for your consideration."



Daniel Chapman

"I was born and raised in Bath. My family moved to Hornell during my sixth-grade year, where I ended up graduating from. I moved back to Bath to take care of my grandfather in 2008 and have been here since.

I am a husband to an amazing wife, Christina, and father to an incredible 14-year-old daughter, Natalie. I am the owner of Bath Credit Services and Chapman Process Services.

In my spare time, I volunteer as a firefighter/EMT with Bath Fire, play cornhole with a non profit organization I founded called Hammer Cornhole, and ride motorcycle with my club the Red Knights NY Chapter 42.

Over the years, I have coached youth soccer, baseball and basketball, as well as made many donations to all of them. I also have served on the board of many organizations such as Bath Little League, RKMC NY 42, Steuben Prevention Coalition and Central Steuben Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few.

I love this community and love the school district. I look forward to potentially being more involved in what happens with this amazing school."



A message from the superintendent

The past several months have been as busy as ever at Bath CSD and there are no signs of things slowing down anytime soon. Students are involved in many learning and extra-curricular activities; there is a lot of energy and excitement at Bath CSD and a lot to celebrate!

As we work through the critical and important work of developing our 2025-26 school budget, I want to take this opportunity to share insight into the process, our priorities and the financial challenges we face. The budget we craft is not just about numbers – it’s about ensuring that every student at Bath CSD has access to a high-quality education, while also being mindful of the financial realities that affect our taxpayers. Investing in education while managing financial challenges is a very delicate balance. Each year, we work to develop a budget that maintains and enhances educational programs, supports our dedicated staff, and keeps our schools running efficiently. However, like many districts across New York State, we are facing significant financial pressures that must be carefully managed.

This year, some of the key financial challenges include:

- ***Rising healthcare costs***

The cost of providing health benefits for our employees continues to rise significantly. Increases in medical and prescription costs place additional strain on any budget and we are working to utilize available resources and

with our plan providers to insist that the line be held to the greatest extent possible regarding premiums and other associated costs. We have contractual obligations that must be met, and the reality is that we are in the people business; people are our greatest resource and it is “who” does the work. It only makes sense that salary and benefits should make up the largest portion of our or any school district budget.

- ***Escalating utility expenses***

Electricity, heating and other utilities also have generated substantial increases that must be addressed in our budget development, creating another strain. Keeping our school buildings warm in the winter and cool in the summer, along with ensuring access to modern technology and infrastructure, is becoming more expensive. Yet, these are essential to not only create safe learning and working conditions, but also guarantee that our students have excellent learning opportunities that lead to post-graduation opportunities that are at a minimal equal to any other New York graduate.

- ***Loss of state and federal funding***

Certain state and federal grants that have supported essential programs may be reduced or eliminated. These funds have helped us provide additional academic interventions,

Continued...

Bath Central School District

25 Ellas Avenue · Bath, New York 14810
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Board of Education

Michael Mishook, President · Olivia Krezenski, Vice President
Pamela Cleveland · Bradley Laverty · Theresa McKinley · Amey Rusak · Scott Ward

Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Houck
776-3301, ext. 1107

Dana L. Lyon Middle School

Jennifer D’Abbracci, Principal
776-3301, ext. 1041

Havenling High School

Brett Harrison, Principal
776-3301, ext. 1031

Vernon E. Wightman Primary School

Bret Ryan, Principal
776-3301, ext. 1061

Superintendent's message, continued

student support services and technology upgrades. Losing them means we must find ways to maintain these programs without placing an undue burden on local taxpayers. This is a challenge to say the least, and some reductions have yet to be unveiled. We are aware of the grants that have been decreased or eliminated completely, but we are still waiting for clarity around federal funding being reduced or eliminated. Unfortunately, we do not have that confirmed information yet, but we must still complete our budget process and development in order to meet the laws, regulations and timelines that we have. This forces us to make assumptions that must be as conservative as possible to prepare for what could be yet to come.

- **Inflation and operational costs**

The rising cost of materials, transportation and supplies affects everything from classroom resources to bus fuel. These increases require careful planning to ensure that we continue providing necessary services without compromising educational quality. Not only are these items essential for our operations, but we have several regulations, mandates, and state and federal requirements associated with these areas. We also must plan for what we have been told is coming, such as the transition to zero emission buses. Without a change in the regulation, this mandate will start coming to fruition in just two years – another financial stressor on our local school budget.

Despite these challenges, our district remains focused on maintaining fiscal responsibility while ensuring that students continue to receive a top-notch education. The 2025-26 budget priorities will focus on:

- **Preserving academic excellence**

Funding high-quality instruction, curriculum enhancements and student support services to help all learners succeed.

- **Supporting our team members**

Supporting our talented and dedicated team members through fair compensation, professional development and wellness initiatives.



- **Maintaining safe and modern schools**

Addressing necessary building repairs, improving energy efficiency and ensuring that students have access to a safe learning environment.

- **Prioritizing student well-being**

Maintaining mental health resources, counseling services and social-emotional learning programs.

The Board of Education has committed that we will remain a tax cap compliant district and we have worked diligently to present a budget that does this while sustaining programs – not an easy task and one that will require us to use reserves and fund balance. Look for more detailed information surrounding the proposed 2025-26 school budget in this publication. This information also is being shared publicly at our monthly Board of Education meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month. If you are unable to attend in person, our meetings also are live broadcasted. Please visit our school website for the link to watch the meeting live, as well as for the agenda and other meeting information.

As we finalize the budget, our goal remains clear: to provide the best possible education for our students while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers. We deeply appreciate your continued support, engagement and partnership in making Bath CSD a place where students can grow, learn and thrive. Thank you for your commitment to our schools and our community. We encourage you to stay informed and involved as we navigate these challenges together.

Continued...

Superintendent's message, continued

Board of Education election

In addition to the proposed 2025-26 school budget, there will be an opportunity to elect two Board of Education members. Both seats carry less than the typical five-year terms as they were vacated by previously-elected Board members. Currently, Amey Rusak and Pam Cleveland hold these seats as they were appointed to the vacant seats by the Board of Education to serve until the next election, which will be on Tuesday, May 20. Since these are vacated seats with terms still left, the elected new members will start serving immediately, not on July 1, which is typical with a "normal" Board member election. The person who secures the most votes will serve the remainder of the term associated with that seat, about two months, and then will start a five-year term on July 1, 2025. The person who receives the second most votes will fill the other seat, which has approximately two years and two months left. At the end of this time, they like all other positions on the Board of Education, will have the choice to re-run to secure a new five-year term.

Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates event

In addition to our monthly Board meetings, there also will be a budget hearing and Meet the BOE Candidates event held on Tuesday, May 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bath CSD Auditorium. The budget hearing also will be live broadcasted.

May 20: Budget vote, Board of Education election and district Art Show

The annual school budget vote and Board of Elections election will take place on Tuesday, May 20 from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the District Office. This also is the same day as our annual Art Show, with the work of students in PreK-grade 12 and staff displayed in the High School Gymnasium. I assure you, you will not be disappointed as the talents of our students and staff are second to none!

Capital project update

In other news, the capital project work at VEV Primary School is nearing completion with just a few minor items to be completed. This work brought significant classroom upgrades, a beautiful STEAM suite in which our students can learn,

invent and grow and a much-needed renovated health office and main office area, with a new vestibule that has addressed the congestion and increased the safety and security aspects of our building.

The capital construction work started at Dana Lyon Middle School and Haverling High School earlier this year and includes the same or similar upgrades and improvements to the Middle/High School Health Office suite, the Middle School Main Office area and the Special Education Office and conference areas.

At the High School, work includes replacing classroom univents, as well as completing similar improvements to the High School Main Office. The High School cafeteria is being remodeled to not only create efficiencies in our operations, but the work will transition this space to a multi-functional area for students to be able to enjoy their meals, as well as use it for instruction, events and presentations.

Additionally Phase III of the project involves cleaning and resurfacing of the track, upgrades to the soccer and football/lacrosse concession areas, pool upgrades, a press box at the baseball and softball fields and new dugouts at the softball field. With the press boxes at the baseball and softball fields, we will be able to provide a live feed to these games, much like we do for other sports contests.

Phase IV of the project will bring air conditioning to all of our High School spaces, as well as turf to the infield of the baseball and softball fields.

Cell phone policy update

As you may have heard, Governor Kathy Hochul has recently proposed a statewide "bell-to-bell" ban on cell phones (and other internet capable devices) used in schools. This initiative is designed to help students stay engaged in learning, minimize distractions and promote face-to-face interactions.

At Bath CSD, we recognize the growing concerns around cell phone use and its impact on student focus, academic performance and mental health. While technology plays a valuable role in education, excessive phone use during class time has been linked to increased anxiety, decreased attention and a decline in meaningful

Continued...

Superintendent's message, continued

social interactions among students. The governor's proposal aligns with efforts already underway in many districts, including ours, to promote a healthy balance between technology use and in-person learning experiences.

What does the bell-to-bell ban mean?

If enacted, this policy would prohibit student cell phone use during instructional time – from the first bell of the school day to the last bell. The goal is to create an environment where students can fully engage in classroom discussions, focus on their studies and build strong interpersonal skills.

On-site storage for student devices

An important part of this proposal is the requirement for schools to provide personal on-site storage options for students' cell phones during the school day. This means that districts would need to implement secure and accessible storage solutions, such as lockable pouches, classroom storage units or designated lockers to ensure that students' devices are safely stored while they are in class. Bath CSD is continuing to plan for the use of Yondr Pouches to meet this requirement. More information will be provided from the Middle and High School offices regarding this specific storage option. Of course, students also can choose to leave their phones at home.

We understand that cell phones are an important tool for communication between students and families, especially before and after school. Rest assured, that students will have access to their phones before the school day begins and after dismissal, and we will ensure that students can reach their families in the event of an emergency.

How will this affect Bath CSD?

While we are awaiting further details on implementation, Bath CSD has already been exploring ways to support responsible technology use. Many of our classrooms have clear guidelines regarding phone use and we will continue to work with teachers, staff, students and families to ensure that any policy changes are practical, fair and beneficial for student success.

Benefits of the ban

- Increased focus and engagement
With fewer distractions, students can fully participate in lessons.
- Better mental health and social skills
Reduced screen time helps promote real-world connections with peers.
- Stronger academic performance
Studies show that limiting phone use can lead to better retention of material and higher test scores.

What's next?

As we learn more about the proposed legislation, we will keep you informed on how this may impact our district's policies. In the meantime, we encourage families to discuss healthy technology habits at home and the importance of being present in both learning and social interactions.

Thank you for your partnership in fostering a learning environment that supports our students' academic and personal growth. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again for all your continued support of our efforts at Bath CSD. It is a team approach and we are very fortunate each of you is a member of that team!

A note about the capital outlay project

The capital outlay project represents a significant milestone for Bath Central School District and underscores its commitment to providing high-quality education to its students. By investing in infrastructure improvements, the school district aims to create modern, inclusive learning environments that empower students to thrive academically and personally. These projects also address routine maintenance and security upgrades that can be completed outside of a much larger capital construction project.

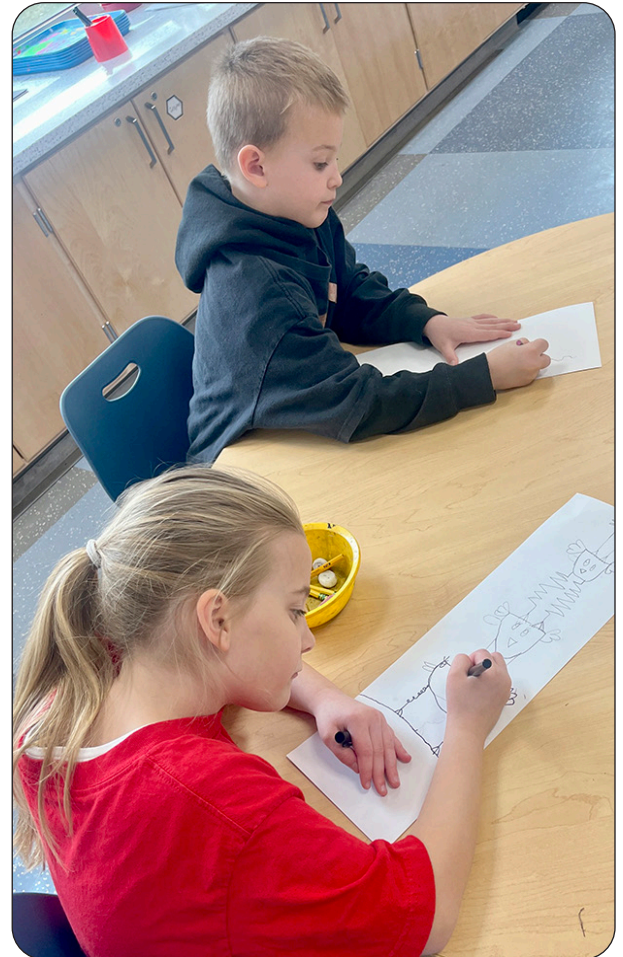
The proposed 2025-26 capital outlay project encompasses the full replacement of one of the boilers at VEW Primary School, a much needed replacement as it is more than 20 years old.

Depending on the cost associated with the boiler replacement, the capital outlay project could include security upgrades and improvements.

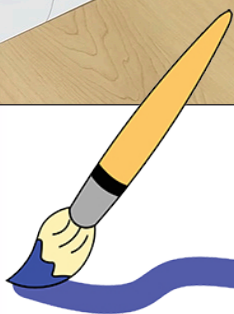
This work is included in the budget proposition, it is not additional.

Spring has sprung in the VEW art room

Students at VEW have been working hard to prepare work for the nature-inspired Spring Art Show. After a long chilly winter, students across all grade levels have embraced the arrival of spring by including bright and vibrant colors in their artwork. The pieces on display will offer a glimpse into how young artists interpret the natural world around them. The art show will be a wonderful celebration of the students' creations that you won't want to miss!



Clockwise from upper left, third-grader Kinsley VanSkiver; second-graders Isaac Hobbs and Kahleigha Hughes; and second-graders Olivia Douglas and Stella Furia create artwork for the Spring Art Show.



#RamPride

MS art room has a familiar face in a new place

A new place with familiar faces has taken Art Teacher Jennifer Giblin down Memory Lane.

"During the last three months, Dana Lyon Middle School students and I have gone down Memory Lane as we have reflected back on past VEW memories and stories," said Ms. Giblin.

After having taught at VEW for 20 years, adjusting to teaching art at the Middle School level has been an exciting challenge for Ms. Giblin.

"The best part has been catching up with previous students and meeting new ones as well," she said. "As usual, the skill and talent of Haverling art students still amazes me and its been exciting to work with students and challenging them to bring their skills to the next level."

Be sure to visit the district-wide Art Show on May 20 to see the talent of our students in PreK through twelfth grade.



Dana Lyon students are busy preparing for the district-wide Art Show. Pictured are (top) fourth-graders Sofia Haight, Xander Rumsey and Greyson Brown; (above left) seventh-graders Reagan Sweet and Serenity Smalt and (above right) eighth-graders Mia Pendle and Grace VanGorder.

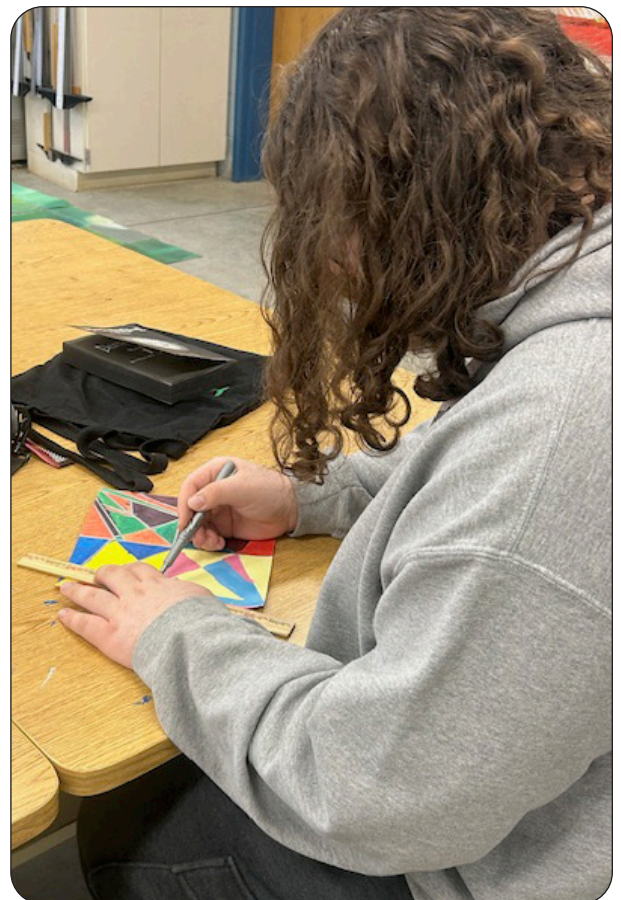
#RamPride

Students create nature-themed artwork

This year, the High School Studio Art class immersed themselves in the world of nature as they prepared for the annual Art Show. One group worked together to create a large chalk pastel drawing that will be displayed at the show. An image was divided into a grid, and each student drew multiple squares of that grid on a larger piece of paper. Then they worked as a team to bring all the pieces together and reveal the final image.



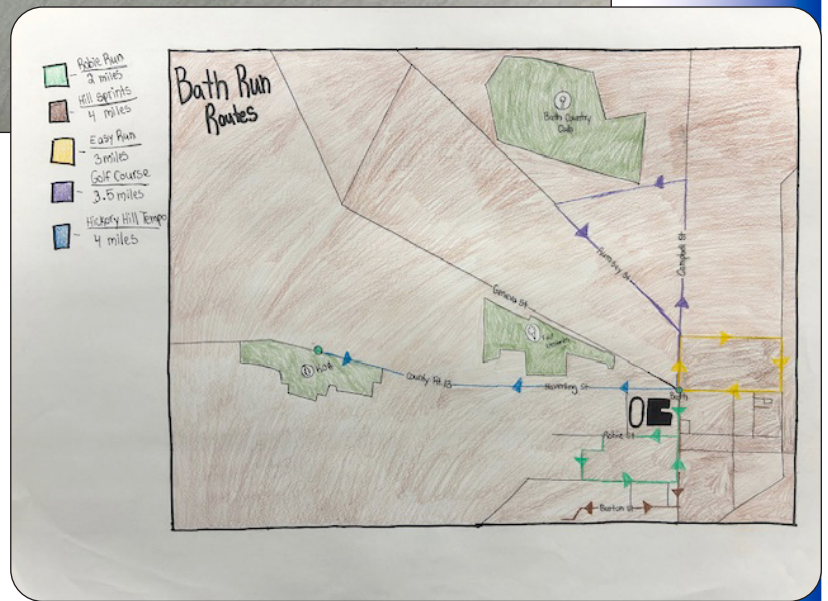
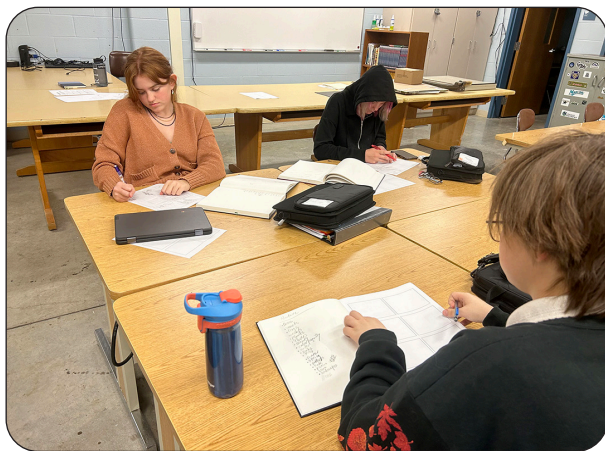
Throughout the year, students have practiced a variety of art materials and processes including charcoal, pastel, paint and ceramics. Students also learned about significant artists. In one project, they created artwork in the style of contemporary artist Sarah Morris. Students made origami forms, unfolded the paper and painted the shapes with acrylic paint.



Art Dept. offers new graphic design class

A new class this year, Graphic Design, teaches students how to use visual elements such as typography, images, colors and shapes to communicate ideas or information effectively. Students applied graphic design principles by creating personal logos, coloring books and book cover designs. In one project, students created maps that charted areas both real and fictional. Map designs included running routes around Bath, video game worlds and haunted houses.

Students also brainstormed ideas for Art Show signage, including a poster and artwork tags in a school-wide design contest. The winning tag and poster designs will be on display at the Art Show.



#RamPride #RamPride #RamPride

HS art students give sneak peek of show

The advanced students in Courtney Yacuzzo's drawing, painting, ceramics, ACE Essentials for Art, darkroom photography and sculpture classes have been diligently working to create unique pieces for this year's nature-themed art show. Here's some of what they have been up to:

Sculpture

The sculpture class is back at it, producing and designing the large-scale centerpiece for the art show. Students have been hard at work creating giant flowers and insects for their sculptural installation.

ACE Essentials of Art

ACE Art has returned as a course offering at Haverling. Students have been learning about art history, art movements and critiques, as well as creating portfolio pieces. Recently, they finished "Art with a Message," creating conceptual art based on topics that students were passionate about.



Left, Senior Kendra Loucks' "Art with a Message" piece about pollution.

Below, Junior Maddie Hoad works on a project for her portfolio.



Left, senior photography student Kellsie Johnson's anthotype, "Grapes."



Photography

This year's photography students got to try their hand at a photographic process called anthotypes. Anthotypes use the chlorophyll found in plant matter and the power of the sun to make an image. Using the leaves of a hosta plant and self-made negatives students achieved amazing results.

Senior Abby Mascherino commented, "It was challenging at first to work with such an unpredictable material, but in the end, the outcome was well worth our effort!"

Continued...

HS art, continued

Ceramics and Advanced Ceramics

This year, ceramics students had a strong focus on wheel throwing and making functional pieces.

Junior Isabelle Anderson stated, "I've enjoyed working with my hands not only to create practical pieces, but ones that express my creativity."



Seniors Alyssa Rosabianca and Bryson Stuart work on pottery wheels.

Painting

Inspired by the drawing class, this year's painting students also created a collaborative large-scale piece. The concept was the same: each student was given a few small squares to replicate on a larger canvas without having seen the final image (right).

Junior Carter Brown said, "Even though it was challenging to work on these detailed pieces and worry about it not matching, the end result was very rewarding because it all clicked and the collective efforts paid off to make something great!"

Want to see the completed image? Be sure to come to the Spring Art Show on May 20 to see the final painting.



Above, the drawing class with its collaborative charcoal drawing.

Drawing

This fall, the drawing class created a large collaborative drawing. Students were challenged to replicate 12 mysterious small squares onto larger paper without knowing the final image. The result? A breathtaking collaborative charcoal drawing inspired by Ansel Adams' *The Tetons and the Snake River* (above).



Left, Junior Jayla McGee works on one piece of the collaborative painting.

Above, The painting class putting together the large painting.

Don't miss this year's district Art Show

Bath Central School District Presents:

A "Nature" Themed

SPRING ART SHOW

Tues, May 20th
8am - 7pm

Haverling High School Gym

Featuring Work From:
Pre-k Through 12th Grade
Students And A Faculty Exhibit

POSTER CREATED BY ARYANNA SOLES

Spanish students write, illustrate stories

In Madison Shuart's Spanish 2 class, students were tasked with creating short stories in Spanish using the preterite tense. Their creativity and effort were so impressive that Ms. Shuart felt it was important to highlight their work. To complete their projects, students utilized the graphic design tool, Canva, and the results were outstanding.

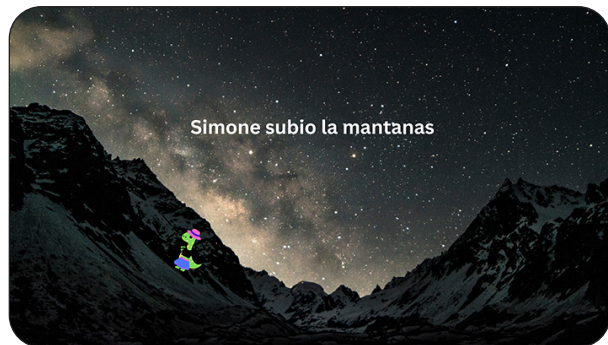
During their presentations, Ms. Shuart was amazed not only by the students' ability to master the assignment, but also by the originality of their stories.

One standout story, *A Super Fish*, was created by Natalie Krause and Lukas Houck. The tale takes place in the ocean, where a ship spills toxic waste onto a fish, transforming it into a super-powered creature capable of defeating a menacing shark that has been terrorizing the sea.

Another creative story, *The Preppy Dinosaur*, written by Kenadee Walden and Cailyn Cagle, follows a stylish dinosaur named Simone as she travels the world, experiencing new adventures in high fashion.

Lastly, Ms. Shuart would like to mention *Two Dragons in Love*, a touching story by Daisy Dennis and Sapphira Martin. It tells the heartwarming tale of two dragons who meet and fall in love.

Ms. Shuart is incredibly proud of her students' creativity and hard work. ¡Buen trabajo!



#RamPride #RamPride #RamPride #RamPride #RamPride

Seniors get a taste of real-life budgeting

Members of the senior class recently participated in a budgeting workshop sponsored by Serv U Credit Union in collaboration with the Career Development Council.

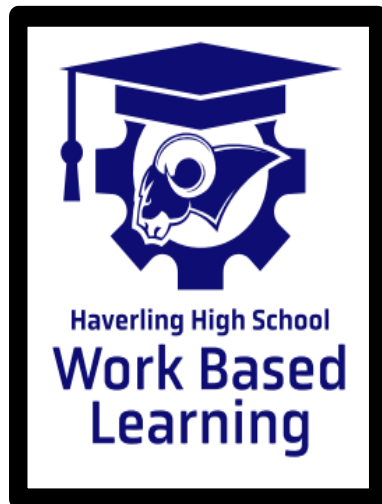
The event is similar to *The Game of Life* in that students are assigned a career with a salary, a spouse and children. The students visit eight merchant tables to "purchase" everyday essentials including food, clothing, housing, transportation, childcare, home items, utilities and fun items.

Students have to write checks, visit the Credit Union to pay debts and spin the *Life Happens Wheel* to either gain a windfall or have to pay an emergency bill.

It was a fun learning opportunity for students to experience and practice future real-life financial situations.



**Need help filling open positions?
Let us help recruit summer
and part-time employees.**



**Send your job vacancies to
Haverling's Work-Based Learning Job Board.**

How to get in touch:
Jen Hutches, WBL Coordinator
jhutches@bathcsd.org
607-776-3301, ext. 1047 • 607-275-6275

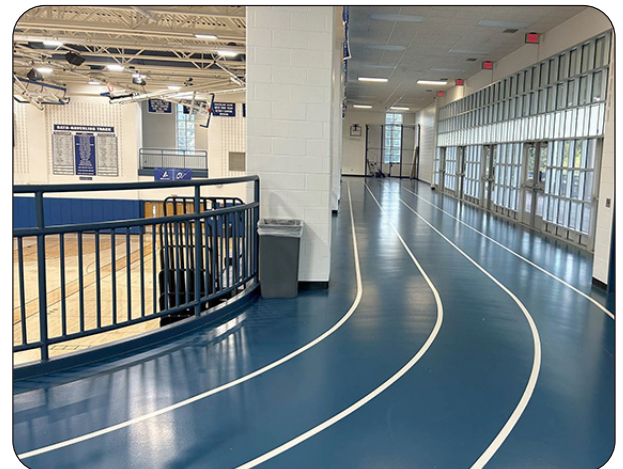
Plan to walk indoors next winter

The community indoor track walking season has ended for the 2024-25 school year.

Thank you to the community members who walked the track mornings from 6:00-7:00 a.m. this year. Keep us in mind again next year for the 2025-26 winter season.

Contact Mike Binkowski at mbinkowski@bathcsd.org in the fall for more information on community walking.

We wish you a healthy and happy spring.



VEW students and staff decorate halls in recognition of Autism Awareness Month



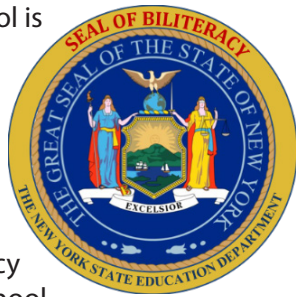
Students and staff at VEW Primary School recognized Autism Awareness Month in April by signing and coloring heart-shaped puzzle pieces that were used to create decorations along the halls of the Kindergarten wing.

In addition, Special Education Teacher Laurel Burdett read the story, *I See Things Differently: A First Look at Autism*, by Pat Thomas to interested classes.



2026 Graduates can earn Seal of Biliteracy

Thrilled to announce a new initiative aimed at recognizing and celebrating the linguistic abilities of our graduating students. The New York State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school district to recognize students who have attained a high level of proficiency in two or more world languages.



The Seal of Biliteracy not only serves as a mark of academic achievement, but also enhances college and career prospects. To qualify for the seal, students must meet specific criteria, including demonstrating proficiency through standardized assessments and rigorous coursework.

We encourage eligible students to take advantage of this opportunity and we are excited to support our students in achieving this milestone.

Please reach out to your student's counselor with questions or visit our website for detailed information.

Find Bath Central Schools on social media



Visit our website:
www.bathcsd.org



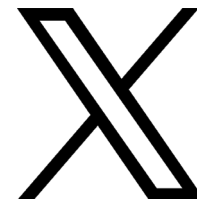
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Science in action at Dana Lyon MS

At Dana Lyon Middle School, students have been actively engaged in hands-on scientific learning, developing important skills and exploring fascinating topics that connect to the world around them. During the past few months, sixth-, through eighth-grade students have been immersed in exciting lessons that encourage curiosity, critical thinking and problem-solving.

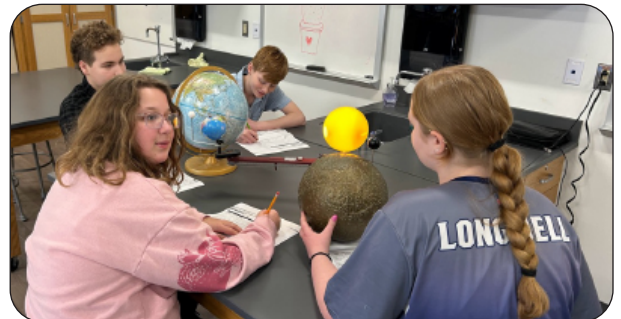
Under the guidance of Mr. Binkowski, sixth-grade students have been building a strong foundation in scientific principles. They have been learning about the scientific method, data collection and how to effectively summarize their findings. Their studies also have introduced them to energy sources, from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives, as well as electromagnets and their applications. In addition, they have been working with independent and dependent variables, developing the skills needed for scientific experimentation and analysis.

Seventh-grade students, led by Mrs. Hillman, have been focusing on microscopy, learning how to properly use a microscope, draw scale representations of what they see and apply computational thinking to estimate the size of objects based on the field of view. These skills have allowed them to observe and compare the structures of cells in both single-celled and multi-cellular organisms. Through their investigations, students also have explored the differences

between living cells that function as independent organisms and those that are part of larger, multicellular organisms.

Eighth-grade students, taught by Mr. Longwell and Mr. Belanger, have been studying planetary science, delving into Earth's systems – the biosphere, geosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere – and how these systems interact. They have examined the ways human activities contribute to pollution and disrupt natural cycles. Their studies also have covered Earth's movements around the sun and the changing seasons, meteorology with a focus on the New York State, "How's the Weather Up There?" investigations and the moon's influence on tides, phases and eclipses. Beyond Earth, students have explored the solar system, stars, galaxies and the universe, as well as the exciting possibilities of interplanetary travel and colonization, including the latest developments in space exploration from SpaceX.

Through these engaging lessons, students at Dana L. Lyon Middle School are not only learning about science, but also developing the skills to think like scientists. Their work in the classroom is preparing them to understand and analyze the world in a meaningful way. As the school year continues, we look forward to more exciting discoveries and continued enthusiasm for science learning.



Learning about NYS agriculture

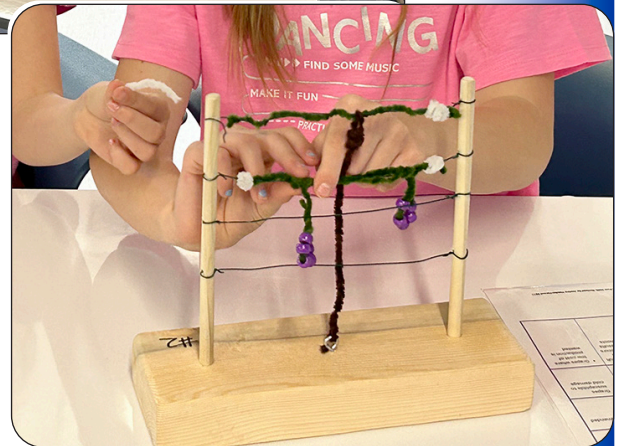


This spring, students at Dana Lyon Middle School were engaged in "Agriculture in the Classroom" lessons led by Mrs. McKinley from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

During their first session, students explored the process of turning sap into maple syrup. As part of the lesson, they sampled various water/sugar mixtures to determine which solution most resembled the taste of tree sap. Many students were surprised to discover that sap and maple syrup have distinct flavors! The lesson ended with a tasting of pure New York maple syrup.

During Mrs. McKinley's second visit, students learned about grape cultivation in New York State and designed models of trellis systems used for growing different types of grapes.

"During the past few months, we've thoroughly enjoyed learning about agriculture and its importance to our local communities," said Teacher Kelsey Sobilo.



Riding in style on St. Patrick's Day



The students on Bus Driver Kelly Beam's route rode in style on St. Patrick's Day! She treated them to green accessories to celebrate the holiday.

Honor Society inducts 21 new members



In January, the Haverling Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 21 new members into its organization, joining the 26 senior members who were inducted last year. Inductees are selected based on the principles that define the National Honor Society: Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Service.

Congratulations to the 2025 inductees: Isabelle Anderson, Carter Brown, Selah Coe, Aiden Cranmer, Isabelle Folckemer, Madelyn Hoad, Peyton Lathrop, Mason Maslinski, Chloe Prusha, Donovan Ryan, Emma Schneider, Gabrielle Shroyer, McLane Stermole, Joseph Sternberg, Rylan Stratton, Reese Sweet, Jenna Warner, Emma Williams, Natalie Williams, Alexa Wolfe and Ella Wood.

The induction ceremony was led by Honor Society Officers Jady Pragle (President), Douglas Bryson (Vice-President) and Allison Elmore (Secretary). Seniors Sadie McCarthy, Ryleigh Laverty, Caydence Spears and Lane Prescott each spoke on one of the four pillars of the National Honor Society. Douglas Bryson sang *Rainbow*

Connection by Ascher and Williams. He was accompanied by his father and Haverling Music Teacher Neil Bryson.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Haverling High School History Teacher Morgan Draper, who spoke about the bright futures of the students. The bright futures she was referring to, however, were not necessarily about future achievements, winning awards and financial success she told them. "The lives I see ahead of you are made bright by the passions that drive you. What makes you curious? What are you excited to talk about? What brings you joy? What is important to you? The answer to those questions is what makes your future bright. Go follow it," she challenged them.

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage the fundamental virtues of character, scholarship, leadership and service.

The advisor to Haverling's Chapter of National Honor Society is Murray Wright.

Students join Technical Honor Society



Congratulations to the 2025 National Technical Honor Society inductees. Leah Crosson, Christy Farr, Danica Havens and Hannah Havens attend Career and Technical Education classes at the GST BOCES Wildwood Campus and Pieter Barrett, Katelynn DuBois, Lola Coots and Linsey Haff are CTE students at the Coopers Campus.

#RamPride #RamPride #RamPride

Fun at first-ever Bubble Soccer tourney

This March, the Sophomore Class of 2027 hosted Haverling's first-ever Bubble Soccer tournament. Seven teams took part in the inaugural event. Players wore five-foot round bubble suits and competed in multiple 5-on-5 soccer games.

Team Bubble Bandits defeated Team Sigmas with a score of 3 to 2 in overtime to become the tournament champions. The winning team com-

prised of Freshmen Rocky Malonji, Asher Phenes, Colton Coots, Jonathan Castel, Cage Adams, Sophomore Brady Hopkins and Junior Gavin Rooks. They took home a trophy, tournament T-shirts and bragging rights.

Participants in the Bubble Soccer tournament had a great time and cannot wait until next year's tournament.

Great job, Class of 2027!



Dana Lyon students attend Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes performance

On May 2, all Dana Lyon Middle School fourth- and fifth-graders attended a live performance of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes.

The concert program included Vivaldi's *Bassoon Concerto in E Minor, RV 484*, Claude Debussy's *Dances sacree et profane movements one and two* and *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant* by Francis Poulenc.

The performance featured Austin Vitello on the bassoon, and harpist Jocelyn Hsu. Both Austin and Jocelyn are 2024 Doreen B. Hertzog Compe-

tition winners and current high school students in Clarence, NY and Lansing, NY, respectively.

The orchestra performance was a special opportunity to hear and see professional orchestral musicians perform. Prior to the performance, students learned about the instruments of the orchestra, the unique composing styles of Vivaldi, Debussy and Poulenc, and good concert etiquette.

The OSFL performance was presented as part of the Mary Tripp Marks School-Time Series, hosted by The Clemens Center.

We are extremely grateful for their generosity in providing this extraordinary opportunity.

Orchestra TOSHIYUKI SHIMADA
Music Director Conductor
OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES

Families enjoy Social-Emotional event

Families had a spectacular time learning and playing together at the Social and Emotional Family Learning Night in March.

Students and their caregivers had an opportunity to partake in hands-on activities through station rotations that exercised their social and emotional learning. Each station focused on one of the five social and emotional competencies:

self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.

Stations included making cloud dough, playing board games, visiting with "Cooper" the dog, yoga, breathing exercises, partner cup stacking, "What would you do?" questions, making glitter bottles and, of course, pizza!



VOTE

Tuesday, May 20

Noon to 8:00 p.m.

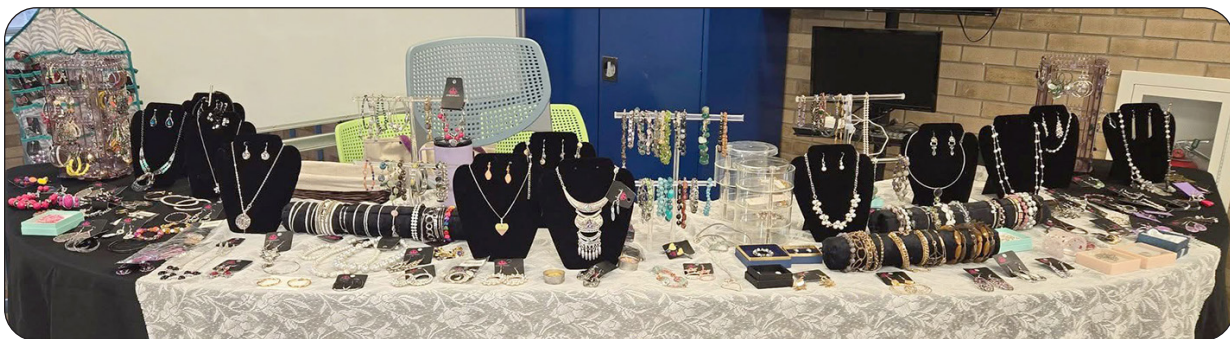
District Office

Prom boutique offers free formal wear

Brewer's Prom Boutique opened its doors in March for the annual free shopping event prior to prom season. The event drew students and their families from Haverling, as well as other districts and home-schooled students, to browse the offerings of formal wear and accessories. Items such as suits, dresses, jewelry, shoes and accessories donated by generous community

members throughout the year were displayed for students to try on and take home at no cost.

"Everyone left with something to add to or complete their outfit," said Teaching Assistant Jackie Havens, one of the organizers of the event. "The smiles throughout the day were contagious for both students and staff alike."



PE news from around the district

VEW Physical Education

This spring, students in PE classes at VEW were fully immersed in their own version of March Madness. Thanks to the incredible support of the PBIS team, the PE Department kicked off an exciting Glow Week filled with fun games and activities that had everyone glowing with excitement.

Additionally, each class created its ideal tournament bracket, with the winning class earning

an ice cream party to celebrate their effort and teamwork.

Not to be left out, the staff also got into the March Madness spirit with a thrilling free throw competition, where the winning class also enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat.

March was an action-packed, fun-filled month and we're so proud of everyone's participation and enthusiasm.



Fourth- and Fifth-Grade PE

Throughout the school year, fourth- and fifth-graders had the opportunity to learn and practice various activities including fitness testing, team building, swimming, soccer, basketball, handball, Wiffle ball, Nitro Ball, Tchoukball, Four Square, jump rope, cup stacking and Hula Hooping. These activities were aimed to improve motor development skills as well as promote physical wellness with a focus on team work, cooperation, sportsmanship, building confidence through trial and error and developing fine and gross motor skills.



PE news, continued

Grades 6-8 physical education

Middle School students in sixth through eighth grade engaged in fitness activities in the fitness room and explored the fun and challenging sport of badminton this spring.

In the fitness room, students focused on building strength, endurance and overall fitness by using a variety of equipment including weights, treadmills and stationary bikes. The goal of the PE teachers is to help students develop a strong foundation for physical health and wellness.



Students also were introduced to badminton with a focus on the basics of serving, rallying and playing both singles and doubles. Through practice and friendly competition, students improved their skills while having a great time. Each week, teachers introduced new challenges to help students progress, including mini-tournaments to show off their abilities.

As the weather warms up, students will head outside for lessons on pickleball and Ultimate Frisbee.

High School Physical Education

This spring, the High School PE Department had the pleasure of hosting Erynn Hogan, a student teacher from SUNY Brockport, under Mrs. Northup's guidance.

Ms. Hogan did a wonderful job leading the volleyball unit, as well as working with specialized students in the aquatics area. She taught the critical volleyball skills of serving, forearm passing, setting, hitting and game strategy to students in grades 9-12.

Ms. Hogan will be headed to VEW to work with the primary-level students for an additional five weeks following her time at the High School.

Ms. Hogan is working to earn a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and a Master's degree in Health. While we will be sad to see her go, we are certain she will be a wonderful asset to her future school district.



Ms. Hogan had to take a dip in the pool – fully clothed – after Erika Hockemeyer and her classmates beat her in a challenge!

Breakfast of Champions honors winter athletes

Sectional winners from the winter sports season were honored at a Breakfast of Champions in March. Congratulations!



Drone Soccer team members included (L to R) Carson Pike, Angelina, Harley Watson, Keegan Folkemer, Samantha Rudy, James Mehlenbacher, Natalie Krause and Cianna Dunning.

Congratulations to these NYSPHSAA Winter Scholar Athlete Teams:

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Boys Indoor Track
- Girls Indoor Track
- Competitive Cheerleading
- Boys Alpine Skiing
- Girls Alpine Skiing



Indoor track Sectional champs included Allison Elmore (1500m race walk), Alexa Wolfe (3000m) and the 4x400 relay team of Colton Fleming, Dylan Wenban, Michael Binkowski and Dayton Orłowski. Swimmer Douglas Bryson earned top honors in the 100m breaststroke.



The Competitive Cheerleading team of (L to R) Coach Morgan Rundell-Wales, Kyriah Wilber, Payton Law, Morgan Marvin, Kambrie Leasure, Caydence Spears, Caily Cagle, Aaliah Hall, Trinity Cavallaro, Henna Warner, Carli Young and junior cheerleader Arabella Wales brought home the Section V trophy. Wrestling Sectional champs included Contessa VanSkiver, Lukas Travis and Gage Thomas.



Sixth-grade embraces artificial intelligence

Since using AI and ChatGPT is becoming popular with students and because it will be around for their entire remaining school years, the sixth-grade teachers



felt it would be beneficial to teach students how to use these resources to help them learn.

So, in Mr. Clancy's and Mrs. Cole's sixth-grade Social Studies classes, students learned how to use AI to create songs, raps, plays, tongue twisters and debates about the Roman Colosseum. Students had to first research the answers to questions based on ancient Rome and the Colosseum. Then, they inserted their knowledge into an AI program which created fun songs, raps and more.

Here is a sample of two choruses of a rap:

Epic Roman Rap Battle: Julius Caesar vs. Pompey

[Julius Caesar]

*Listen up, Pompey, it's time to face the truth
I'm the greatest leader Rome's seen since my youth
You might be called "the Great," but that's just for show*

*While I built an empire that continued to grow
Speaking of building, let me tell you what's neat
The Colosseum's coming, and it can't be beat
Six acres of greatness, rising to the sky
Where gladiators battle and champions try*

[Pompey]

*Caesar, you're bragging about things you won't see
The Colosseum's built long after you flee
But since you brought it up, let me drop some facts
Seventy-two AD, that's when they built that
Mock naval battles, animal displays
Gladiator contests filled up countless days
But back to our battle, let's talk about might
I conquered the pirates, made the seas all right*

Donate your pull tabs to Dana Lyon MS

The students and staff at Dana Lyon Middle School are grateful for the donations of pull tabs and clean aluminum to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester.

The school's second pull tab contest concluded in March and the final contest is ongoing through May. Prize baskets were awarded to the three students who collected the most tabs. Congratulations to fourth-grader Clara Hobbs, who collected six pounds five ounces; fourth-grader Maddy Wood, who collected one pound seven ounces; and fifth-grader Stanley Kalish V, who collected one pound three ounces.



Clay Target Team seeks new members

Did you know that Haverling has a Clay Target Club that practices in the fall and a Clay Target Team that competes in the spring?

The team competes virtually through the New York State Clay Target League by shooting skeet at the Bath Rod and Gun Club and then submitting the scores online to see how they stack up against schools from across the state.

Since its start, the team has seen success, including a second place finish in the spring of 2021; first place in the fall of 2023 and second place finishes in the spring of 2023 and 2024. The team also has had several individuals place in the top three of the male and female divisions throughout the years.

If you're an outdoorsy person and enjoy hunting and shooting, this team might be for you! Anyone interested in joining for the fall season should email Lisa Haight at lhaight@bathcsd.org for more information. Fall registration begins in August, so be sure to get on the list before school begins in September.



#RamPride #RamPride #RamPride

Family Resource Center welcomes all families

Looking for a supportive, inclusive, play-based space for you and your children? All families from Steuben County and beyond are welcome at the Bath Area Family Resource Center (BAFRC), located at VEW Primary School.

The center offers parents, grandparents and caregivers a free safe place to drop-in and play with their children while focusing on social connections and school readiness skills. Open play time includes manipulatives, large motor activities, art experiences, pretend play, sensory play, an infant area, a variety of books and more.

Special structured times including Storytime with Ms. Lulu, Krafts with Karen, Friendly Fridays with Allison, Grooving with Granny, Baby Doll Circle Time and Music and Movement are scheduled regularly. These programs are open and free to all age children who are accompanied by a caregiver.

BAFRC hosts a variety of parent education classes which include Positive Solutions for Families, FLIP IT, What You Do Matters, Building Your Bounce, Your Journey Together, Starting Life

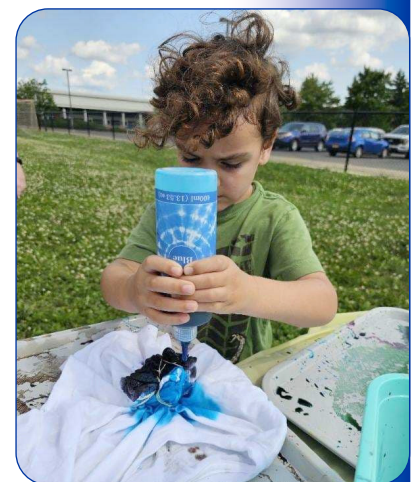
Together, 24/7 Dads, Fatherhood Connections, Parenting in an Unplugged World and more.

A large selection of educational and community resources and referrals are available through our trained staff members. In addition, free diapers, wipes and A&D ointment are available monthly.

Exciting Family engagement opportunities are coming in the next few months. Please join us for Family Spa Day on Saturday, May 10 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Family Game Day on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the VEW cafeteria and the annual tie dye event on Wednesday, June 23 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. These events foster family togetherness and create lasting memories.

For more information, contact the BAFRC Coordinator Kerry Stermole by calling 607-622-1068 or 607-382-8873, or emailing stermolek@proactioninc.org.

Be sure to like the BAFRC Facebook page for a calendar of events, updates, reminders and special offerings.



Academic All-Stars earn championship title

Congratulations to the Academic All-Star Team on its outstanding performance this season – not only claiming victory in their division, but also bringing home the prestigious Large School Championship title!

Academic All-Stars is a challenging trivia-style competition that tests students on their knowledge of the New York State curriculum and current events. Teams face off in a fast-paced environment, answering questions in subjects such as history, science, literature and math, as well as timely topics in the world around us. This year, our team's exceptional skills in critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration were on full display as they faced tough competitors from schools across the region.

The team's success is a testament to their commitment to excellence, teamwork and passion for learning. We couldn't be more proud of our Academic All-Stars for representing our school with such distinction.



Bath Central School District

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