

theHive

Build • Educate • Empower

BALDWINSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 - ISSUE 186

WWW.BVILLE.ORG



Season's Greetings!

On behalf of Superintendent Dr. Joseph M. DeBarbieri, the Baldwinsville Board of Education, administrators, teachers and staff, we would like to say Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to our Baldwinsville Bees!



2023 Holiday Greeting Card Contest Winner:

Dorothy Nimeh

5th Grade
McNamara



All Baldwinsville CSD students to receive free meals starting in January

The Baldwinsville Central School District Food Service Program is pleased to announce that every enrolled student in the district will be eligible to receive a free breakfast and a free lunch meal every school day effective Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

The United States Department of Agriculture expanded access to the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) grant program, which allows eligible schools participation in the National School Lunch and School

Breakfast Programs to offer school meals at no charge to all students. The district previously did not qualify for the grant program.

When we return from our holiday break, EVERY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day regardless of the family's household income. Milk is free with a full meal. This program is for students ONLY.

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Superintendent's Message

As I reflect on the first four months of the 2023-2024 school year, I'm incredibly proud of our students and staff. I make it a priority to spend time in all of our school buildings each week, and I'm incredibly impressed by the progress that is occurring in our classrooms. Our students are reaching goals, overcoming obstacles and mastering new skills every day.

From the artwork that covers the hallway walls to the completed projects displayed throughout the buildings, it's easy to see why I'm so impressed. So far this year, I've had the privilege to witness our athletes bring home Section III Championships and I've cheered as our actors shined on

stage in "Finding Nemo Jr." I sat in the bleachers at the JMA Wireless Dome as our Marching Bees wowed the crowd during the state championships and I handed out dozens of Certificates of Excellence to our students and staff. It has all been an incredible honor to celebrate our students and staff.

As we approach the end of 2023, let us celebrate all of the accomplishments our students have made in the classroom, on the field, on the stage and everywhere in between!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year, Bees. We'll see you in 2024!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph M. DeBarbieri
Superintendent of Schools



**B'ville Bees
raise \$7,196
in inaugural
district-wide
Paige's
Pajamarama!**



Food Service

“Food Service” *Continued from Page 1*

“Participation in the CEP grant program will ensure that all our students never leave school without a meal,” said BCSD School Lunch Director Donna Rice. “It is crucial to a student’s health and their overall well-being to have school breakfast and lunch daily.”

Research shows that receiving free school lunches reduces food insecurity, obesity rates and poor health, Rice noted. Per CEP guidelines, for a meal to be free, students must take the minimum required components of a “complete meal” when in the cafeteria line. This means they must take at least three of the following items: meat, meat alternate, fruit, vegetable, bread grain or milk/juice. Additionally, one of the three items taken must be a fruit or vegetable.

The free breakfast and lunch will be added to every student’s meal account each day. Once those meals (one breakfast and one lunch per day) have been claimed, students have the ability to purchase additional items. Purchasing just milk will cost 85 cents. All full second meals will cost \$3.75. A la carte items and snacks will also be available for purchase. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the Food Service Department at 315-638-6038.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the CEP Program?

A: The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an alternative way to serve universal free breakfast and lunch to all students in schools. It is part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program. BCSD participates in this program each year.

Q: Why is the BCSD now able to participate in CEP?

A: Our district is now eligible due to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanding access to the program. Previously, in order to

qualify a district must collectively have an Identified Student Percentage of 40 percent or higher who are certified for free meals by any means other than the submission of individual paper applications, such as SNAP and Medicaid. This requirement was reduced from 40 to 25 percent.

Q: What are the advantages of participation?

A: In addition to all students receiving free breakfast and lunch, participation will remove the stigma that can be associated with being eligible for free and reduced meals as well as improve nutrition to students at risk. In addition, many working families on the cusp of receiving free and reduced meals will no longer have to worry about paying for their child(ren)’s school meals.

Q: What impact does this program have on school taxes?

A: There is no impact on school taxes. The BCSD Food Service Department’s budget is self-sustaining and separate from the annual school budget voted on by taxpayers each year.

Did you know?

Are you concerned your child is not eating the most important meal of the day? No need to worry, BCSD offers breakfast daily, which includes a serving of fruit, whole grain-rich items, and low fat or fat free milk. Our breakfasts are well balanced and follow standards backed by the best nutritional science available.

What are the benefits of eating Breakfast?

- Improved focus and concentration in school
- Lack of hunger
- Nutritional Value
- Improves your mood
- Overall, better health

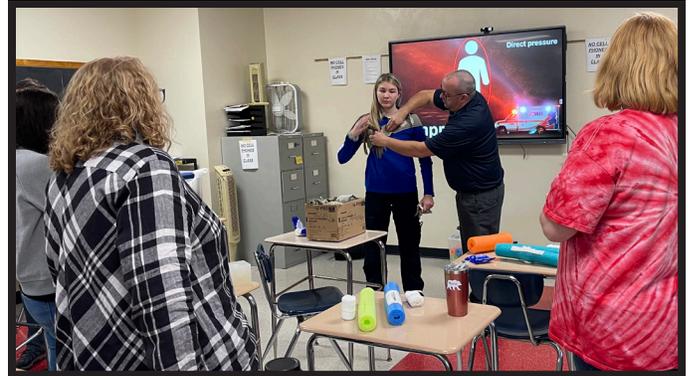


Health Services

District adds additional AEDs, continues to offer CPR/AED training to staff

In January 2023, over 23 million people watched as 24-year-old professional football player Damar Hamlin tragically suffered a cardiac arrest on the field during a NFL Monday Night Football game in Cincinnati. Thankfully, team trainers and other sideline personnel initiated prompt CPR and used an AED to administer a shock to his heart within minutes of his collapse, ultimately saving his life with their rapid and skilled response.

“In response to this tragic event, our district has continued to reevaluate our AED program and has added additional AEDs districtwide,” said School Nursing Supervisor Katie Cazzoli. “In partnership with American Medical Response (AMR) locally, and our District Safety Officer, the district continues to offer CPR/AED training for staff.”



During the district’s recent Superintendent’s Conference Day held November 7th, 2023, AMR conducted CPR/AED training for staff as well as Stop the Bleed training for the entire health services team as part of our emergency preparedness response.

COVID-19 AND HEALTH REMINDERS

- If your child is symptomatic, do not send them to school.
- If the child has or has had a fever in the last 24 hours the child must remain home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- There is no longer a universal masking mandate. If a student or staff member wears a mask, whether by choice or requirement, they will be allowed to do so. It is expected that each individual’s right to mask or not is free from stigmatization or bullying.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 isolation is required for 5 days following the start of symptoms. The child can return to school on day 6 if symptoms are improving and the child has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. A mask should be worn on days 6-10.
- At-home COVID test kits are available at any school building.
- Report all absences to the school attendance office.



Have you sent in your physical exam form to your school?

- NYS Education Law requires all public school students to have a health exam when they are a new student in a school district and when they enter Pre-K or K, and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, & 11.
- The exam must be completed by a NYS licensed physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.
- Physical exams are valid for the 12 months prior to the start of the school year.
- It is suggested that the exam be performed by the family physician, who best knows the child. The family physician is better able to judge any change or deviation in the child’s state of health.
- Visit our the “Physicals” tab on our “Health Services” page of our website or use the QR Code to download the physical exam form.



Announcements



Baldwinsville
Central School District
Build - Educate - Empower

2024-2025

**UPK & KINDERGARTEN
PRE-REGISTRATION**

NOW OPEN

**Pre-register by
January 26, 2024
to receive
registration
information**

Visit our
Registration
Page on our
website!
www.bville.org

SCAN ME



Community Cafe



**Wednesday, January 31, 2024
6 to 8 p.m.**

C.W. Baker High School
Cafeteria

**Topics: Funding Improvements and
Building the Future**

SHARING IDEAS &
PERSPECTIVES ON IMPORTANT
TOPICS IMPACTING OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY

JOIN US



Registration Required

Link available soon on www.bville.org

Important information about Emergency Closings and ParentSquare notifications

The safety of our students and staff is one of our highest priorities at the Baldwinsville Central School District. The decision to cancel/delay school or cancel after-school/evening activities will be based on several factors, including the weather forecast and current road conditions.

In the event that we do cancel/delay school or cancel after-school/evening activities, we will use ParentSquare to alert parents, guardians and staff. This system sends an automated voice message, text message and an email to families.

We will also post information on our website and on our social media pages, and we will notify local media outlets.

ParentSquare allows for users to set their preferred notification settings. Users can update when and how

they want to receive notifications from their school and the district office. Emergency notifications, such as canceling or delaying school, will be sent as an alert, which overrides your notification settings. For more information on ParentSquare notifications, visit the ParentSquare website: www.parentsquare.com

**Parents/Guardians
will be notified via call,
text and email for all
emergency
announcements
through ParentSquare.**



ParentSquare



**SCAN
ME**



Office of Curriculum & Instruction

The Office of Curriculum & Instruction is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of curriculum and instructional practices throughout the district. Our primary goal is to ensure that our curriculum remains current, relevant and responsive to the needs of all students. To achieve this, we actively organize and facilitate professional learning opportunities for staff, keeping them informed about the latest teaching methods, technologies and educational trends.

To enhance our practices, we analyze data related to curriculum and instruction, identifying successful approaches based on evidence-based research. Our office also diligently monitors compliance with state and federal regulations and policies that impact the daily operations of our public school district. For a glimpse into a few exciting developments within our department, be sure to explore some of the ongoing initiatives!

Technology

The District has successfully launched ParentSquare! By unifying multiple tools into one communications app and service, ParentSquare provides a seamless experience for parents and staff. Parents will be able to keep track of news, activities and events from all their children's schools in one place. Since the launch, there have been over 22,119 Direct Messages, 3,130 Photos/Videos Shared and 1,475 Posts, just to name a few!

Elementary

Elementary students are making music! Starting this year, elementary orchestra and band students are being provided an instrument if they want to join an ensemble. The rental cost of instruments is a heavy burden for

many families, and we wanted to give this opportunity to students who want to explore music. Research supports that music education helps students develop language and reasoning skills, improves memorization and coordination, and helps kids stay in school. We also know that it promotes a sense of community and belonging for our students. Now, that's music to our ears! Learn more on page 9.

Secondary

At the secondary level, we officially have 34 students who are on track to earn the Seal of Biliteracy! The NYS Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school seniors who have attained and demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. Students who successfully complete the requirements are awarded a seal that is affixed to their diploma, along with a certificate and medal. This is the district's eighth year offering this opportunity to students and we are proud to highlight the importance of bilingualism locally as we prepare students to enter a global community.

Accountability

Did you know our school district provides an interactive report card, available on our website? You can learn more about student involvement, academics, social-emotional needs, grades, discipline, and attendance. Our goals in providing this data quarterly are to celebrate the successes of Baldwinsville students and staff, monitor and examine areas in which support is needed, and to remain transparent in our work. Visit www.bville.org, and the link to our District Report Card can be found in the About Us section!



District News

Baldwinsville Community Athletic Hall of Fame nominations open

Baldwinsville Community Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize athletes, coaches, and supporters who have made significant contributions to the Baldwinsville Central School District athletic program through their service, performance, dedication, commitment and accomplishments. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to:

- Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators, and Baldwinsville supporters.
- Reconnect those individuals and their families with the Baldwinsville Central School.
- To deepen the current student-athletes' understanding and appreciation for the history of Baldwinsville athletics by seeking their participation.
- Foster pride; promote good sportsmanship, scholarship and citizenship in our school and community

An individual may be nominated for induction into the Hall of Fame in one of three categories:

Student Athlete

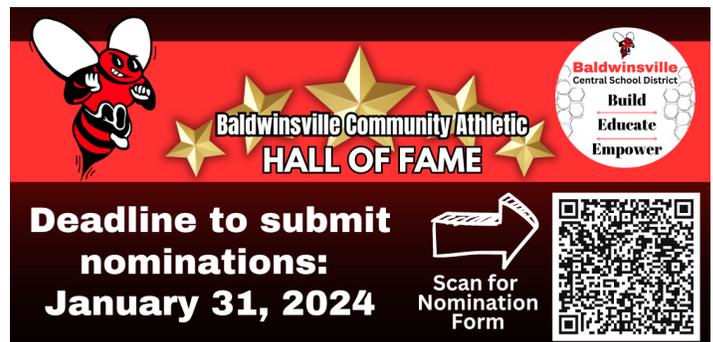
- Graduated from Baldwinsville 10 years ago or more by the end of June of the current year
- Received All-State Awards
- Received All-Section/League
- Recognized winner for league, section, state awards

Coach

- Coached within the District for more than 10 years
- Served with distinction in their sport programs
- Retired from coaching for 5 years or more by June of the current year
- Note: Selections in this category may be limited per year at the sole discretion of the Hall of Fame Executive Selection Committee

Honorary/Contributor

- Went above and beyond for the student-athletes at Baldwinsville
- A person who has distinguished him/herself in his/her professional endeavors and interpersonal relationships that reflect well on the honoree, his/her character and their school
- Please Note: Selections in this category may be limited per year at the sole discretion of the Hall of Fame Executive Committee.



The banner features a red background with a cartoon bee mascot on the left. In the center, the text reads "Baldwinsville Community Athletic HALL OF FAME" with three gold stars above it. On the right, there is a circular logo for Baldwinsville Central School District with the motto "Build Educate Empower". Below the text, it says "Deadline to submit nominations: January 31, 2024" with a white arrow pointing right and the text "Scan for Nomination Form". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

New school bus tracking app coming soon: Traversa Ride 360

The District Transportation Department is proud to announce that it will be implementing a new app during the 2023-2024 school year that allows families and students to look up bus route information, receive real-time alerts and notifications, and will allow tracking the location of school buses in real-time.

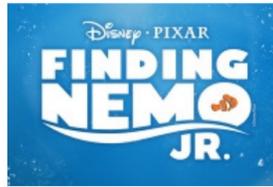
Traversa Ride 360 is a mobile app for Apple and Android devices to



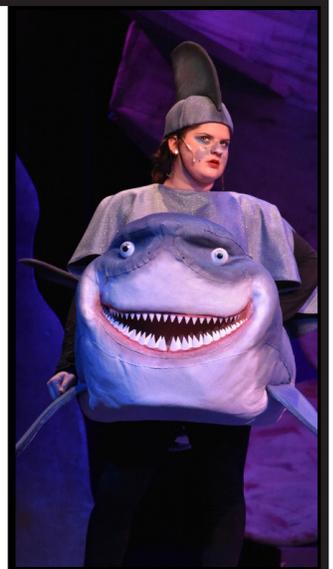
help ensure students never miss the bus again. Ride 360 allows parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route and pick-up time. Families can use a mobile device, tablet, or desktop to view this information.

More information and download directions will be available to families when the implementation is complete.

Fine Arts



**Congratulations to
the Cast and Crew
of the Fall 2023
production of
"Finding Nemo Jr."**



Bees perform at NYSSMA All-State Conference

Our seventh grade band from Ray Middle School performed at the NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester on December 2nd under the direction of Tim Moshier. They were the only middle school band to be invited to perform. World-renowned composer Sean O'Loughlin worked with the student musicians for their performance. We also had three C.W. Baker High School take part in the conference. Congratulations to Ethan Haahr, Lundy Langstaff and Chase McElyea. Go Bees!



Queen Bee!

**Congratulations, Marching Bees,
on an amazing season!**



Fine Arts

‘Every kid who wants to play will’: District to provide musical instruments to all interested elementary students at no cost

The cost of buying or renting a musical instrument will no longer be a determining factor in whether a Baldwinsville Central School District elementary student joins the band or orchestra program.

“Every kid who wants to play will!” said Randall Bennett, the band teacher at Elden and Palmer elementary schools.

The district offers orchestra and band to students starting in third grade. Music instruction and lessons are held during the course of the school day similar to chorus, physical education, art and other special areas. However, the major difference is the cost associated with participating in band or orchestra. The responsibility of buying or renting an instrument falls on the families.

“This isn’t a small expense,” Bennett said. “Instruments can cost thousands of dollars to buy and renting isn’t cheap. Renting can be \$30 to \$40 a month, and if a family has more than one child, that cost adds up.”

The cost can be a major reason why a student doesn’t sign up for band or orchestra. Superintendent Dr. Joseph M. DeBarbieri said the district doesn’t want the cost to stand in the way of a student learning how to play an instrument.

“We provide textbooks, gym equipment, art supplies and sports jerseys, so why wouldn’t we provide instruments, if we can,” DeBarbieri said.

During the 2023-2024 budget development process, DeBarbieri and his leadership team determined that an increase in Foundation Aid would help offset the costs of purchasing instruments for third, fourth and fifth grade students to use. The initiative was presented first to the community budget advisory committee and it received support from the group. Next the initiative was presented to the Board of Education and included in the 2023-2024 budget, which was adopted by the school board and approved by voters in May 2023.

“We know how much music education positively impacts the education of students,” DeBarbieri said. “In exploring this initiative, we have found that it has had positive results in other school districts. Success was measured by increase in student participation in music programs through high school, growth in academic achievement and students developed stronger relationships with their peers.”

Casey Vanderstouw, high school band teacher and director of the Marching Band and Pep Band, said he’s excited to see more students having access to musical instruments.

“When I began band lessons as a fourth grader, having access to a quality instrument was a serious concern for my family,” Vanderstouw said. “Seeing our school district take steps to alleviate that concern for beginning band students and families is heartwarming and will undoubtedly open the door for more student musicians to explore performing in band and

orchestra. Hopefully, having early access to quality musical instruments will lead to further retention in our programs as these students continue their musical exploration into junior and senior high school.”

All of the elementary schools are seeing an increase in participation in band and orchestra for this school year.

“This is a great opportunity,” Bennett said. “Learning something in a new way helps the brain function in other areas. Music education also gives kids another outlet to express themselves. It all goes to the overall education of the student.”

Dr. DeBarbieri said supplying students with instruments is supported by our district’s mission, vision, goals and beliefs.

“Students’ involvement in music will allow us to address literacy, overall academic progress, help students build self-confidence and strengthen relationships,” Dr. DeBarbieri said. “It’s a win-win!”



Athletics



Go Bees: Fall 2023 Champions

- **Boys Soccer Team** -- Section III Class AAA, NYSPHSAA Regional Champions and finished the season as the NYSPHSAA Class AAA State runner up.
- **Girls Volleyball Team** -- Section III Class AAA Champions.
- **Swimmer Eva Smith** - Section Champion in the 100-yard Backstroke and the 50-yard Freestyle and placed first in the state qualifiers in both of these events. She competed in the NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming Championship where she placed 8th overall in the 100 yard backstroke and placed 18th overall in the 50 free.
- **Swimmer Olivia McManus** -- Section Champion in the 100-yard Butterfly.
- **Girls Varsity Tennis players Sonia Nadzan and Elaina “Lainey” Nesbitt** -- Sectional III Championship for Doubles and competed at NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Championship.
- **Girls Varsity Tennis player Mira Nadzan** -- Sectional III Championship for singles and competed at NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Championship.
- **Girls Varsity Tennis player Ayla Kalfass** -- Competed in the NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Championships in singles.
- **Boys and Girls Cross Country runners** -- Competed at the NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships.
 - **Girls XC:** Kamryn Barton placed 30th.
 - **Boys XC:** Noah Covert placed 45th and Ryan Wilson placed 76th.

Achievements

C.W. Baker High School Announces the Class of 2024 Baker's Dozen

C.W. Baker High School is proud to announce this year's Baker's Dozen. The Baker's Dozen represents the 13 students that have the highest weighted GPA in the Class of 2024.

Congratulations to each and every one of the Baker's Dozen, listed in order by GPA, on your success:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Kelsey Dwyer | 8) Jack Forman |
| 2) Emma Huhtala | 9) Nela Loftin |
| 3) Jessica Witz | 10) Emily Giocondo |
| 4) Ryan Wilson | 11) Raegyn Wells |
| 5) Angelee Overbey | 12) Leah VerSchneider |
| 6) Andrew Jung | 13) Ava Wickes |
| 7) Sofia Beck | |



Leah VerSchneider is missing from the photo.



Students selected for 2024 Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute

Congratulations to Kairi Rodriguez, Sofia Beck, KeiraAnn Remington and Isabella Clark (missing from photo). This program encourages the participation of Hispanic students in public policy issues by learning about the legislative process. Delegates show great leadership potential. This institute will be held in March in Albany.

"I'm retired and I didn't want to sit home all day! This is a great place to be!"
--Patti

WE ARE HIRING!

We are seeking Food Service Helpers and Substitutes.
We are also seeking substitute bus drivers and other positions!

Baldwinsville Central School District

Join our Hive

Apply Online!

SCAN ME

Bville.org > Departments > Human Resources



Baldwinsville
 Central School District
 Build - Educate - Empower
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 Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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School News For
 POSTAL PATRON
 (dated material)



2023 Holiday Greeting Card Contest



Dorothy Nimeh
 5th Grade
 McNamara



FINALISTS



Elizabeth Boonamnaysuk
 5th Grade
 Palmer



Ava Dantonello
 3rd Grade
 Palmer



Nolan Dantonello
 Kindergarten
 Palmer



Jack Kipnis
 4th Grade
 Palmer



Ty Murphy
 2nd Grade
 Van Buren



Maya Sheets
 3rd Grade
 Palmer



Payton Shults
 3rd Grade
 Palmer



Allison Simpson
 5th Grade
 McNamara



Everett Simpson
 2nd Grade
 McNamara



The Hive Baldwinsville Central School District

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 Baldwinsville, NY 13027
 (315) 638-6043

- Dr. Joseph M. DeBarbieri**
Superintendent of Schools
- Ms. Renee M. Burnett**
*Assistant Superintendent for
 Curriculum, Instruction &
 Assessment*
- Mr. David H. Kilcourse**
*Assistant Superintendent for
 Human Resources*
- Ms. Karrie L. LaMacchia**
*Assistant Superintendent for
 Student Services*
- Ms. Kimberly A. Vile**
*Assistant Superintendent for
 Management Services*
- Mrs. Tiffany E. Turner**
Business Official

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President
- Mr. Andrew Henty**
Vice President
- Mr. Wayne Davison Jr.**
- Mr. Luke Gasowski**
- Mr. Donald R. Miller**
- Ms. Christy Pavetto**
- Mrs. Sam (Sherry) Schraven**
- Ms. Mya Pangaro**
Ex-Officio Student Member

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