



FOCAL POINT

Congratulations To The Class of 2020

Congratulations to this year's Class of 2020 top-academically ranked students: Valedictorian Siomara Caballero, Salutatorian Justine Bloom, Caitlin Ashton, Emily Chaback, John Mercovich, Cambria Kinkelaar, Annabella Vurraro, Sara Fraser, Jillian Menzie, Chloe Shuskey, Alexander Dean, and Nathan Zwerka.



Siomara Caballero
Valedictorian

Siomara Caballero is treasurer of the National Honor Society, Jr. Teller for the school's branch of the Tonawanda Valley Federal Credit Union, and a member of Spanish Club. She is also a member of PageTurners, which has advanced to the regional championship for the past two years, winning it in 2019. She is a member of Math League; where she was awarded Highest Scoring Freshman, has been

a regional representative for the past four years and a state representative for the past three years, and the team as a whole placed first in the league twice in the last four years. Siomara is co-captain of the Varsity Cross Country team for which she has earned two sectional patches, is a four-time Genesee Region All-Star, All Greater Rochester Honorable Mention, and Most Valuable Runner for her team. She has also played on the Varsity Basketball team for two years. She rounds out her year running for the Varsity Track team; where she is a three-time Genesee Region All-Star and All Greater Rochester Honorable Mention, she has been named her team's Most Improved, Most Respected, and Most Valuable track athlete throughout her career. In 2015, Siomara competed in the North American Indigenous Games, medaling in four running events. Siomara has volunteered for the Gilliam Grant's Track Camp and Santa's Workshop for the last three years. She attends Ss. Columba-Brigid Church in Buffalo, where she participates as a lector and altar server; she received the Bishop's Altar Server of the Year Award in 2020. Siomara is on Genesee Community College's Provost's List, and has graduated with her Associates in Science through the college's ACE Program. Siomara has been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student, a College Board National

Hispanic Scholar, and a QuestBridge Scholar. She is a member of the Hundred Club for achieving perfect scores in the Living Environments and Global Studies Regents exams. She has also been awarded the University of Rochester Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award, the Dartmouth Alumni Book Club Award, the Rensselaer Medalist Award, a Hispanic Endowment Fund Scholarship, and an Academic Letter and Pin. Siomara is the daughter of Michelle and Miguel Caballero and plans to attend Harvard College to concentrate in Physics.



Justine Bloom
Salutatorian

Justine Bloom is the treasurer for Student Council, Yearbook Committee, and Drama Club, as well as the Vice President of Alliance for Equality. She participates on BB's Varsity Volleyball program, envirothon team, and Roc2Change group. Justine has been a part of the Singing Silhouettes since 2017, and in her senior year has sung with both the Area All State women's choir and Conference All State mixed

choir. She has also sung in the RPO Holiday Pops concert series since 2018 and has participated in the school musical since 2017, starring in lead roles for the past two productions. Justine is a participant in her church's choir. She is the recipient of the Language Other Than English Department Award (2017), Student of The Quarter Award (4th Quarter, Sophomore Year, 2018), and Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology (2019). Justine is planning on attending college at SUNY Fredonia, where she has been admitted into the honors program to major in Environmental Science.

Top 10 Class of 2020



Caitlin Ashton is a member of the Senior High Art Club, participates in tennis, and is a member of a youth bowling league. Participated in varsity swimming her freshman year. She is a volunteer at GoArt, an organization dedicated to developing the cultural life in Genesee and Orleans Counties by facilitating the creation, presentation and experience

of the arts. Art is very important to Caitlin and she would love to continue expanding on her creative abilities. Caitlin has received an Academic Varsity letter and pin, and received the Computing Medal Scholarship, as well as the Elmira College Keys award. Caitlin is the daughter of Christine and Shane Ashton and is planning on attending The College at Brockport to major in Computer Science.



John Mercovich is a member of the senior high Math League Team and participates in Varsity Tennis where he aided in securing two league titles. Throughout high school, John challenged himself with Advanced Placement classes, achieving a score of 5 on the 2019 AP World History exam. John achieved 3rd in the senior class rankings of 2020

and has plans to attend RIT in the fall semester. I'd like to thank my teachers, family, Laffy Taffy, and all my friends for motivating me to be my best throughout high school.



Emily Chaback is a member of National Honor Society, Math League, and the Student Council where she serves as the Public Relations Advisor. She participates in the Singing Silhouettes, and has been a part of the Byron-Bergen choir program since 4th grade. Emily is a part of the Seneca Park Zoo education team, and has spent the past year

volunteering at the zoo to teach guests about how they can protect the environment and help with conservation efforts. Emily is proud to say that she has taken seven AP courses during her time at Byron-Bergen. She would like to thank her family and her friends for helping her and supporting her with all of her academic pursuits. Emily is planning on attending the University of Hartford to double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Pre-Law.



Cambria Kinkelaar is a member of Math League, PageTurners, and National Honor Society. She has been a member of the Tennis team since 7th grade. Cambria has been part of the band since 7th grade, playing the Alto Saxophone and joined the Singing Silhouettes this year. She has taken part in the All County Band every year of high school and has been

first chair for the past two years. This year, Cambria received the RIT Performing Arts Scholarship and plans to continue her love for music in college. Next year, Cambria plans on attending the Rochester Institute of Technology to study Engineering Exploration. She would like to thank her family, friends, and Laffy Taffy for their support throughout high school.



Annabella (Abby) Vurraro is a member of the Varsity Volleyball team, where she has been elected captain for two years and has won awards such as: Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, Genesee League All-Star, Section V All-Star, Greater Rochester Player of the Week, and has been selected for the Third Team All-State. She is also a part of the Varsity

Softball team where she has been elected captain for one year and has received Most Respected Player. Abby also participates in National Honor Society and Varsity Club. Abby has been a part of band for eight years, playing the trombone. Abby has been on the High Honor Roll for her entire high school career and is a part of the Hundred Club for receiving a grade of 100% on her English 11 Regents. She has also received her Academic Letter and pin. Abby has also received the Principal's Award, the Physical Education Department Award, and the George Eastman Young Leaders Award.



Sara Fraser is a member of National Honor Society, PageTurners, the TVFCU Junior Banking Program, and is the Vice President and Treasurer of Steppin' Up Club. She participates in Varsity Volleyball and Tennis as well as the musical theater program.

Sara has also been a member of the band for the past 9 years where she plays trumpet and french

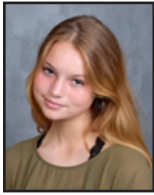
horn. Outside of school she plays the violin as well. Sara is on the Rochester Teen Book Festival Advisory Board where she has volunteered to help plan and execute the 2020 festival. Sara is a receiver of the University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award as well as the Saint Michael's Book Award for Academic Achievement & Social Science. Sara is the daughter of Mary and Edward Fraser and plans to attend SUNY Binghamton.



Jillian Menzie is a member of Varsity Club, Spanish club, Alliance for Equality, Mock Trial, and is the President of National Honor Society and Executive Student Council. She has participated in soccer, basketball, and softball, as well as being the school mascot. She is in a local bowling league and holds the highest youth female average in the Genesee

Region. Jillian has been a percussionist in band, and a member of choir for the last 9 years. Outside of school, Jillian is an Explorer for the Bergen Fire Department, a Girl Scout, and participates in Young Life. Jillian is very community oriented, and has logged approximately 250 hours of community service during her high school career. She has received the Genesee County Youth Recognition Award, and the Spotlight on Youth Award for participating in and organizing a fundraiser through which she has raised \$20,000 for the ARC. Jillian has received an Academic Varsity letter. She has been a recipient of the Principal's Award, Health Faculty Department Award, Spanish Faculty Department Award, and the RIT Innovation and Creativity Award. She has been on the High Honor Roll and Effort Roll for the entirety of her high school education. Jillian is the youngest of six children to Tammy and Gerald Menzie. She plans to attend SUNY Brockport for Nursing and ROTC, join the ARMY National Guard, and be the best soccer mom ever.

Top 10 Class of 2020



Chloe Shuskey is a member of National Honor Society, Varsity Club and is a scholar tri-athlete. She participated in soccer, basketball, and softball as well as travel soccer and AAU basketball. Chloe has been a member of the Singing Silhouettes, an elite singing group, for three years and has also been a cast member of the musical for several years. Chloe has been awarded the Foundation Scholarship at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she will major in Music and Theatre.



Alexander Dean has participated in football, wrestling, and baseball throughout high school, being on Varsity for three years in each sport. Alex was pulled up to varsity for the 2017 sectional run that ended with the first Sectional championship for football in school history; followed by being a starter on the team the next two seasons. This season in wrestling, Alex was able to earn a spot on the GR League All-Star team, other awards include Most Respected Wrestler in 2019 and 2020, and placing top six in sectionals, after a season ending injury in the semi-finals of the tournament. In 2019, Alex was also given the Tri-Athlete Award. Outside of athletics, Alex is also a member of National Honor Society, works at ANG Markets as a stock clerk, and is part of the Bergen Fire Department. Last year Alex received the George H. Ball Community Achievement Award at Academic Recognition Night, along with his Academic Varsity letter. Alex is the son of Garrett and Deanna Dean and plans to attend Mansfield University with a major in Business Management, and play on the football team.



Nathan Zwerka has been a part of the National Honor Society, Strategic Games Club, Math League, Mock Trial, and Student Council where he has served as Vice-President/President over the years. Throughout his experience at Byron-Bergen he participated in soccer, tennis, and Isshinryu Karate where he was eventually promoted to "shodan" (first degree black belt). He has also received scholar cards for his academic success as well as an Academic Varsity letter and pins. He was awarded, the RIT Innovative and Creativity Scholarship Award his junior year. Nathan has been volunteering at his church "The Father's House" for 11 years and takes passion in this community. This upcoming fall semester Nathan plans to attend Monroe Community College to major in Sports Management and also striving to become an USSF Soccer Referee of the professional level.

CLASS OF



Congratulations To The Class of 2020

Julianna Amesbury

SUNY Genesee Community College
Psychology

Caitlin Ashton

SUNY Brockport
Computer Science and Math

Justine Bloom

SUNY Fredonia
Environmental Science

Ariana Bobzien

SUNY Niagara County Community College
Surgical Technician

Lucila Bobzien

SUNY Niagara County Community College
Chemical Dependency Counseling

Megan Bogue-Lamarca

SUNY Genesee Community College
Business Administration and Psychology

Ryan Bridge

SUNY Genesee Community College
Criminal Justice

Shelby Bridge

SUNY Genesee Community College
General Studies

Sydney Brown

New York Academy of Fire Science

Alexander Brumsted

Carpenters Union

Arthur Burke

Undeclared

Dominick Butz

Work

Siomara Caballero

Harvard College
Physics and Math

Alexis Calarco

Work

Jacob Capostagno

Work

Hannah Catalino

Houghton College
Childhood Inclusive Education

Emily Chaback

University of Hartford
Psychology and Criminal Justice

Alexander Dean

Mansfield University
Business Management

Shaina DeJesus

Music and Acting

Jacey Donahue

SUNY Brockport
Psychology and Social Work

Elizabeth Donnelly

SUNY Alfred State
Veterinary Technology

Ashley Drury

SUNY Genesee Community College
Veterinary Technology

Madison Farnsworth

SUNY Monroe Community College
Psychology

Kyle Foeller

SUNY Genesee Community College
Business Administration

Sara Fraser

SUNY Binghamton
Undeclared

Kelsey Fuller

Canisius College
Business Marketing

Emily Gonyea

Liberty University
Undeclared

Chad Green

Work

Amaya Gunther

SUNY Brockport
Healthcare Administration and Business

Nicholas Hackman

SUNY Genesee Community College
Computer Programming

Zachary Hannan

SUNY Brockport
Criminal Justice

Evan Harter

WNY Tech Academy, SUNY Genesee Community College
Accounting

Alexander Heatherman

United States Marine Corps

Coltin Henry

University at Buffalo
Medical Technology

Isaiah Herrmann

Undeclared

Rose Hubbard

SUNY Finger Lakes Community College
Fine Arts

Rick Hubbard, Jr.

Army National Guard

Mikaela Hubler

SUNY Brockport
Nursing

Alec Johnson

Work

Emily Kaczmarek

Work
Healthcare

Cambria Kinkelaar

Rochester Institute of Technology
Engineering

Chad Kupfer

Four-Year College
Criminal Justice

Travis Lambert

St. John Fisher College,
Army National Guard
Criminal Justice

Melissa MacCowan

SUNY Plattsburgh
Psychology

Trevor Mathisen**Jillian Menzie**

SUNY Brockport,
Army National Guard
Nursing

John Mercovich

Rochester Institute of Technology
Mechanical Engineering

Cynthia Morse

SUNY Genesee Community College
Nursing

Enson Nieves

SUNY Genesee Community College
General Studies

Michael Olander

Work

Courtney Pakusch

SUNY Genesee Community College
Theatre Arts

Nina Pernesky-Crosby

Animation

Samuel Pringle

SUNY Buffalo State
Undeclared

Cynthia Ramos

Work

Jose Ramos-Francisco

Work

Ethan Ray

United States Marine Corps

Clayton Sadler

Army National Guard
Military Police

Congratulations To The Class of 2020

Wyatt Sando

United States Air Force
Security Forces

Auburn Schwartzmeyer

University at Buffalo
Civil Engineering

Hannah Seppe

Work

Caleb Sharpe

Roberts Wesleyan College
Physical Education

Chloe Shuskey

Eckerd College
Music

Kevin Smith

SUNY Finger Lakes
Community College
Business Administration

Peter Smith

Massachusetts College of
Liberal Arts
English Adolescent Education

Brandon Stefanski

SUNY Genesee Community
College
General Studies

Isabelle Stevens

SUNY Genesee Community
College
Education

Cameron Sweet

SUNY Genesee Community
College
General Studies

Garrett Swinter

SUNY Monroe Community
College
Computer Science

Miriam Tardy

SUNY Genesee
Childhood Inclusive Education

Jose Tirado-Cardona

Work

Justice Towne

New Mexico State University
Alamogordo
Engineering

Hannah VanSkiver

St. Michael's College
Political Science

Annabella Vurraro

Penn State
Kinesiology

Bryce Walker

Daemen College
Animation

Brett Whalin

Work

Isabella Wilder

SUNY Fredonia
Political Science, Social
Studies Adolescence
Education

Benjamin Wilkins

SUNY Genesee Community
College General Studies

Grant Williams

SUNY Brockport
Undeclared

Luke Williams

SUNY Monroe Community
College
Precision Machining

Bryce Yockel

Baldwin Wallace University
Undeclared

Braeden Zimmerman

SUNY Morrisville
Auto Body Technology

Nathan Zwerka

SUNY Monroe Community
College
Sports Management

NEWS from the Board

The Board of Education hopes that this newsletter finds you and your family well during these very unsettling times. It has been an unpredictable, unbelievable, and uncharted time for us socially, emotionally, and educationally.

At the writing of this article we don't know the outcome of our school budget, but want to thank everyone who has sent their ballots back to be counted. We have seen voter participation grow 3 fold! Over 1,100 ballots and counting!

The Board would like to thank and congratulate families on how they were able to become virtual educators and your efforts to help further your child's learning. We know that it was stressful, difficult, and that everyone did their best. Perhaps some adults missed their calling to become a teacher and others are extremely happy that they did not pursue teaching as a career!

For our seniors graduating, CONGRATS!!! We know that it has been a difficult and disappointing end to all these years of learning. We understand that you are missing the "traditional" send off and celebrations of a senior year. However we would encourage you not to dwell on what you've missed but what you have. There is the determination and creative ways that you did not let Covid-19 take everything. Your friendships are stronger, memories more important, celebrations more meaningful and now have started new traditions. You are the first class since 2005 to return to graduating from the BB campus, and the first outdoor senior parade to receive your cap and gown. You had home visits from Mr. Edwards and Mr. McGee and the great yard signs honoring your accomplishments for everyone to see and know the pride of your families. There are so many positive firsts from the Class

of 2020. A thought for your 20 year reunion (to play on the 20 in 2020) is to gather and celebrate with your prom theme, to show that the Corona virus may have delayed you but couldn't stop you!

So as you go out into the world, be your best self, do great things, remember your days at B-B fondly, and know that the Board supports and honors the Class of 2020.

Thank you to our community for the continued support for our schools and our students. Please stay safe and we hope for better days ahead.

Debi List

*Debra List, President
Board of Education*

Superintendent's Message



“ You are the Class of 2020. And you are survivors. There is nothing you can't do. ”

I would like to speak to our graduates. I know that you are not the same students who walked the halls of the High School mere months ago. You've changed. In the spring of your senior year, you were handed an adult burden, and found yourselves equal to it.

It is easy to look at this year as a series of missed opportunities. Missed sports seasons. Missed dances. Missed art shows. I am going to ask you to look harder. Look at what you have accomplished.

School, as you have always known it, disappeared overnight and yet you found the flexibility and dedication to complete your school work with a level of independence never before expected of you. You were suddenly separated from your peers and social supports and yet you found yourselves capable of reinventing relationships

and recreating community. Your world was flipped upside down without warning and you adapted.

And it was hard. All of those things were very hard. Now, I want to tell you why all of those things are so important.

You are adults now, and in your adult lives things will not always work out. Your job may suddenly change. You may find yourself far from your social support group. This is not the last time your world will flip upside down. But, you have already proven that you have the determination, flexibility, and creativity to reinvent your world and survive. And that is extraordinary.

You are the Class of 2020. And you are survivors. There is nothing you can't do.

So get out there, and do it.

High School DRUMLINE



The B-B campus reverberated with rhythm as Mr. Blieler and the high school percussionists commemorated the last day of school with the traditional drumline.

HELP WANTED

Do you have an interest in helping Byron-Bergen Central School District in the capacity of a

- **Substitute Bus Driver- we will train!**
- **Substitute Cleaner**
- **Substitute Food Service Worker**
- **Substitute Teacher**
- **Substitute Teacher Aide**

If so, please visit the Employment section of our website at www.bbschools.org (District tab Employment):

- For **Substitute Teacher**, visit our on-line web recruitment page at <https://bbschools.recruitfront.com> click the "Register" button at the bottom left, and register to become a new user and create your application for submission.
- For **Substitute Bus Driver, Substitute Cleaner, Substitute Food Service Worker, and Substitute Teacher Aide** please download and complete the Genesee County Civil Service Application located on the Employment section of our webpage and submit the application with letter of interest (and resume, if available) via email (pgunio@bbschools.org), fax (585-494-2613), or mail/deliver in person to: P. Gunio – District Office, Byron-Bergen CSD, 6917 West Bergen Road, Bergen, NY 14416.

Pesticide Notice

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation enacted a program that requires all schools to provide you with information about pesticide product applications made throughout the school year. Under State law, the school is required to maintain a list of parents, guardians, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour advance written notice prior to a pesticide application.

To register your name with the school to be on a 48-hour notification list, send a request to Byron-Bergen Central School District Office, 6917 W Bergen Rd., Bergen, NY 14416. A written request must be submitted annually.

Summer Meals ALL KIDS EAT FREE!

No paperwork necessary, Must be 18 or under for free meals

Byron-Bergen High School

Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 9th – Aug 13th, 2020 • 11:30-12:30 pm

Students or parents will be able to pick-up breakfast & lunch in one bag.

Please call 494-1220 ext 1015 for more info.

Other Sites and times:

Byron Community Park (Fireman's Park)

6357 NY-262, Byron NY

Monday - Friday 12 pm – 12:30 pm

Bergen Community Center

14 Buffalo St., Bergen NY

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Congratulations Retirees

Denise Baker is retiring from Byron-Bergen Central School District after 33 years. The quote that best describes her years of service is from Winnie the Pooh. “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard,” says Baker. “I was blessed that God placed me with all my little Byron-Bergen ‘honey bees!’”

Baker was hired by former Superintendent Bill Hayes as an elementary Special Education teacher. Retired Principal Thomas Biondolillo assigned her as a Consultant Teacher for English Language Arts and Math to grades three and four. While at Byron-Bergen, she also taught Kindergarten, first and second grades and the Wilson Reading Program for the last ten years.

“I was fortunate to have taught with a plethora of dedicated teachers, worked with an incredible support staff, enriched the lives of numerous wonderful children, appreciated our



conscientious custodial people, and was grateful for the continual support and opportunities of our administration. I have maintained lifetime friendships with colleagues and parents through the years.”

Baker would like to thank Bill Hayes and Tom Biondolillo for providing the opportunity to teach for the Byron-Bergen School District. “Mr. Hayes and Mr. Biondolillo were strong administrators. Together they displayed a perfect balance of integrity, passion, commitment, and motivation to their faculty and staff. In addition, I’d like to thank Judy Boyle and Donna Moscicki. They were wonderful communicators, extremely knowledgeable, strong advocates for our Special Education students, and Donna created the inception of our incredible Preschool program.”

In retirement, Baker is looking forward to spending additional time with her grandchildren, enjoying the winter months in Florida with her husband, Scott, playing in her flower gardens, and reading. Her travel plans include visits to Hawaii and the Top Ten Wonders of the West. “Our church group volunteers at House of Mercy and the Ronald McDonald House, so that’s also on the agenda.”

“I hope I’ve instilled a love for reading in all my students, along with perseverance, and grit. I’ve tried to instill confidence by telling them opportunities lie not so much in what we have, as what we do with what we have. If you give one hundred percent, then you’ve tried your best. But always keep striving!”

John Tomidy is retiring after 39 years of teaching secondary English, 35 of which have been at Byron-Bergen. He said that he’s ready for retirement but it feels strange for two reasons: 1) the conditions caused by the pandemic pause, and 2) the fact that he’s been going to school (in one way or another) for the last 55 years.

He is grateful to retired Superintendent Bill Hayes and former Principal Dr. Joseph Scanlan for hiring him at Byron-Bergen in 1983, thus commencing a career that he has found “extremely rewarding.”

Mr. Tomidy stated, “I have had the privilege of working with some quality people in the Byron-Bergen learning

community: students, parents, colleagues, administrators, and Board of Education members.” He added, “I hope that throughout it all, I was able to make my students think and my colleagues laugh.” In retirement, he is looking forward to reading, traveling with his wife Karen, spending more time with his (growing) family, and being exclusively on “Tomidy Time.”

He used a middle English quote from Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* to sum up his career:

“And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche.”



“I hope that throughout it all, I was able to make my students think and my colleagues laugh.”

Congratulations Retirees

Donna McJury is ending her 20 year teaching career at Byron-Bergen Central School District. Before coming to Byron-Bergen, she worked as a preschool teacher with 3 and 4 year olds at St. Mary's School in Batavia. "I started college when three of my four children were in college," said McJury. "I graduated from SUNY Geneseo in May 2000; by September I began teaching at Byron-Bergen as a Special Education teacher in the High School." As she is also certified to teach Social Studies, she has taught Global 9, US History, World War II, and PIG/Economics.

"I am proud of completing my college education and becoming a teacher with the support of my husband, Harold, family, and friends. Once I started, I was not going to give up! Thanks to my great family who have supported me throughout my teaching career. My two daughters, Julie and Shannon, are teachers at Churchville-Chili High School and we have had many in depth conversations about education. I am sure they will continue."

McJury enjoyed many aspects of teaching at Byron-Bergen. "I relish the personal connections with students and their families, getting to know each student's story, seeing their accomplishments, graduating and starting a new path is something I will cherish. Being advisor for Color Guard, co-advisor for Mock Trial, and

Student Council are activities where I witnessed great leadership and dedication in our students. I will miss the comradery and friendships made with so many people during my time at B-B. I will miss having lunches with Evelyn Hunt for the last 20 years. And of course, planning Halloween costumes with Evelyn Hunt and Alana Penna."

Some of McJury's favorite moments at Byron-Bergen include when the teachers danced to "Happy" at the Pep Assembly, B-B's Mock Trial Team winning the GLOW region competition with co-advisor Marian Gerhardy in 2014, and B-B's Colorguard marching with the band swinging their flags proudly.

In retirement, McJury plans to spend time volunteering at Crossroads House and other places. She also plans to travel with her family to Myrtle Beach and a long awaited 50th Anniversary trip. "Our Viking River Cruise to the Rhine was cancelled due to Covid-19. Sewing and gardening will be on my agenda as well as many other activities."

"Thanks to all who have made my time at Byron-Bergen a great experience. Each student and person I have worked with contributed to the teacher and person I have become. I will miss being a member of the Byron-Bergen High School Faculty. Now onto another chapter of my life."



"I relish the personal connections with students and their families, getting to know each student's story, seeing their accomplishments, graduating and starting a new path is something I will cherish."

Elementary PARADE



Byron-Bergen High School

Class of 2020 Awards & Scholarships

This list includes special recognition awards presented to Byron-Bergen High School Students at the virtual “Academic & Athletic Awards Night” as well as Music Awards originally scheduled to be given during Spring Concerts. (Awards and Scholarships given at graduation are not included here.)

“Academic and Athletic Awards Night”

**U of R Bausch & Lomb Honorary
Science Award**
Hope Hersom

Bergen Historical Society Award
Zachary Hannan

**Brian R. Ivison Memorial
Industrial Arts Award**
Travis Lambert

**Brian R. Ivison Memorial
Wrestling Award**
Alexander Dean

**The Byron-Bergen S.T.E.P. Booster
Humanitarian Leadership Scholarship**
Jillian Menzie

**Byron-Bergen Sports Booster
Scholar Athlete Award**
Siomara Caballero
Annabella Vurraro
Nathan Zwerka

**The Clarkson University High School
Achievement Award**
Alaura Rehwaldt

**The Clarkson University High School
Leadership Award**
Colby Leggo

Comeback Award
Madison Farnsworth
Emily Gonyea

**Community Achievement Award
from Keuka College**
Jonah Clare
Eden Goff
Veronica Duell

Dawn Gruendike Memorial Award
Jillian Menzie

Duane Streeter Memorial Award
Madison Farnsworth

The Elmira College Key Awards
Skylar Sharpe

The Emily Reis Memorial Scholarship
Siomara Caballero

The Faculty Department Award
Caitlin Ashton
Brody Baubie
Nicholas Baubie
Justine Bloom
Caleb Carlson
Daniels Dawson
Sara Goodman
Gabrielle Graff
Amaya Gunther
Mackenzie Hagen
Hope Hersom
Jackson Lundfelt
Martin Mac Connell
Jillian Menzie
Carter Prinzi
Victoria Rogoyski
Malachi Smith
Lily Stalica
Ciara Trigilio
Rito Vanegas
Annabella Vurraro
Isabella Wilder
Rose Wilson

Female Athlete of the Year
Kelsey Fuller
Miriam Tardy

**U of R Frederick Douglass and Susan
B. Anthony Award in Humanities and
Social Sciences**
Kelly Ireland

Gary Liles Memorial Award Trophy
Hannah Catalino
Travis Lambert

**U of R George Eastman Young
Leaders Award**
Nicholas Baubie

Male Athlete of the Year
Zachary Hannan
Bryce Yockel

**The Matthew Kota
Memorial Scholarship**
Travis Lambert

**Matthew Kota Memorial
Medical Scholarship**
Jillian Menzie

**Paul Smith Memorial
Wrestling Award**
Zachary Hannan

**The President’s Award for
Educational Excellence**
Siomara Caballero
Chad Kupfer
Sara Fraser
Amaya Gunther
Zachary Hannan
Mikaela Hubler
Cambria Kinkelaar
Jillian Menzie
Auburn Schwartzmeyer
Caleb Sharpe
Chloe Shuskey
Garrett Swinter
Annabella Vurraro
Grant Williams
Nathan Zwerka

Byron-Bergen High School

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“Academic and Athletic Awards Night”

Principal’s Award

Gabrielle Graff
Travis Lambert
Meghan Muscarella
Elizabeth Piper
Sarah Sue Streeter
Jorie Strzelecki

The RIT Innovation & Creativity Award

Carli Kirkwood
Colby Leggo

Superintendent’s Award

Jillian Menzie

Triple “C” Award

Deacon Smith

Samuel Landis Wiant Golf Award

Wyatt Sando

Wanda L. MacVean English Recognition Award

Amaya Gunther

The Rensselaer Medalist Award

Richard Denson

Saint Michael’s Book Award for Academic Achievement & Social Science

Joshua Fleming
Kelly Ireland

Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award

Andrew Parnapy

The RIT Computing Award

Richard Denson
Sara Goodman

The Stephanie Lynn Tooley Cheerleading Scholarship

Hope Hersom

U of R Xerox Award for Innovation & Information Technology

Andrew Parnapy

Music Awards

The Band Award

Sara Fraser
Coltin Henry
Rose Hubbard
Auburn Schwartzmeyer
Garrett Swinter
Annabella Vurraro
Benjamin Wilkins
Braeden Zimmerman

Byron-Bergen Music Booster Scholarship

Justine Bloom
Sara Fraser
Cambria Kinkelaar
Jillian Menzie
Isabelle Stevens
Hannah VanSkiver
Benjamin Wilkins

Choral Award

Justine Bloom
Sydney Brown
Emily Chaback
Jacey Donahue
Chloe Shuskey
Isabelle Stevens
Miriam Tardy
Isabella Wilder

Raymond E. Scott Memorial Award

Jillian Menzie
Miriam Tardy

Donna Terepka Piano Memorial Award

Cambria Kinkelaar

Vince Zarccone Award

Garrett Swinter
Annabella Vurraro

NYSSMA All-State Choral Award

Justine Bloom

Band & Chorus Achievement Award

Hannah Catalino
Shaina DeJesus
Cambria Kinkelaar
Jillian Menzie
Hannah VanSkiver

Byron-Bergen Musical Theater Award

Justine Bloom
Hannah Catalino
Sara Fraser
Courtney Pakusch
Chloe Shuskey
Isabelle Stevens

Singing Silhouette Leadership Award

Justine Bloom
Isabelle Stevens

John Philip Sousa Award

Jillian Menzie

Jr./Sr. High School *HAPPENINGS*

By: Patrick McGee, Principal



Thank you to all of our students and families for doing the best they can during these unprecedented times. Please know how I appreciate your tremendous support, flexibility, and understanding. As always our teachers and staff have been doing the best they can to help support you. Thank you for reciprocating this and doing the best you can. This is by no means a perfect situation and I just appreciate everyone making

the best out of the circumstances we were given. It truly is a privilege to work in such a special place.

As we reflect on the end of the year, we will greatly miss celebrating our usual end of the year events such as our concerts, spring athletic Sectional events, our annual Buzzin' Bistro, the different recognition nights for our student body and families, and all of our other end of the year traditions we have. We cannot wait to come together again and make up for some of our missed time together.

While all of our students and families have been affected by our school closing in many different ways, I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the Class of 2020. Through all of their accomplishments in and out of the classroom I want to highlight that 43 of the 82 students graduating have an 85 or higher cumulative average. We have students attending major colleges across the United States, including Ivy League and other highly esteemed universities, students enlisting in the military, students going right to accredited trade programs, and students beginning their post high school experience in other areas. I could go on and on about how proud I am of this class, but I am profoundly proud of the people they have become. They are kind, compassionate, resilient, and overall wonderful group of human beings. Thank you Class of 2020 for just doing and being you!

I know there are questions out there about the 2020-2021 school year. We will be providing you guidance as we get more information. I remain hopeful that "normalcy" is right around the corner.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. Go Bees!

Winter 2020 Scholar-Athletes

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors students that excel in the classroom at the end of each sport season. To receive this honor, each individual Varsity athlete must achieve a scholastic average of 90 or above grade-point average (GPA) during their sport season. Congratulations to the following Byron-Bergen winter season athletes:

Girls Basketball 94.19

Julianna Amesbury
Siomara Caballero
Elizabeth Donnelly
Kelsey Fuller
Kendall Phillips
Sasha Schramm
Chloe Shuskey
Miriam Tardy
Ella VanValkenburg

Boys Basketball 90.27

Nicholas Baubie
Alexander Brumsted
Mitchell Gonyea
Chad Green
Rick Hubbard
Travis Lambert
Wyatt Sando
Kevin Smith
Bryce Yockel

Wrestling BB/Elba 91.43

Jonah Clare
Daniels Dawson
Alexander Dean
Zachary Hannan
Haydin Perez
Travis Shallenberger
Malachi Smith
James Starowitz
Joshua Tardy
Braeden Zimmerman

Girls Swimming BB/LeRoy 93.42

Evelyn Babcock
Cassidy Ball
Charlotte Blake
Ariana Bobzien
Camryn Brookhart
Emily Gonyea
Alyssa Green
Emma Hobart
Peyton Koukides
Alaura Rehwaldt
Kathryn Salphine
Grace Shepard
Natalee Shepherd
Emma Starowitz

Sarah Sue Streeter
Jorie Strzelecki
Lilly Walker
Leyna Wheeler
Kylea Wright

Individual

Brett Babcock
Cameron Carlson
Brady Fix
Jackson Fix
Hope Hersom
Hanna Loewke
Auburn Schwartzmeyer
Alayna Streeter
Grant Williams



Elementary School NEWS

By Brian Meister, Principal



2020 will be a year we never forget. Never before have we experienced a global pandemic that resulted in such a long closure of school, while at the same time limiting so much of the positive personal interactions children enjoy outside of school. I am extremely grateful for the hard work and many efforts made by our faculty and staff to stay connected with our students and families. These past few months have shown us

that technology can be used to provide and support learning; however, it also showed us that the extent and effectiveness of distance learning cannot match that of teachers working closely and in proximity to students.

I would also like to thank our parents, families, and community for supporting and partnering with us to ensure that these past three months remained positive and productive through this time. It was wonderful to see families and students drive through for supply pick up, lunch pick up, and of course our District-wide parade. It is often said that education is a partnership between parents and school. That was true this year more than ever.

Each year I send out information regarding academic regression or what is often known as “the summer slide.” Research has shown that students who are not engaged in regular reading practices and literacy rich activities for a sustained period of time encounter a stagnation or decline in their reading skills. We typically see these students fall 1-3 reading levels during July and August. This drop in reading level means that the first few weeks of school is spent re-teaching skills and strategies to regain the prior year’s proficiency. This year, with school closing on March 13th, we may see even larger drops in reading levels requiring much longer for students to catch up.

Fortunately, there are ways that families can reduce the impact of summer regression. Keep your kids reading throughout the summer and read with them whenever possible. I know first-hand how busy summer can be with kids and their many activities. So here are a few suggestions to be sure to keep them reading.

1. Read at the same time each day. Perhaps it’s story time before bed or set the timer for 15 minutes first thing in the morning. Kids thrive on routine.
2. Make it a manageable timeframe - 10-20 minutes is plenty.
3. Choose books or articles that are familiar and enjoyable. The goal is not to challenge them with more complicated texts that will frustrate them but rather to allow them to practice their skills on resources that are motivating and accessible.
4. If the book is frustrating, read it to them. Listening to fluent readers helps students with their fluency.
5. Let them read articles and stories online. Just be certain to monitor their online use.
6. Most importantly, have fun.

In terms of math, I recommend including math practice into your daily routine. Flash cards are a great way to practice math facts. We are expecting to keep our online programs such as IXL active for all students to practice with and there are many free and fun math programs out there. Your child’s teacher can share which ones are most appropriate for your child.

As we head into the most unusual start to a summer, I’d like to remind parents that there is much to learn in the summer months. I encourage parents to spend time with their children and talk about anything and everything. After a long day of play, ask them what they did, why they did it, and what they liked best. These conversations strengthen loving relationships and help students learn valuable communication skills.

I would once again like to thank all of the families and friends of Byron-Bergen Elementary for their ongoing support of our students and school. Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

“

I would also like to thank our parents, families, and community for supporting and partnering with us to ensure that these past three months remained positive and productive through this time.

”

Student Art Showcase



“Tape Sculpture”

Tape

By: Julia Schlenker-Stephens, grade 11
Bryanne Puma, grade 11
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



“Self Portrait”

Sharpie & Photograph

By: John Klafehn, grade 10
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



“Self Portrait”

Pencil

By: Jade Wolff, grade 7
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



“Wolf in the Lamar Valley”

Watercolor on Paper with Pencil & Pen

By: Eala Coniglio, grade 4
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



“Memorial Flag”

Chalk on Pavement

By: Kelly Parsons, grade 3
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



“Plow Tractor”

Crayon & Pencil

By: Talyn Darby, grade K
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



“Rocks”

Colored Pencil

By: Caitlin Ashton, grade 12
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



“Bird”

Colored Pencil

By: Bryce Yockel, grade 12
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



“Self Portrait”

Self-Portrait

By: Skylar Sharpe, grade 11
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31


November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**BYRON-BERGEN CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR
2020-2021**



JULY/AUGUST

New Teacher Orientation August 26-27, 2020 ←
Professional Development (*non-tenured teachers*) - August 27, 2020 □

HOLIDAYS/RECESSES □

Independence Day - July 4, 2020
Labor Day - September 7, 2020
Columbus Day - October 12, 2020
Veterans' Day - November 11, 2020
Thanksgiving Recess - November 25-27, 2020
Winter Recess - December 24, 2020 - January 1, 2021
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 18, 2021
February Recess - February 15-19, 2021
Spring Recess - March 29 - April 5, 2021
Memorial Day - May 31, 2021

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL September 8, 2020 ☉

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL June 25, 2021 ♦

GRADUATION June 26, 2021 ★

TESTING SCHEDULE □

August Regents - August 13-14, 2020
January Regents - January 26-29, 2021
3rd- 8th NYS ELA Testing- April 20-22 2021
3rd- 8th NYS Math Testing - May 4-6, 2021
Grade 8 Written Science Test - June 7, 2021
June Regents - June 16-18, June 21-24, 2021
Regents Rating day - June 25, 2021

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAYS ▽

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Superintendent's Conference Day- September 2, 2020
Superintendent's Conference Day- October 9, 2020
Superintendent's Conference Day- January 29, 2021
Superintendent's Conference Day- March 12, 2021

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE ○

1/2 Day of School - PreK-12 - November 20, 2020
1/2 Day of School - PreK-6 (only) - November 23, 2020
1/2 Day of School - PreK-6 (only) - November 24, 2020

DAYS OF INSTRUCTION

September	17 + 1
October	20 + 1
November	17
December	17
January	18 + 1
February	15
March	19 + 1
April	19
May	20
June	19
<hr/>	
	181 + 4

Approved by the Byron-Bergen Central School District Board of Education on January 30, 2020.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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