



Fall 2018

www.bbschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



*Mickey Edwards
Superintendent
of Schools*

Success in life does not rely solely on academics. It is true that the main reason children attend school is to learn math, history, science, and so on, but these are not the only skills children need if they want to become successful in the real world. That is why character education is such an important part of students' studies. Character education gives students the tools that they will use far more often than those that they learn from the other subjects. Sorry, calculus. It's true.

Character education fosters the development of upstanding citizens by teaching them good values. At Byron-Bergen CSD the core values we teach are: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Accountable, and Be Your Best Self. Young people are exposed to literally thousands of negative influences through the media and their peers every day. Students need to know how to handle these pressures and

we believe character education and the core values will give them the tools that they need to avoid the pitfalls of bullying, dishonesty, and substance abuse – to name a few. Character education also helps students with their academic subjects. With our core values, students learn how to focus on their studies and, more importantly, have the drive to want to do well in their academic subjects. Additionally, students learn to interact properly with their teachers and fellow students, turning their classroom into a better learning environment. Research conducted on the subject finds that schools employing character education have fewer incidences of disciplinary referrals, suspensions, and truancy. The positive school environment that is developed also increases student attendance.

What your children learn from character education and our core values (Be Respectful, Be Accountable, Be Responsible, and Be Your Best Self) will be useful to them not only in school, but as they engage and interact with others around them throughout their lives.

Board of Education Recognition Week

October 23-27



Thank you to the Byron-Bergen Board of Education. Front (l-r) Kimberly Carlson, Yvonne Ace-Wagoner (Vice President), Debi List (President), Jenn Van Valkenburg. Back (l-r) Bill Forsyth, Amy Phillips, Tammy Menzie. If you have an opportunity, please share your appreciation for all they do.



News from the Board

Opening day is the day before the first day of school. It is a time for faculty and staff to come together and set the tone for the new school year. This year, on behalf of the Board of Education, it was my honor to greet returning faculty and staff and give a warm welcome to our new employees.

As the day progressed, a common theme emerged. Connections. Repeatedly, the importance of making connections, with people of all ages, came to the forefront of presentations and conversations. Connections help us feel heard, understood, and valued. Connections build trust, empathy, and compassion. Whatever a relationship evolves into, it begins with a simple connection.

As you may already know, our school district has a Character Education program. This school year it expanded to introduce four core values. 'Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Accountable, and

Be Your Best Self.' This program is designed to teach and instill character values important to us all.

H. Jackson Brown said, "Character is what we do when we think no one is looking." The goal for our students is to embody the core values and, as they go out into society, that their lingering connection to the Byron-Bergen schools be one of utmost integrity – even when no one is looking.

The Byron Bergen Board of Education thanks you for your support of our programs as we fully support the growth of our students, into their very best selves.

Debra List

Debra List, President
Byron-Bergen Board of Education

District Receives \$25,000 America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Grant

Two years of hard work are paying off for High School Science Teacher Jeffrey Parnapy and his colleagues in the form of a \$25,000 grant from America's Farmers Grow Rural Education. The grant money will be used to purchase data collection instruments for 7th through 12th grade science classes and to bolster the newly established agriculture program, now in its second year.

The school was nominated by several local farmers for the grant, which is designated to support STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs in rural public school districts. Mr. Parnapy, who teaches biology and agriculture, spearheaded the grant proposal with help from his science colleagues Michael Conine, Briana Delvecchio, Jenifer Faro, Peter Spence, and Terry Vick. The grant money will benefit all of the science classes by providing a range of specialized equipment including meteorological instruments and soil and water analysis equipment.

"We are so excited to be receiving the \$25,000 America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Grant," said Jr./Sr. High School Principal Patrick McGee. "A huge thank you to our Ag and Science teacher Mr. Parnapy for doing the leg work behind the scenes to win this

grant. Last year we started an initiative to bring an Agriculture program back into our building. We established an Agriculture elective and started FFA (Future Farmers of America). This year we will offer two Ag classes and our FFA program continues to grow. The grant money will go a long way into providing even more resources and opportunities for our students in the coming years."





Welcome Back to School





FOCAL POINT



Many people over the years have asked what it takes to be a school bus driver. Here is the process each and every school bus driver in NYS goes through to become, and then maintain their license to drive a bus.

- Be a minimum of 21 years old
- Have three verifiable references and full background check
- Have a clean NYS driver's license history abstract
- Be able to pass a health physical, eye and hearing test.
- A complete drug and alcohol test
- Be fingerprinted with no past legal issues

To obtain a commercial driver's license:

- General knowledge test (written)
- Air brake test (written)
- School passenger test (written)
- 1-Hour road test in a bus

Once all of the above is cleared, the following must be done before driving:

- A physical performance test, in order to be physically fit to perform all driving skills
- A 3-hour pre-service course outlining the job expectations
- District training that allows the new driver to know their expectations

Once licensed and driving, the following must be done to keep current:

- Yearly health physicals
- Yearly license review (most schools subscribe to daily license alerts)
- Annual defensive driving test with students.
- Biennial full commercial road test
- Biennial written exam with 30 random NYS DMV questions
- Biennial physical performance test
- Random drug and alcohol testing
- Must take a NYS 30-hour Bus Driver course within one year of starting
- Semi-annual 2-hour NYS refresher course
- Three safety drills with evacuation of students from bus

Most schools employ a licensed NYS 19-A examiner to perform most of the above driver regulations.

Recent fact - Riding a NYS School Bus is the #1 safest form of transportation in the United States!

And why with everything we have to do, chose to drive a bus everyday? Because it's an enjoyable job working with children and seeing them grow.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR TEAM

Start out driving a Van, or Mini-Bus. Call Drew Doll at (585) 494-1220 ext. 5112 to discuss all options.

School Bus Safety Week was October 22-26 with Bus Driver Appreciation Day held on October 26

This year we are losing three outstanding drivers who are retiring. Deb Shultz with 23 years of service, Chuck Bishop with 14 years of service, and Sue Quackenbush with 4 years of service. We thank them for their many years of dedication and safety to our students.



(l-r) Sue Quackenbush, Chuck Bishop, Deb Shultz



SUBSTITUTES WANTED

Do you have an interest in helping Byron-Bergen CSD in the capacity of substitute teacher, substitute office aide, food service worker?

If so, please visit the employment section of our website at www.bbschools.org and complete the non-instructional application and a Genesee County Civil Service application (teacher aide, office aide, food service worker), and instructional application (substitute teacher). Please submit the application (via mail or in person) to: P. Gunio – District Office, Byron-Bergen CSD, 6917 West Bergen Road, Bergen, NY 14416.



SPRIT WEEK



STAR Property Tax Relief

There have been some changes in how certain homeowners will apply for STAR and in how they receive their STAR benefit. You can find information about the STAR Program at www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/ or contact your town assessor:

TOWN of BATAVIA

Rhonda Saulsbury
(585) 343-1729 ext. 207

BYRON

Barry Flansburg
(585) 548-7123 ext. 17

ELBA

Barry Flansburg
(585) 757-2762 ext.

RIGA

Lori Frongetta
(585) 293-3880 ext. 126

SWEDEN

Tammy Baker
(585) 637-8683

BERGEN

Rhonda Saulsbury
(585) 494-1484 ext. 1

CLARENDON

Cindi Davis
(585) 638-6371 ext. 103

LEROY

Rhonda Saulsbury
(585) 768-6910 ext. 221

STAFFORD

Anne Sapienza
(585) 344-1554 ext. 6

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 R.d., Bergen, NY 14416. A written request must be submitted annually.



Welcome New Employees

Ashley Hill

Ashley Hill is the new school counselor for grades 7, 9, and 11. Her primary responsibilities are working with students' schedules, college and career planning, and students with IEP requirements, but she hopes to do much more than that.



"I will be doing social and emotional counseling," said Miss Hill. "If anyone is having a rough day they can come in and see me, or stop in if they just want to say 'hi.' I want to work with all of the kids. I don't want to stay in my office. I want to go out and really be involved. That's why I chose school counseling as a career."

Miss Hill completed her Master's Degree in School Counseling from Canisius College in 2017. She worked as a long-term sub in Dansville and Alexander during the 2017-18 school year. She grew up in Batavia and is excited to settle back in the area. There is a family connection - her father and grandparents are Byron-Bergen alumni.

Outside of work, Miss Hill is training to run a marathon.

"It's been tough but I used to run track in high school so I'm trying to get back into that, and I want to get involved with the track team here, too."

Running a marathon isn't Miss Hill's only long-term goal.

"Right now I'm trying to cook my way through a whole cookbook. I'm cooking all the recipes in Chrissy Teigen's 'Cravings'," said Miss Hill. "It's pushing me. My favorite thing so far is Hawaiian BLPT (BLT with pineapple!). I could eat it every day."

If you see Miss Hill, in her office or on the track, stop and say "hi".

Heather Painting

Having completed her student teaching in Batavia, Heather Painting has returned to the same school district where she first realized her passion for special education.



Mrs. Painting was working as a fifth grade Teacher Aide when she decided to change her career path and complete her Master's Degree in Special Education.

"I'm pinching myself because it's exactly where I want to be," said Mrs. Painting.

Mrs. Painting works with the general education teachers in the classroom to provide extra support both students with learning plans and those who are struggling with particular concepts. She will also be co-teaching Mrs. Varley's fifth grade math class.

"It's going to be a year of learning for me as much as it's going to be a year of learning for my students."

Mrs. Painting completed her Master's Degree at Roberts Wesleyan and her Bachelor's at SUNY Empire State in Art and Technical Theatre. Prior to becoming a Teacher's Aide, she worked as a historical costume designer for 20 years specializing in Elizabethan and Tudor costuming. A true entrepreneur, she owned and operated her own worldwide web-based company.

Outside of school, Mrs. Painting enjoys spending time with her husband and two kids at musical theatre performances, soccer games, and while rolling their own sushi.

Jessica Golino

Jessica Golino is back in the hallways she once walked as a student, as the new eighth grade English and FACS (Family and Consumer Science) teacher. She recently returned after six years in Louisiana with her fiancé and two daughters, Elaine and Nora. Ms. Golino is a 2004 Byron-Bergen graduate with additional family ties to the district.



"Everyone knows my mom because she drives the bus," said Ms. Golino, laughing. Indeed, her mother, Andrea Golino, is one of the top five senior drivers with the district.

Ms. Golino earned her bachelor's degree from Saint John Fisher and her master's Degree from Grand Canyon University while teaching ninth and tenth grade in Louisiana. This year she hopes her students will gain an increased enjoyment of English class.

"They're at that stage where they're trying to find their own way, trying to find their path," said Ms. Golino. "It's fun to be a part of it, to help them."

Outside of school, Ms. Golino enjoys adventures. She has been skydiving and deep sea diving. She also enjoys football and baseball. She and her fiancé will be married in February in Las Vegas.

"It's exciting to be a Bee again. It's great being home," said Ms. Golino. "Once a Bee always a Bee."

Joshua Ake

The Byron-Bergen Elementary School welcomes part-time Physical Education teacher, Joshua Ake. Prior to this position, Mr. Ake taught in Maryland. Two years ago, he returned to the Rochester area to be a substitute teacher and stay at home dad for his two daughters.



Mr. Ake is a Greece Arcadia graduate who then earned his Bachelor's of Science in physical education from SUNY Brockport.

"I'm really looking to expand as a teacher and also to really get to know the community," said Mr. Ake. "I've never really spent time in Byron-Bergen so I'm excited about getting to know the students and the community."

Outside of school, Mr. Ake enjoys running, hockey, soccer, and Italian food. If his training goes well, he plans to run a half marathon next year.



Welcome New Employees

Meshari Alnouri

There is a new face around the high school technology classroom. Globe trekker Meshari Alnouri joins the Byron-Bergen team after working as far away as Kuwait and as close as Wheatland-Chili. He brings with him a passion for technology and learning.



"I'm always very interested in technology and all of its many aspects," said Mr. Alnouri. "If I'm not researching it, I just enjoy thinking about it and wondering how it connects back to everything else. I like the web-scheme of how technology is currently in the seven areas we study (transportation, manufacturing, construction, information & communication, energy & power, medical, agricultural & related biotechnologies)."

Mr. Alnouri graduated from SUNY Oswego with a degree in technology education. In Kuwait, where he lived and worked for four years, he worked at the Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Giftedness and Creativity. Through that organization, he implemented ITEEA (International Technology and Engineering Educators Association) programs for pre-engineering students.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the creativity and ingenuity of the students here," Alnouri said. "It seems like a wonderful environment and a pretty active school."

Outside of school, Mr. Alnouri and his wife are working toward joining the 46ers - hikers who have reached the 46 highest peaks in the Adirondack Mountains. Inspired by a brief encounter with Jill Skivington-Jackett, a Wheatland-Chili teacher who tragically lost her life last year after being struck by a car, Mr. Alnouri and his wife began this long-term goal this summer by completing five peaks. They plan to complete the 46 peaks in the next five to seven years.

Mr. Alnouri also enjoys board games and travel. He has visited England, Spain,

Amsterdam, Qatar, Dubai, and would really like to visit Japan someday.

This fall he will be teaching drafting, CAD, home repair, communications, and engineering principles.

Nicole Whiteford

Welcome New School Psychologist Nichole Whiteford. Nichole Whiteford loves school.

She loves school so much that she has dedicated her career to helping students feel as positively about school as she does.



"School is so incredibly difficult for many kids for so many different reasons," said Miss Whiteford. "I want to make it as positive of an experience as possible by understanding them and giving them the support that they need."

Miss Whiteford earned her B.S. in Psychology from Fredonia and M.S., C.A.S. in School Psychology from Roberts Wesleyan College. Prior to coming to Byron-Bergen, she was a School Psychologist intern at Honeoye Central School during the 2017-18 school year. She also worked part-time at Flaherty's restaurant as a server for the last eight years.

As School Psychologist, Miss Whiteford will conduct testing and evaluations of special education students and providing counseling. She will work along with Miss Hill, Mr. Walther, and Mrs. Calmes to run support groups for students dealing with grief, divorce, anxiety, or other topics as needed. She also plans to get out of her office and make sure that students and staff know that she is here as a resource.

Outside of school, Miss Whiteford enjoys singing and playing the piano and hopes to start performing in public again. She also is a life-long dancer who enjoys Zumba.

Noma Evans

Welcome New Bus Aide Noma Evans. Noma Evans is originally from Oregon but has lived in the Byron-Bergen area for the last 24 years. Her two children are both Byron-Bergen alumni and she now considers it home.



Mrs. Evans comes to the Transportations Department from Travel Centers of America in Pembroke where she was a lead cashier. In her role as Bus Aide, Mrs. Evans will help the bus driver enforce the rules and ensure a safe ride for everyone. She is currently studying to take the Commercial Driver's License permit test. With her permit, she will begin training to become a bus driver.

Outside of work, Mrs. Evans likes to bake. Her pastry creations include homemade pies from scratch. She also enjoys crocheting, gardening, and arts and crafts. She and her husband, Steve Lockner, have been together for 24 years.

Kelly O'Neil

Welcome new Elementary School secretary Kelly O'Neil. Kelly O'Neil is the new smiling face in the Elementary School office. Why is she smiling? Because she loves children and is excited to be able to greet them every day as they come and go.



Before coming to Byron-Bergen schools, Ms. O'Neil worked as a Medical Secretary in a Primary Care office, and worked many years as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. She is an AEMT (Advanced Emergency Medical Technician) and volunteers with Attica Fire Department and DEMS (Darien Emergency Medical Service).

Ms. O'Neil grew up in Attica and graduated from Attica High School and Genesee Community College. She lived in Attica most of her life, although she did spend some time living in Alabama. Ms. O'Neil has one son, Scotty, who is a Senior at LeRoy High School, and two Great Danes named Darby and Seamus.



Elementary School News

By Brian Meister, Principal



This fall we were proud to introduce a new end of day pick-up procedure. Our new dismissal procedures have moved parent pick-up during the 3:00-3:25 time frame from the front foyer to the back cafeteria doors. This change in traffic flow allows school personnel clearer supervision of students in the bus loop

and less congestion in the main foyer area at dismissal. By allowing parents to wait comfortably in the cafeteria, we are

able to ensure each student is connected with the right adult and that all students safely board their school buses. The back cafeteria door is closely monitored by school personnel who are happy to greet those picking up their student from school. It is important to note, all visitors to the school or parents seeking access to meet with teachers must still use the main office to sign in.

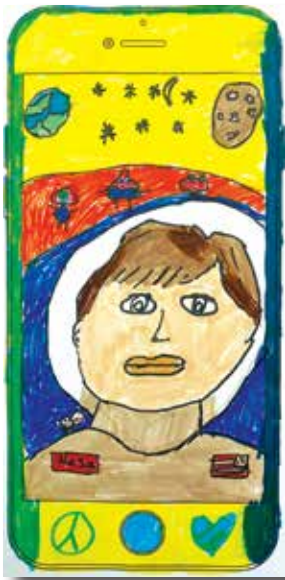
The reason for the change stemmed from an ongoing assessment of school safety where we continually look at how our processes and procedures work to keep our school and students safe. Our attention to safety is just one way we at the Elementary School can 'Be Responsible.'



FIRE SAFETY WEEK



STUDENT SHOWCASE



“Selfie Portrait in Outer Space”
Markers on Paper
By: Isabelle Best, Grade 6
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



“Flowers”
Tempura Paint on Paper
By: Elethea Merritt,
Kindergarten
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



“Self Portrait”
Pencil on paper
By: Novalee Pocock, grade 7
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



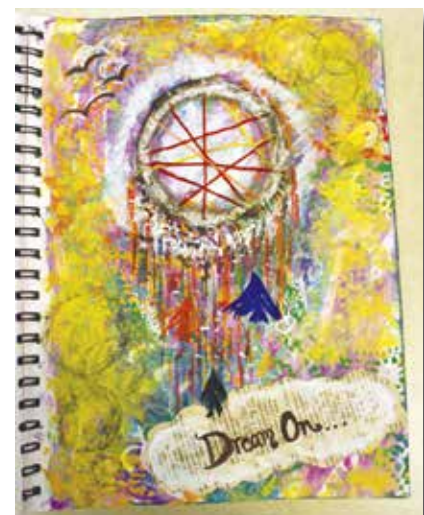
“Homemade Loom and Weaving”
Stick and Yarn
By: Madison Farnsworth, grade 11
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



“Fear”
Graphite on paper
By: Caitlin Ashton, grade 11
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



“Polish Paper Cut”
Cut Paper
By: Brooke Jarkiewicz, grade 9
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



“Dream On”
Mixed Media
By: Skylar Sharpe, grade 10
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



Byron-Bergen Sports Boosters

Sports Boosters is always in need of motivated volunteer members to join our great team. Donating a little of your time can and will make a huge difference in the lives of our students. Meetings are only held once a month and we operate concessions at soccer, basketball and swimming events. We also host the popular annual Troopers vs. Faculty charity basketball game. ALL of our proceeds contribute back to ALL sports. If you are interested in joining us please message us on Facebook or email us at bbschoolsportsboosters@gmail.com.



Jr./Sr. High School Update

By Patrick McGee, Principal



*Patrick McGee
Principal*

The first of the District Core Values is “Be Respectful.” Respect for each other is important, but this school year we begin with the focus on respect for oneself.

We want all our students to respect their bodies and minds by

making responsible decisions regarding drugs and alcohol. To this point, we have expanded our partnership with the Genesee/Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (GCASA) by providing two “Hidden Mischief” experiences to help parents and caregivers recognize drug and alcohol references or concealments in their student’s bedroom.

We are also hosting a panel discussion on opioids on Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00 P.M. in the

Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium. This panel will include experts in the field of addiction as well as a young man who has fought to overcome his opioid addiction. This event will be open to the public and we encourage our families to join us for this important discussion.

These special programs are in addition to the regular counseling services. Mrs. Gina Henry, our Prevention Needs Educator provides evidence based programming, education, and resources to help students.

In addition to Mrs. Henry, we have added a full time school Psychologist and a mental health counselor from Genesee County Mental Health who will be in the District once a week to serve the social/emotional needs of our students.

We expect the highest level of respectful behavior from our students and staff and we are taking the necessary steps to ensure they have the knowledge and resources to make the best decisions for themselves and our community.



Rochester Area College Fair comes to B-B

During National Manufacturing Week, students visited three local Manufacturers.

College & Career Preparation

By: Rob Kaercher, Counselor

This has been an excellent start to the school year with many more opportunities to come. Byron-Bergen students are inquisitive and open to new opportunities. With an open mind, their future college and career pathways are limitless.

This fall we are beginning to welcome admissions representatives from over 50 colleges and military branches for individual visits and for two mini-college fairs. A consortium of colleges from Rochester and Buffalo will visit our high school students

on two separate occasions. Schools and representatives expose students to careers and majors that students may not know existed. Entering the 4th year as a college and career center, we are continuing to find more creative and practical ways to introduce students to potential careers. The website Raise Me introduces students to “micro-scholarships” that they can begin receiving as early as 9th grade. Utilizing technology to explore is such an important part of this process, but experiential learning is also important. Many of our students just

participated in a field trip to local businesses for National Manufacturing Day. At the end of October we will also be participating in Construction Day at the Rochester Airport.

A hard part of the college and career search is leaving your comfort zone. After a student visits a college campus for the first time, or shadows a potential career, their confidence begins to grow. There is no such thing as starting this exploratory process “too early.” I love working with students from the Junior and Senior High School. It is only a matter of time before college and career counseling makes its way to the Elementary School.



WESTERN NEW YORK
Tech Academy

News from the WNY Tech Academy

By Tom Schulte, Principal

The 2018-19 school year is off to a sprint at the WNY Tech Academy. Students from 12 regional school districts are on campus daily working hard to develop skills necessary to succeed in today's workforce. Additionally, eight students have transitioned to Genesee Community College to complete their degree pathways.

As we look ahead at the year, we're excited to continue to work with our current members, recruit new members to our team, and bring important projects to reality. For any families of 8th grade students interested in learning more about our work, please feel free to contact us at any time. The application deadline for new members will be Friday, March 1, 2019. While we are limited by the pathway options we offer, it is important to note that we do provide all students the required credits for their high school diploma. Once a student completes their 4th year at the Tech Academy, they have the option to remain in our program and take advantage of the free tuition we offer, or transition to a program, and college of their interest.

2018-19 will see the realization of a cornerstone project for our program. Pending New York State Education Department approval, we will be constructing an aquaponics greenhouse here on campus. When complete this greenhouse will serve as a learning incubator that blends our food processing technology, supply chain management, and accounting pathways into one fully functioning enterprise. They will get a firsthand view of how our three pathways integrate in a real production facility.

Our entire team is excited for what this year has in store! We want to extend a continued thanks to the entire Byron-Bergen community for your ongoing support of our program and our students!

Please feel free to reach out to us with questions. We can be reached at (585) 494-1220 x3737, or you can follow us on Twitter at @WNYTechAcademy.

Scholar Program

The Byron-Bergen Jr./Sr. High School's academic incentive program recognizes students for their good effort, attendance, and academics. This reward program is named the "Scholar Program" and the cards achieved are Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Special Recognition. At the end of the year, monetary awards are presented at Academic & Athletic Recognition Night to seniors who have maintained a solid record of attaining cards throughout their high school career.



The Scholar Program Committee is pleased to announce the 2017-18 fourth quarter recipients (effective through Nov. 30, 2018):

GOLD SCHOLAR

Corin Abdella
Rachel Best
Sarah Bleiler
Justine Bloom
Benjamin Bowman
Dayanara Caballero
Siomara Caballero
Emily Chaback
Evan Cuba
Leanna Curts
Richard Denson
Makenzie Eccleston
Sara Fraser
Emma Goodman
Sara Goodman

Annaliese Hersom
Hope Hersom
Frank Hersom
Grace Huhn
Brooke Jarkiewicz
Cambria Kinkelaar
Colby Leggo
Jillian Menzie
John Mercovich
Ryan Muscarella
Erin Parnapy
Kendall Phillips
Madelynn Pimm
Alaura Rehwaldt
Brianna Salmonds
Elli Schelemanow

Auburn Schwartzmeyer
MacKenzie Senf
Caleb Sharpe
Grace Shepard
Zoey Shepard
Chloe Shuskey
Deacon Smith
Alayna Streeter
Matthew Tanner
Ella VanValkenburg
Alexandra Vurraro
Annabella Vurraro
Ava Wagoner
Lillian Walker
Hannah Wies
Corden Zimmerman

Nathan Zwerka
Nicholas Zwerka

SILVER SCHOLAR

Fiona Burke
Meghan Kendall
Joshua Tardy

BRONZE SCHOLAR

Joshua Fleming
Miriam Tardy
Emma Will
Julia Will

