



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Byron-Bergen learning community who took time to share their input with the Board of Education and me in the creation of next year's budget. This information was very helpful in the development of the 2015-16 spending plan. This year we provided a community survey, both online and in the traditional paper format, and held public presentations on March 12 and April 9. We also provided the community the opportunity to address the Board with budget concerns at the beginning of our meetings in February and April. Other data guiding the development of the budget were the Strategic Plan survey feedback and focus group discussions, along with the current District Goals and our Mission and Vision statements.

It is evident Byron-Bergen is a community that cares greatly about the education of its students. We will continue to post information about the budget on our website. Our goal will continue to be to make it as transparent as possible. Within this newsletter, you will find specific information about the proposed budget.

Over the past five years, we have made devastating reductions, losing more than 50 positions. We are pleased to announce the following restorations and additions to improve the educational experience for our students.

### **Counseling Position at the Jr./Sr. High School**

Knowing what to do after high school is not easy! This counselor will lead a College and Career Center to support our students as they plan and prepare for life after graduation. Our center will provide an array of information, not limited to assisting students and parents with scholarship opportunities or financial aid for college or trade school. The center will also provide information on any branch of military service. Students will find the latest information on college fairs, open houses, and career programs of interest. We also plan to include information on the latest community job openings and volunteer information, career field trips, career speakers, college field trips, financial aid informational nights, career shadowing and internship programs, and resume and cover letter assistance.

### **Academic Intervention Service Position at the Elementary School**

One of the Elementary School's goals is to have all students reading on grade level by third grade. By restoring this position, we are looking to implement the Reading Recovery program. Reading Recovery is a highly effective short-term

intervention of one-to-one tutoring for struggling first-graders. The intervention is most effective when it is available to all students who need it and is used as a supplement to good classroom teaching. Approximately 75% of students who complete this intervention can meet grade-level expectations in reading and writing.

### **Enrichment Position at the Elementary School**

Enrichment is described as broadening the learning experience, including adding extra subject areas and/or activities, and using supplementary materials beyond the normal range of resources. This position will provide opportunities for specific groups of students in grades K-6. *(continued on p. 9)*

*Superintendent Casey Kosiorek worked with Melissa Chamberlain's class on the 100th Day of School. Pictured are kindergarteners Cody Carlson and Matthew Kosiorek.*



## Memorial Day Recess

### May 22 & 25

**(Note: Friday, May 22 has been approved as an additional day off from school.)**



## Board President's Corner

I would like to congratulate all our club members, musicians, choral members, and winter athletes who represent Byron-Bergen with pride, positive attitudes, and sportsmanship at every contest, event, or game throughout the year. You are all wonderful ambassadors for our District.

- Recently, new inductees were welcomed into the Junior Honor and Senior Honor Societies. This is quite an honor for these students and their families.
- "The Wizard of Oz" theater event was absolutely great. The performances given by each and every actor and musician, and the efforts shown by every member of the stage crew were incredible. I'm already looking forward to next year's show.
- Along the music line, congratulations to our incredibly talented All-County band and chorus members.

You can see by all of the above accolades that our students are committed and have a great mindset. We're very proud of them.

The Board has been working on the District Strategic Plan and we hope to have everything wrapped up in the next month. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped us to form our plan. We are excited about the future of the District.

Over the last four or five months, the Board has been working on the budget and on the funding side of things; news from Albany is brighter than first anticipated. It makes me happy to be able to say that we will restore several positions that will positively impact our students. Thank you for all who gave feedback into our process.

Another exciting announcement is that Byron-Bergen has been named a NYS District of Character Education, and is also being considered for this award on the national level. What an honor this is! My thanks to everyone who helped our District achieve this award.

Thank you for your continued support in the education of our students.

*Debra List*

Debra List, President  
Byron-Bergen Board of Education

## NYS Property Tax Levy Cap in Brief

**NYS has a property tax levy cap, not a 2% cap which is very confusing. The law does not restrict any proposed tax increase to 2%. The following is our District's calculation for determining the 2015-16 property tax levy cap (see page 3).**

**The law creates an 8-step formula to determine the tax levy limit.**

- Adjusts tax levy to reflect local growth in the tax base and the rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index [CPI] or a maximum of 2% whichever is less).

**It sets a higher threshold for voter approval of budgets IF proposed tax levy increase exceeds the tax levy limit plus exclusions.**

- The Board of Education can present a budget that requires a levy that exceeds the cap but will need 60% voter approval.

**The property tax levy cap limits the school district levy NOT the individual tax bill of resident taxpayers.**

- Assessments and equalization rates will still impact tax rates.

**Voters are approving the budget (spending plan) not the tax levy.**

# Vote May 19, 2015



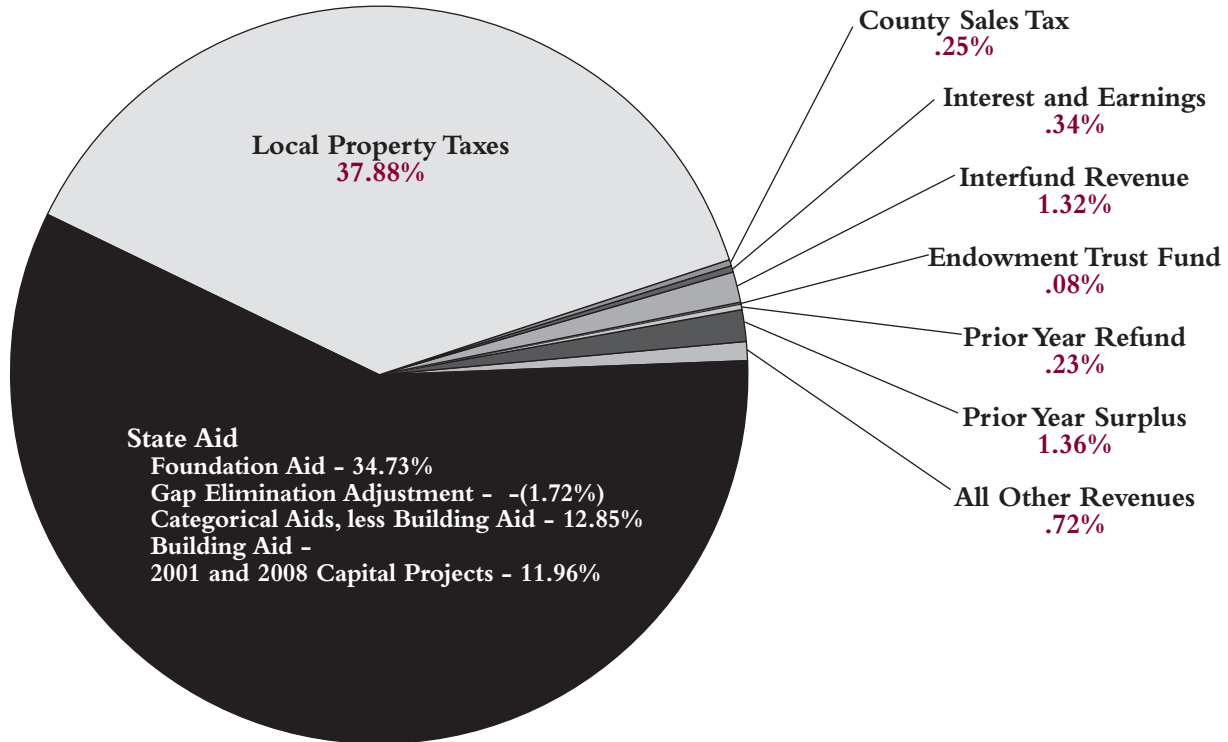
## Property Tax Levy Calculation

<u>2015-16 Maximum Allowable Property Tax Levy</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
Tax Levy - prior school year	\$8,065,608	\$8,184,179
Tax base growth factor	<u>1.0001</u>	<u>1.0015</u>
	\$8,066,415	\$8,196,455
<b>Add</b> , PILOT payments from prior school year - Business development agreements with the Genesee County Industrial Development Agency	<u>\$55,149</u>	<u>\$52,415</u>
	\$8,121,564	\$8,248,870
<b>Less</b> , exclusions, including capital levy, court orders, and pension contributions	<u>(\$339,091)</u>	<u>(\$338,082)</u>
<b>Adjusted Prior Year Levy</b>	\$7,782,473	\$7,910,788
Allowable Growth Factor (2014-2015 lesser of CPI 1.46% or 2%) (2015-16 lesser of CPI 1.62% or 2%)	<u>1.0146</u>	<u>1.0162</u>
	\$7,896,097	\$8,038,944
Less, PILOT payments anticipated for current school year	<u>(\$50,000)</u>	<u>(\$40,000)</u>
	\$7,846,097	\$7,998,944
<b>Add</b> , available carryover	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Tax Levy Limit</b>	<u>7,846,097</u>	<u>\$7,998,944</u>
<b>Add</b> , Exclusions		
Capital levy (debt service)	\$338,082	\$364,989
<b>Total exclusion</b>	<u>\$338,082</u>	<u>\$364,989</u>
<b>Maximum Allowable Property Tax Levy</b>	<u>\$8,184,179</u>	<u>\$8,363,933</u>
2014-15 Actual Property Tax Levy	<u>\$8,184,179</u>	
<b>2015-16 Allowable Property Tax Levy Increase - (2015-16 Levy limit minus 2014-15 Property tax levy amount)</b>		<u>\$179,754</u>
<b>Maximum allowable percentage change with simple majority vote of 50% + 1</b>		<u>2.20%</u>
2015-16 Proposed Property Tax Levy		<u>\$8,363,933</u>
2015-16 Proposed Property Tax Levy Increase		<u>\$179,754</u>
2015-16 Proposed percentage change		<u>2.20%</u>

*If you have additional questions contact William Snyder at 494-1220 ext. 2429, or email [wsnyder@bbschools.org](mailto:wsnyder@bbschools.org).*



# PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET “HOW FUNDS ARE GENERATED”



**State Aid**  
 Foundation Aid - 34.73%  
 Gap Elimination Adjustment - -(1.72%)  
 Categorical Aids, less Building Aid - 12.85%  
 Building Aid -  
 2001 and 2008 Capital Projects - 11.96%

	2014-15 Budget	2015-16 Proposed Budget
<b>Foundation Aid</b>	<b>\$7,642,828</b>	<b>\$7,670,332</b>
<b>Gap Elimination Adjustment</b>	<b>-\$1,077,507</b>	<b>-\$380,525</b>
<b>Categorical Aids, less Building Aid</b>	<b>\$2,814,860</b>	<b>\$2,837,265</b>
<b>Building Aid 2001 and 2008 Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$2,622,240</b>	<b>\$2,640,318</b>

## I. STATE AID

We have projected our State aid to increase \$764,969 based on the Governor’s proposed State aid figures for 2015-16. State aid comprises mainly foundation aid and many different categorical aids such as BOCES, Building, Special Education, and Transportation. Categorical aids are generally based on actual expenditures during the prior school year with the exception of Building Aid which is based on current year actual expenditures.



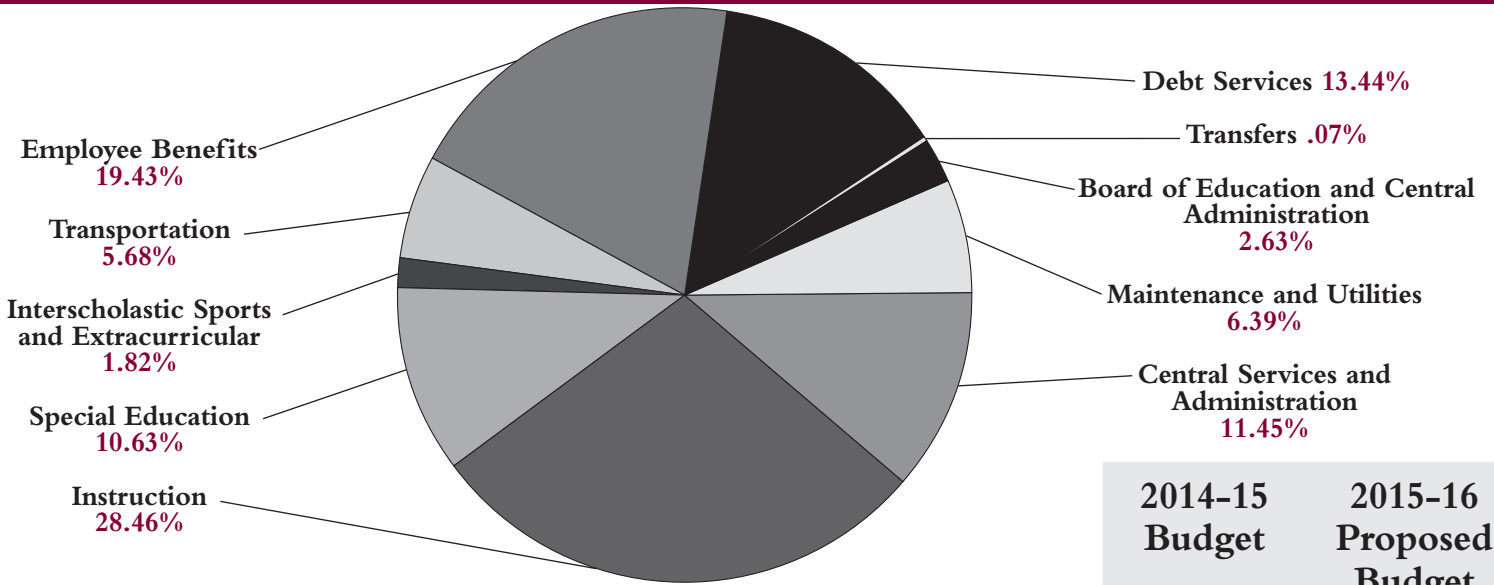
# PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET

## “HOW FUNDS ARE GENERATED”

	2014-15 Budget	2015-16 Proposed Budget
<b>II. LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES</b> The actual amount of the tax levy is set by the Board of Education in August 2015. We are projecting the tax levy to increase 2.20%.	\$8,184,179	\$8,363,933
<b>III. COUNTY SALES TAX</b> Sales tax revenues are received by the school from Monroe County based on the number of students attending Byron-Bergen that reside in Monroe County.	\$55,000	\$55,000
<b>IV. INTEREST AND EARNINGS</b> This revenue reflects interest earned by investing cash on hand. Interest rates will remain low for the 2015-16 school year. We anticipate earnings to be less.	\$90,000	\$75,000
<b>V. INTERFUND REVENUE</b> This revenue includes District funds reserved to assist in the payment of New York State employee retirement cost, unemployment insurance costs, debt service, and employee contractual retirement costs.	\$397,000	\$292,138
<b>VI. ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND</b> An endowment for the swimming pool generates annual interest, which is used to help maintenance costs of the facility.	\$17,500	\$17,500
<b>VII. PRIOR YEAR REFUND</b> This revenue is an estimate of savings from our BOCES costs incurred during the prior school year.	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>VIII. PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS</b> Also known as “Designated Fund Balance,” this is unspent money at the end of the school year, which is brought into next year’s budget as revenue. It is developed from unanticipated revenues during the school year or from under-spending of the expenditure budget.	\$400,000	\$300,000
<b>IX. ALL OTHER REVENUES</b> This includes admissions to athletic events, late property tax penalties, Medicaid reimbursement revenues, and the Monroe County Host Agreement for the Riga Landfill.	\$144,400	\$159,400
	<b>TOTAL</b> \$21,340,500	<b>TOTAL</b> \$22,080,361



# PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET “HOW FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED”



	2014-15 Budget	2015-16 Proposed Budget
<b>I. BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$547,972</b>	<b>\$581,670</b>
<b>II. MAINTENANCE AND UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,328,690</b>	<b>\$1,410,500</b>
<b>III. CENTRAL SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$2,365,750</b>	<b>\$2,528,334</b>
<b>IV. INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$5,717,684</b>	<b>\$6,283,895</b>

## **I. BOARD OF EDUCATION AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

This category includes Board of Education costs and Central Office expenses including salaries for the Superintendent, Business Official, District Treasurer, District Clerk, Superintendent’s Secretary, Tax Collector, supplies, contractual, and equipment. Also included are internal and external auditing and legal fees to ensure the safeguarding of taxpayer monies. This budget category anticipates an increase of \$11,435 for salaries and wages, \$6,000 for Affordable Care Act compliance, \$7,010 for BOCES services, \$2,000 for tax bill preparation and postage, and \$16,253 for contractual items.

## **II. MAINTENANCE AND UTILITIES**

This category includes utility expenses for electricity, fuel oil, telephone, and water. Maintenance Department salaries, equipment, supplies, and contract services. The maintenance budget has been reduced through savings for natural gas, electrical efficiencies, and sewer plant elimination. In 2008-09, maintenance accounted for 9.15% of the total budget. This proposed maintenance is 6.39% of the total 2015-16 budget.

## **III. CENTRAL SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION**

This category includes expenses for the Elementary and Jr./Sr. High principals’ offices. Also included are clerical positions, Assistant Principals, counseling, nurses, school libraries, school psychologist, computer services, insurance, BOCES administrative charges, and curriculum development. All purchases of computer equipment, software, and library/audiovisual materials have been limited to the maximum allowed based on State aid formulas. The limits are: computer hardware \$18,647; software \$15,009; and library/AV \$6,262. This budget category anticipates an increase of \$92,979 for the restoration of (1) guidance counselor position to man the Career and College Readiness Center, and the restoration of (1) district-wide technology position. BOCES computer service costs are estimated to increase \$120,540.

## **IV. INSTRUCTION**

This category includes all costs directly related to classroom teaching. It provides a building budget plan for textbooks, classroom materials and supplies, furniture and equipment, and other educational resources. The budget category includes the restoration of (2) elementary teaching positions \$76,000; the restoration of (1) Jr./Sr. High teaching position \$50,000; restoration of classroom materials and supplies \$30,500; restoration of additional funds for textbooks above the State aid limit \$12,500; addition of a School Resource Officer \$50,000; SRO Program related costs including employee benefits, materials and supplies, and contractual expenses \$40,000; and an increase in BOCES tuition costs for Occupational Education \$123,945.



# PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET “HOW FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED”

	2014-15 Budget	2015-16 Proposed Budget
<p><b>V. SPECIAL EDUCATION</b></p> <p>This category includes expenses for the Chairperson of Special Education’s office, salaries for special education teachers, supplies, contractual, and tuition for out-of-district placements at BOCES and private facilities. To minimize costs for the District, only those students with the severest needs will be placed out-of-district. The District will continue to contract with outside providers for occupational, physical, and vision therapy for students.</p>	\$2,313,124	\$2,348,522
<p><b>VI. INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR</b></p> <p>This category includes expenses for coaches’ salaries, official fees, equipment, uniforms, and supplies to support the sports programs. It also includes expenses to support all extracurricular activities such as the marching band, school play, and various clubs. This category includes costs related to the S.O.A.R. (Shared Opportunities and Resources) initiatives with the Elba Central School District for football, cheerleading, boys soccer, wrestling, baseball, and track and field; and LeRoy Central School District for swimming and indoor track.</p>	\$364,665	\$401,525
<p><b>VII. TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <p>This category includes all salaries for bus drivers, mechanics, and supervision. Also included are operating expenses such as bus parts, fuel, tires, oil, and equipment to maintain the fleet. Overhead expenses to operate the bus garage are also included such as insurance, water, and fuel. We currently operate buses for about 10 years or 150,000 miles. The District plans to refurbish/repair both bus lifts at an estimated cost of \$20,000.</p>	\$1,170,040	\$1,254,015
<p><b>VIII. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b></p> <p>This category contains expenses for the State Retirement systems, Social Security, Workers’ Compensation, Unemployment, and health insurance premiums. The Teachers’ (TRS) and Employees’ (ERS) Retirement systems have contribution rates of 13.26% and 20.19%, respectively. These rates represent decreases from the 2014-15 rates of 17.53% and 20.9%, respectively. Health insurance premiums are increasing approximately 1.0% for 2015-16.</p>	\$4,578,075	\$4,290,000
<p><b>IX. DEBT SERVICE</b></p> <p>This category provides for principal and interest payments on the 2001 and 2008 Capital Projects. It also provides for transportation vehicle purchases.</p>	\$2,942,500	\$2,966,900
<p><b>X. TRANSFERS</b></p> <p>This category provides for funds used to cover special education summer school costs at BOCES not covered by State aid.</p>	\$12,000	\$15,000
	<b>TOTAL</b> \$21,340,500	<b>TOTAL</b> \$22,080,361



## Board of Education incumbents seek re-election *Statements as prepared by the candidates*



### DEBRA LIST

I have a deep commitment to the children and families of Byron-Bergen. This is why I am seeking re-election to the Board of Education. Over the many years I have served as a board member, my priority has always been to do what is best for our kids. This is what drives me to do the best job I can for our school district and community. My focus,

drive, and commitment to Byron-Bergen have always remained constant.

Our current Board of Education is a dynamic group of men and women who work well together. We strive to remain open, to be transparent in the decisions we make, and to be good listeners.

We look for ways to keep moving the District forward, to stay in step with all the constant changes in education.

My priority and focus is not only on our families with children in school, but also on all the families in our community. I've lived in Byron-Bergen since 1988, and had six of my own children graduate from Byron-Bergen schools. I've served on the BOE since 1997 and have also served the community as Bergen dog enumerator for 10 years, and on the board of Gillam-Grant Community Center for one year.

I am honored to be your representative for the Byron-Bergen School District and seek to continue working toward what is best for our students, families, and community. I am again looking for your continued support and appreciate everyone who has supported me in the past. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the next three years.



### WILLIAM FORSYTH

My name is William Forsyth and I am seeking re-election to the Byron-Bergen Board of Education. My wife, Lisa, and I have been residents of Byron for 44-plus years. I graduated from Byron-Bergen High School in 1984 and continue to have many close ties to the schools. My son, Connor, is a 2013 graduate and my daughter, Lauren, will be graduating this June.

If re-elected, my primary goal will be to facilitate the implementation of the District's Strategic Plan, which sets the visions and goals for our entire school District. Second, I would like to continue to work with administration, teachers, and community to prepare our students to be college/career

ready. This includes finding cost-effective ways to offer as many opportunities and experiences to our students as possible. Lastly, I believe it is important to continue to foster a strong bond between the schools and our community. I am encouraged by the growing community support shown for our school and students over the past few years.

I am a Carpenter Superintendent with Manning Squires Hennig, where I have been employed for the past 24 years. My main responsibilities are to ensure that the buildings/projects we construct are safe, have quality work, run on time, and remain on budget. These qualities are also what I strive to bring to the table as a board member of the Byron-Bergen School District.

I would be honored to be re-elected to the Byron-Bergen Board of Education. I am committed to working hard for both the students and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

## B-B School Budget Presentations

**BYRON-BERGEN PUBLIC BUDGET  
PRESENTATION & MEET THE BOARD  
CANDIDATES NIGHT**

May 7 – 7 p.m.  
Professional Development Room

**VILLAGE OF BERGEN**

May 13 – 7 p.m.  
Bergen Village Office

## VOTE

**May 19, 2015**

**6 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

**Jr./Sr. High School  
Wrestling/Fitness Room**





(continued from cover)

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

### Jr./Sr. High School Teaching Position

A common thread of feedback from our community is that we need to provide our Junior High and Senior High School students with a greater variety of electives and advanced placement (AP) courses. This position will help expand our course catalogue. When students are engaged in school, they are more likely to graduate. Research also supports that students who have taken at least one AP class increase their chances of graduating college in four years by 85%.

### School Resource Officer

This position would be held by an active Genesee County Sheriff's Deputy who has participated in specific training to work with students. After the tragedy of Sandy Hook Elementary School and the increasing violence in public schools and public places, the District is looking at this proactive measure to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Please find more details about this position on page 10 of this publication.

### Student Service Referral Prevention Educator at Jr./Sr. High School

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the number of students and families dealing with substance abuse. This position is another proactive move. This will make providing services for substance abuse more efficient and provide greater oversight for families and students in need of such help. Genesee County Alcohol and Substance Abuse (GCASA) will provide this position for one day per week for the annual yearly cost of \$2,740. The cost is offset by a grant.

The 2015-16 spending plan stays within the allowable tax cap calculation of 2.20%, resulting in eligible taxpayers receiving a rebate check from the State, making their personal tax increase 0%.

Unfortunately, many questions remain about the State Budget's impact on our District as far as mandates and new educational law. Here are some things we know at this point:

- **Connection of State Aid increase with APPR approval** – The Board of Regents and NYSED have been given a June 30 deadline to create new regulations, and all district plans are to be approved by November 15 or be penalized a portion of State Aid.
- **Continual Education for ALL certificated employees** – The budget bill reduces the amount of professional development hours required from 175 every five years to 100, but now includes all certificated employees (administrators and teachers).
- **Tenure moves to four years for all hired after July 1, 2015** – Teachers and administrators need to be effective at least three of four years and cannot be ineffective in year four to earn tenure.
- **APPR observations** – One (1) observation may still be done by a building administrator, but one (1) must be done by an “independent observer”: (a) a trained outside evaluator (third party, college, retired administrator), (b) another trained administrator within the district (not in building of teacher), (c) a trained peer evaluator.
- **APPR approval process** – NYSED allocated \$1 million for staffing implementation. NYSED will create a menu of choices, not a “blank slate” for negotiations. The Board of Regents will oversee a public process for approving regulations for implementation.

I want to thank our Byron-Bergen learning community for honoring the importance of public education for its children with the countless communications that have been made to our Legislature and Governor. We need to continue to advocate for what is legally and constitutionally ours. Although this budget cycle is close to ending, the pressure on Albany must continue. Please keep on with the message that not providing our school adequate funding is a violation of our students' civil rights.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the administration, and the staff, I want to thank you for your continued support in the education of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 494-1220 ext. 2829, or email me at [ckosiorek@bbschools.org](mailto:ckosiorek@bbschools.org)





# School Resource Officer: Creating a culture of safety in our schools

A new item in this year’s budget is the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO). He or she will act as mentor, educator, and counselor — building relationships with our young people, as well as providing an extra layer of security for our schools. “Student safety is a concern shared by everyone in our community,” said Superintendent Casey Kosiorek. “Keeping students safe, however, encompasses much more than ensuring an effective emergency response to extreme cases of violence. Our goal is to prevent trouble from developing in the first place.” The SRO will be an active-duty Genesee County Sheriff Deputy, licensed to carry a firearm, with experience in crisis response. Most importantly, the officer will also have extensive special training in working with young people in school environments.

“There are cases, thankfully rare, in which schools must react quickly to external violence or threats of violence, like at Sandy Hook Elementary School, or like this year’s incident right down the road at Churchville-Chili schools,” said Kosiorek. “There are many more instances where we can actually keep violent acts from happening by taking a proactive approach. That starts with excellent building and event security, a strong preparedness plan, school-wide involvement, and honest communication with students.”

In fact, the main role of a SRO in our schools will be to be an educator and counselor: to walk the halls, get to know students, earn their confidence, and make personal connections. A trusted SRO is in the ideal position to learn about trouble before it happens. Their presence can deter dangerous behavior. They can identify risks and solve problems. They can stop bullying before it causes lasting damage or pushes victims to seek revenge.

The School Resource Officer position will be structured to address the specific concerns and challenges of the Byron-Bergen school community. There are two general categories of job responsibilities: safety expert/law enforcer and problem solver/educator.

**As a safety expert and law enforcer, the SRO will:**

- Be a first responder and an instant link to law enforcement in the event of critical incidents
- Work closely with school officials to update school safety and emergency response plans
- Act as a deterrent to dangerous situations or disorderly behavior on campus
- At the Principal’s request, investigate or respond to intruders, or to violations of the law or school policy
- Provide security at school functions
- Identify risk factors for crime, delinquency, or truancy
- Work with outside law enforcement

**As a problem solver and educator, the SRO will:**

- Establish relationships with students and engage them in positive interactions
- Develop safety and crime prevention programs, and provide classroom instruction
- Facilitate group discussion and encourage understanding among students and staff
- Become a mentor and role model, communicating openly with students about their rights and responsibilities
- Expand student understanding of the law and justice system

- Facilitate drug education and anti-bullying efforts at the elementary level

“We want the new SRO position to reflect and address the concerns and values of the Byron-Bergen community,” said Kosiorek. “We want to ensure the school environment is a safe place for our kids to learn.” ([ckosiorek@bbschools.org](mailto:ckosiorek@bbschools.org) or call 494-1220 ext. 2829)

**Districts with SROs**

- Attica
- Avon
- Batavia BOCES
- Caledonia-Mumford
- Dansville
- Gates-Chili
- Greece
- Holley
- Keshequa
- LeRoy
- Letchworth
- Livonia
- Warsaw
- Wheatland-Chili

**Considering adding a SRO**

- Mt. Morris
- Wayland-Cohocton





# Jr./Sr. High School Update

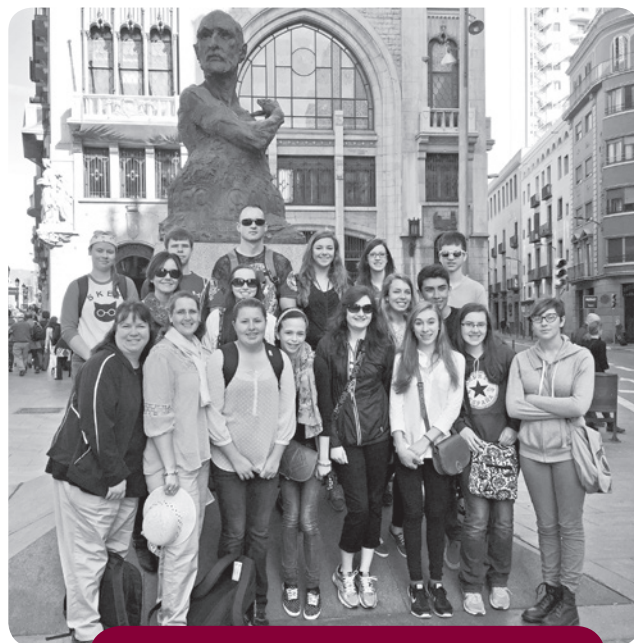
By: Dr. Aaron Johnson, Principal

Over the course of the past few years, the Jr./Sr. High School set empathy and appreciation of diversity and differences as a priority. Recently established rituals such as the bi-weekly Olweus anti-bullying lessons and the habits for success from the Leader in Me program have pushed the boundaries of our school community's culture of tolerance and understanding. Walking the halls of our school, you feel a sense of community in the actions of our students and faculty. From the student artwork placed on the walls, to the pristine condition of our facilities — this speaks to the quality of the individuals that work and learn here. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for making our building a first-rate place to live and learn.

Over spring break, I was invited to share in a unique cultural opportunity with our Spanish Club as they visited five cities in Spain. In 11 days we traveled over 900 miles by bus and high-speed rail, and walked an average of 5+ miles per day to experience the culture, architecture, and cuisine of Granada, Seville, Cordoba, Madrid, and Barcelona. This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip for 12 of our students. My favorite day was our visit to the final resting place of Christopher Columbus in the Seville Cathedral. I would like to give special recognition to faculty members Susan Price and Jeanne Rivera for coordinating an efficient and memorable journey for our students.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of this year's musical, "The Wizard of Oz." This production was a true measure of our ability to come together for the greater good. From the involvement of our Technology and Art Departments, to the contributions of local talents like David Keller and Faline Tyler, this production was one of our best. All students involved, both on and offstage, deserve a huge pat on the back. Thank you to Laurence Tallman, Kevin Bleiler, Music Boosters President Cheryl Donovan, and all of the many parents and faculty members who helped our students shine. Great job!

Wishing you a happy and healthy spring!



Sightseeing in Barcelona on their last day in Spain are: (front, l-r) Mrs. Rivera, Ms. Price, Ashley Bates, Grace Pulcini, Katelyn Simmons, Reanne Dressler, Sara Efung, and Celia Mercovich; (center, l-r) Mrs. Kota, Sara Kota, Samantha Walker, and Claudio Rivera; and (back, l-r) Melinda Wells, Adam Strassner, Mr. Johnson, Cassandra Hartman, Rose Bower, and Tyler Kota.

## Scholar Program

The Byron-Bergen 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 each year, monetary awards are presented at Academic Awards 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 2014-15 second quarter recipients:

### Gold Scholar

- Rose Bower
- Alexander Brumsted
- Brandon Burke
- Elizabeth Burlingame
- Dante Bzduch
- Siomara Caballero
- Colleen Clay
- Sarah Clay
- Zachary Cocking
- Alexander Dean
- Madison Farnsworth
- Makayla Fee
- Jeremy Fink

- Clare Fraser
- Sara Fraser
- Margaret Graney
- Amaya Gunther
- Kaitlyn Harder
- Tyler Henry
- Cora Iverson
- Michaela Kenward
- Cambria Kinkelaar
- Sara Kota
- Hunter Leach
- Melissa MacCowan
- Celia Mercovich
- Ashley Montgomery

- Abigail Noeth
- Grace Pulcini
- Brittany Rada
- Alexandria Rosse
- Auburn Schwartzmeyer
- Caleb Sharpe
- Chloe Shuskey
- Katelyn Simmons
- Dana VanValkenburg
- Annabella Vurraro
- Samantha Walker
- Melissa Watson
- Michael Zwerka
- Nathan Zwerka

### Silver Scholar

- Sarah Bleiler
- Hannah Catalino
- Elizabeth Donnelly
- Danielle Foeller
- Brittany Goebel
- Chad Green
- Zachary Hannan
- Jacob Rada
- Garrett Sando

### Bronze Scholar

- Zachary Seeley

### Special Recognition

- Shannon Little





## Our Honor Societies welcome new members

We were proud to recognize 10 new **National Senior Honor Society** ((NSHS)) members at a ceremony at Byron-Bergen Sr. High School on March 24. They join the ranks of exceptional, hardworking young people who exhibit the strength of character necessary to be part of this elite organization. The group of new inductees increases the total number of students in Byron-Bergen's National Senior Honor Society to 44.

The ceremony included words of welcome and congratulations from Superintendent Casey Kosiorek, who also paid special tribute to graduating seniors. Jr./Sr. High School Principal Aaron Johnson, too, spoke to the seniors about the importance of commitment and responsibility. Senior NSHS members then presented a flower and note of gratitude to someone important to them.

Guest speaker Liz Findlay, a long-time Byron-Bergen teacher and Alumni Hall of Fame honoree, spoke to the inductees about having good character, focusing on honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring. Ms. Findlay said, "Our character is much more than just what we try to display for others to see. It is who we are even when no one is watching. Good character is doing the right thing because it is right to do what is right."

New inductees took the NHS pledge, and then received certificates and honor cards. The ceremony concluded with words of encouragement and advice from teacher Andrew McNeil.



*Newest Byron-Bergen National Senior Honor Society inductees (l-r): Kelsey Maurer, Grace Pulcini, Olivia Audsley, Michael Zwerka, Adam Walter, Rose Bower, Brittany Rada, Clare Fraser, Chase Felton, and Celia Mercovich.*

The **National Technical Honor Society** (NTHS) induction ceremony was held on March 19 at Elba High School. NTHS strives to bring well deserved recognition, scholarship opportunities, and career opportunities to students who excel in career and technical education fields. Inductees are selected based on a minimum grade point average of 3.0, along with credit hours completed, attendance, volunteer service, and membership in other student organizations. NTHS members embody all the attributes and talent which are in demand today, and embrace a clear vision for their role in tomorrow's workforce.



*(l-r): Lindsay Ladley (Human Services); Samantha Donnelly (Graphic Arts); Alicyn Bizari (Cosmetology); Thomas Lambert (Electronics); Katherine Fonda (Criminal Justice); and Danielle Foeller (Health Careers Academy).*

**Congratulations to all of our NTHS inductees!**

*(l-r) Katelyn Simmons (Health Careers Academy, Merissa Bohn (Electronics)*





## National Junior Honor Society Induction

At a ceremony held on March 18, a group of 20 students from Byron-Bergen Jr. High School were inducted as new members of the **National Junior Honor Society** (NJHS). The inductees were selected based on their high standards of scholarship, citizenship, service, leadership, and character — the five qualities all members must represent.

The roster of speakers included NJHS Vice President Kolbi Brew who congratulated the newest members on their prestigious accomplishment. NJHS Secretary Emma Goodman and Treasurer Brianna Shade also spoke, reading descriptions of the five qualities that define National Junior Honor Society members. A candle was lit to signify each quality in the members' lives. The induction ceremony featured two guest speakers: math teacher Tiffany Luksch and social studies teacher Aaron Clark.

Luksch shared a quote from Walt Disney: "All your dreams can come true, if you have the courage to pursue them." She spoke about not only having dreams, but also having the qualities that are necessary to achieve those dreams. She said, "Dare to create notions that have never been thought of before and have the courage to explore the many possibilities this life can bring. And remember, 'If you can dream it, you can do it.'"

"We have to remember that we would not have gotten as far as we have in life without the love and caring of others in our own lives," said Clark. He spoke of the importance of doing for others and of having the courage to make the best out of difficult situations in life.



### CONGRATULATIONS

#### 2015 National Junior Honor Society Inductees:

##### Seventh-Grade Inductees

Alexander Brumsted  
Elizabeth Burlingame  
Siomara Caballero  
Alexander Dean  
Madison Farnsworth  
Sara Fraser  
Amaya Gunther  
Zachary Hannan  
Cambria Kinkelaar  
Travis Lambert  
Jillian Menzie

Auburn Schwartzmeyer  
Chloe Shuskey  
Garrett Swinter  
Anabella Vurraro  
Nathan Zwerka

##### Eighth-Grade Inductees

Dante Bzduch-Clark  
Zachary Cocking  
Hunter Leach  
Erin Parnapy

## The world comes to Byron-Bergen

We welcome our exchange students who have introduced us to other world cultures this year: Nicola Pellacani from San Felice sul Panaro, Italy and Li-Ting Lin from Taipei, Taiwan.

Li-Ting — Ivy — is 16 years old. She comes from a family of five, which includes her mom and dad, grandmother, and younger brother, Benson. She takes her role as elder sister seriously, and works hard to be a good role model. "At Byron-Bergen," she said, "my favorite teacher is Mr. Muhlenkamp. I really enjoy his U.S. History class, and he is also my basketball coach. I like sports, particularly volleyball and tennis, and I enjoy singing, too." Ivy is staying with the Bowman family: Timothy and Heather, and their children Lindsey, Emily, Victoria, Benjamin, Peter, and Melody. "I love to make friends," she said, "because friendships make my life colorful."



Ivy has visited Washington, D.C. in her time with us. She is hoping to finish her junior year at home, and then "maybe go to Germany to be an exchange student again. I'd like to come back here to visit again next summer!"

Nicola, or Nico as everyone calls him, is 17 years old, and says he loves "every single class at Byron-Bergen HS," especially Mr. Muhlenkamp's U.S. History, English with Mr. Tomidy, and Ms. Gerhardy's Psychology class. "I couldn't have been luckier with my host family," he said. Dana and Renee Keaton are "friendly and active people who made me feel at home since the first day. They are trying to show me the best of their country. I've been to NYC, Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C., and Letchworth State Park. We're planning a trip to Boston."



Baseball is a completely new sport for Nico, but "an awesome experience so far." He also enjoys soccer, skiing, fishing, and playing his guitar. "I look forward to sharing all the beautiful things and experiences I've had here with my family. This will always be an exceptional memory and a second home to me," he said.

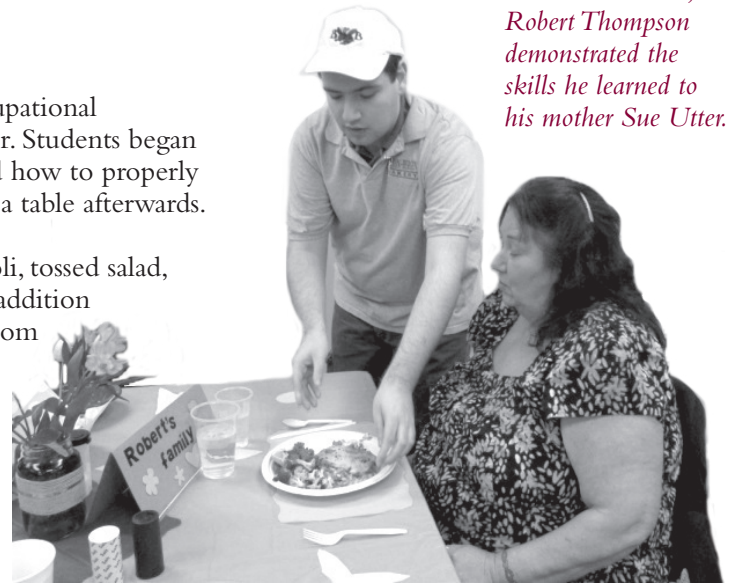


## Occupational Education students welcome their families

Prior to Spring break, students in Lisa Forsyth and Kerri Smith's Occupational Education class were busy preparing for their first annual parent dinner. Students began by taking a field trip to the Batavia Country Club, where they learned how to properly set a table, take orders, serve the many courses of a meal, and clean up a table afterwards.

They then headed to the kitchen, where they prepared lasagna, broccoli, tossed salad, brownies, and even homemade cheese cakes for the special dinner. In addition to preparing all the food themselves, students transformed their classroom into "The Bee Bistro" by creating centerpieces, place cards, and table cloths. The room was also beautifully decorated with handmade wooden signs that the students had crafted in their manufacturing unit.

The invited families really enjoyed being waited on by their children and commented on what a good job the students did and how great the meal tasted. It was a fun evening for all.



*In The Bee Bistro, Robert Thompson demonstrated the skills he learned to his mother Sue Utter.*

## Elementary School News

By: Brian Meister, Principal

Spring is finally here and the Elementary School is abuzz with all that is happening. As the grass starts to green and the flowers begin to bloom, I would like to share some of the many exciting events that have enriched our children these past few months.

### "Read Across America Day"

March 2 was "Read Across America Day" and the elementary students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by dressing as their favorite Dr. Seuss character and cheering on The Cat and the Hat and other characters in our annual reading parade. Students created birthday cards, posters, and banners to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday.

**Faculty vs. Students Basketball Game** - Byron-Bergen Elementary School held their second annual Faculty vs. Students Basketball Game on March 20. The event was combined with a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support our fifth- and sixth-graders who are headed to New York City this spring. This year's event added intermission contests such as a dance-off and dizzy bat race that provided many laughs. The crowd was treated to a tremendous halftime show by our elementary cheerleaders. This terrific group of young students worked hard after school to learn their routine. The game, of course, was a smash hit showcasing students from the fifth and sixth grades playing hard to beat their teachers and administrators. Both teams battled back and forth ending, once again, in a tied score.



*Lunch time is special when you get to share a moment with the Principal. (l-r) Mr. Meister, Seth Prefontaine, Maddex Haymon, and Carter Kempisty.*

**Storytelling** - Students in grades 3-6 participated in the annual storytelling competitions, where they prepared and practiced telling stories in front of an audience. The top storytellers at each grade level were invited to the annual Storytellers Festival held in Pavilion in late March.

**Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant** - Our Elementary School was fortunate to receive the Fuel Up to Play 60 program grant this year, which is founded by the National Football League and the National Dairy Council, in collaboration with the USDA. It supports nationally recommended standards for health and physical activity. In celebration of

this award, we held back-to-back assemblies for grades K-2, 3-4, and 5-6. Each assembly featured a short presentation from the Heart Association's Robin Swan, and an energetic and entertaining Zumba workout from instructor Melissa Mutter. The funds from the grant will be used to bolster our health and wellness programs involving exercise and nutrition.

I would like to thank the Byron-Bergen School community for your continued support of our school and District. It is my distinct honor to partner with you to provide the children of Byron-Bergen with the finest school experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bmeister@bbschools.org](mailto:bmeister@bbschools.org) or 494-1220 ext. 1005.



## Storytellers tell their tales

The School Library System of Genesee Valley Educational Partnership sponsors a Storytelling Festival for students in grades 3-8 every year. The goals are to provide a rich learning experience for the participants and to help build language skills and self-confidence. Public speaking skills are also strengthened. Each school in the School Library System holds a building-level selection process and the selected individuals go on to participate in the Storytelling Festival. This year's event was held at Pavilion CSD on March 26.

***Congratulations to the storytelling winners and all of the Byron-Bergen participants.***



**Fifth-grade winners:** (l-r) Sadie Cook, Peyton Buzzell, and Meghan Kendall.



**Third-grade winners:** (l-r) Callista Kinkelaar, Malachi Smith, and Madison Fuller.



**Sixth-grade winners:** (l-r) Hope Hersum, Deacon Smith, Matthew Zwerka, and Jessica Wolfe.



**Fourth-grade winners:** (l-r) Dayanara Cabellero, Joshua Tardy, and Grace Capostagno.



**Seventh-grade representatives:** (l-r) Siomara Cabaellero, Miriam Tardy, and Nathan Zwerka.



STUDENT SHOWCASE

**“Butterfly Banner”**

*Tempera paint*  
By: Jackson Lundfelt,  
grade 2  
Art Teacher:  
Mrs. Coniglio



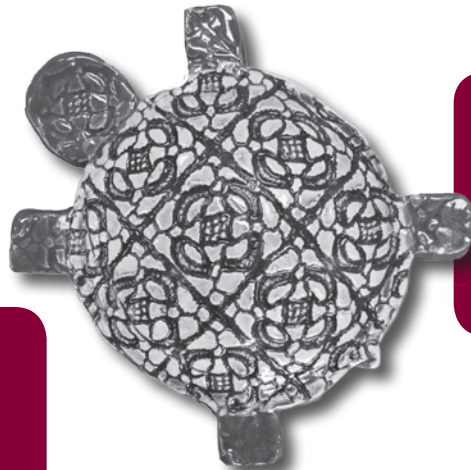
**“Colorful Owl”**

*Oil crayon on paper*  
By: Mason Singer,  
grade 6  
Art Teacher:  
Mrs. Coniglio



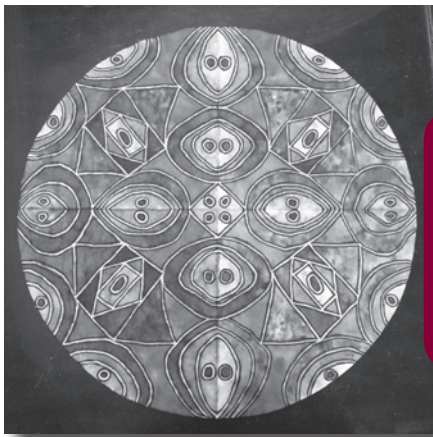
**“Turtle”**

*Clay*  
By: Lindsey Bowman,  
grade 10  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



**“Rose Window”**

*Watercolor marker on color diffusing paper*  
By: Alexander Dean,  
grade 7  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



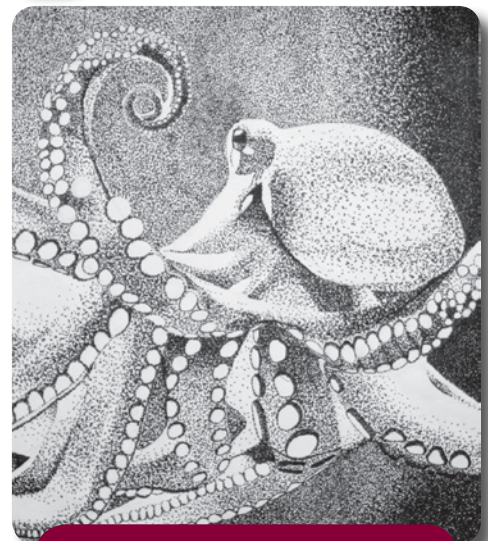
**“Landscape”**

*Oil Pastel*  
By: Esther Musiyevich,  
grade 11  
Art Teacher:  
Mrs. Fritz



**“Pointillism Octopus”**

*Sharpie® Marker*  
By: Allison Richardson, grade 12  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz







## Byron-Bergen 2015 Second Quarter Honor Roll

### GRADE 7:

**High Honor Roll** - Caitlin Ashton, Megan Bogue, Alexander Brumsted, Elizabeth Burlingame, Siomara Caballero, Alexander Dean, Elizabeth Donnelly, Madison Farnsworth, Kyle Foeller, Sara Fraser, Amaya Gunther, Zachary Hannan, Rick Hubbard, Mikaela Hubler, Cambria Kinkelaar, Chad Kupfer, Travis Lambert, Melissa MacCowan, Jillian Menzie, Auburn Schwartzmeyer, Caleb Sharpe, Chloe Shuskey, Peter Smith, Garrett Swinter, Hannah VanSkiver, Annabella Vurraro, Grant Williams, Nathan Zwerka.

**Honor Roll** - Julianna Amesbury, Cole Bergeron, Hannah Catalino, Jacey Donahue, Monica Fee, Kelsey Fuller, Chad Green, Coltin Henry, Emily Kaczmarek, Connor Kaminski, Clayton Sadler, Kevin Smith, Bryce Yockel, Braeden Zimmerman.

**Effort Roll** - Caitlin Ashton, Cole Bergeron, Alexander Brumsted, Siomara Caballero, Alexander Dean, Sara Fraser, Chad Green, Amaya Gunther, Zachary Hannan, Cambria Kinkelaar, Jillian Menzie, Auburn Schwartzmeyer, Caleb Sharpe, Chloe Shuskey, Garrett Swinter, Annabella Vurraro, Grant Williams, Nathan Zwerka.

### GRADE 8:

**High Honor Roll** - Sarah Bleiler, Kolbi Brew, Dante Bzduch-Clark, Zachary Cocking, Adam Drake, Jared Fregoe, Leah Gale, Emma Goodman, Annaliese Hersom, William Johnson, Oliver Kelley, Hunter Leach, Erin Parnapy, Sabastian Pawlukewicz, Brianna Shade, Emma Smith, Kyong-ae Yun.

**Honor Roll** - Stephanie Buell, Lydia Campbell, Cole Carlson, Ryan Cooper, Alissa Countryman, Colin Davis, Anthony DiQuattro, Mariah Fee, Tabitha Fuller, Donna Hinckley, Jason Hoehn, Rebecca Johnson, Isaac Ladley, Danielle Mason, Rayelle Merrell, MacKenzie Rosse, Wade Thompson, Rebecca Velasco.

**Effort Roll** - Sarah Bleiler, Kolbi Brew, Dante Bzduch-Clark, Zachary Cocking, Adam Drake, Jared Fregoe, Leah Gale, Emma Goodman, Annaliese Hersom, Donna Hinckley, William Johnson, Oliver Kelley, Hunter Leach, Erin Parnapy, Emma Smith.

### GRADE 9:

**High Honor Roll** - Larissa Ashton, Cameron Brumsted, Lauren Burke, Benjamin Chaback, Kylar Chambry, Quinn Chapell, Jean Denson, Margaret Graney, Justin Hannan, Tyler Henry, Alyssa Hing, Brendon Kendall, Melanie Kulikowski, Peyton Mackey, Lily Mercovich, Tapanga Schramm, Austin Sharpe, Leah Thompson, Chaderic Toal, Dana VanValkenburg, Marrisya Yantz.

**Honor Roll** - Catherine Brumsted, Cynthia Clay, Brionna DeMichel, Timothy Ellsworth, Jessica Fleming, Morgan Fuller, Ethan Green, Hayley Hoehn, Brian Ireland, Daniel Jensen, William Kennett, Julia Menzie, Dillon Montgomery, Makenzie Muoio, Joshua Phelps, Francisco Ramos, Riley Sadler, Garrett Sando, Adam Swapceinski, Riley White, Esther Wilkins.

**Effort Roll** - Larissa Ashton, Cameron Brumsted, Lauren Burke, Benjamin Chaback, Kylar Chambry, Quinn Chapell, Cynthia Clay, Brionna DeMichel, Jean Denson, Morgan Fuller, Margaret Graney, Justin Hannan, Tyler Henry, Alyssa Hing, Hayley Hoehn, Brendon Kendall, Michael Khomitch, Melanie Kulikowski, Peyton Mackey, Julia Menzie, Lily Mercovich, Makenzie Muoio, Joshua Phelps, Isavel Ramos Francisco, Garrett Sando, Tapanga Schramm, Austin Sharpe, Leah Thompson, Chaderic Toal, Dana VanValkenburg, Esther Wilkins.

### GRADE 10:

**High Honor Roll** - Olivia Audsley, Rose Bower, Lindsey Bowman, Dillon Brew, Brandon Burke, Reanne Dressler, Clare Fraser, Kelsey Maurer, Celia Mercovich, Grace Pulcini, Brittany Rada, Karson Richenberg, Aveyrey Ridder, Adam Walter, Michael Zwerka.

**Honor Roll** - Dominick Andres, Kerri Bates, Grace Campbell, Russell Cunningham, Marlaina Fee, Chase Felton, Mackenzie Fox, Hailey Hubbard, Alexandria Loewke, Kitana Maher, Brandon Shade, Samantha Wade.

**Effort Roll** - Dominick Andres, Olivia Audsley, Rose Bower, Lindsey Bowman, Dillon Brew, Brandon Burke, Grace Campbell, Reanne Dressler, Marlaina Fee, Clare Fraser, Hailey Hubbard, Shannon Little, Kitana Maher, Kelsey Maurer, Celia Mercovich, Colin Noeth, Grace Pulcini, Brittany Rada, Samantha Wade, Adam Walter, Michael Zwerka.

### GRADE 11:

**High Honor Roll** - Merrisa Bohn, Bethany Ezard, Aaries Fitzsimmons, Brittany Goebel, Lauren Graney, Kaitlyn Harder, Ana Hubbard, Cora Ivison, Allison Kropf, Lindsay Ladley, Ashley Montgomery, Allie Moyer, Esther Musiyevich, Brandon Reiner, Alexandria Rosse, Alexa Strzelecki, Robert Thompson.

**Honor Roll** - Leah Catalino, Jamie Crawford, Samantha Donnelly, Rider Farnsworth, Joelle Meister, Vitorrio Muoio, Courtney Onderdonk, Colby Savage, Andrew Wolfe, Aurora Zinter.

**Effort Roll** - Leah Catalino, Bethany Ezard, Brittany Goebel, Lauren Graney, Julia Hahn, Ethan Hall, Kaitlyn Harder, Ana Hubbard, Cora Ivison, Allison Kropf, Li-Ting Lin, Taylor McPherson, Ashley Montgomery, Allie Moyer, Esther Musiyevich, Jacob Petote, Brandon Reiner, Alexandria Rosse, Alexa Strzelecki, Robert Thompson.

### GRADE 12:

**High Honor Roll** - Ashley Bates, Emily Bowman, Colleen Clay, Sarah Clay, Sean Donovan, Makayla Fee, Jeremy Fink, Danielle Foeller, Luke Hollenbeck, Rebekah Ireland, Abigail Kelley, Michaela Kenward, Sara Kota, Adrian Lambert, Jacob Lovelace, Lindsey Lovett, Michelle Lovett, Gerald Menzie, Samantha Morgante, Catherine Nagel, Abigail Noeth, Nicola Pellacani, Rebecca Phelps, Jacob Rada, Jacob Scroger, Katelyn Simmons, Brette-Morgan Snyder, Christine Stevens, Sadie Vincent, Samantha Walker, Nicholas Warriner, Melissa Watson, Melinda Wells.

**Honor Roll** - Michaela Austin, Alex Beam, Jeremy Boeff, Alysia Boughton, Heather Dries, Chance Edmonds, Lauren Forsyth, Spencer Kulikowski, Ryan Leo, Joseph Miraglia, Lopez Perez, Bethann Rethlake, Michael Shanley, Jordan Sloat, Leah Stamp, Samantha Stumpf, Olivia Sweet, Cory Utter, Rachel Wannike.

**Effort Roll** - Jeremy Boeff, Emily Bowman, Colleen Clay, Sarah Clay, Alana Diefendorf, Sean Donovan, Makayla Fee, Jeremy Fink, Danielle Foeller, Rebekah Ireland, Michaela Kenward, Sara Kota, Jacob Lovelace, Lindsey Lovett, Michelle Lovett, Gerald Menzie, Joseph Miraglia, Samantha Morgante, Catherine Nagel, Nicola Pellacani, Bethann Rethlake, Jacob Scroger, Katelyn Simmons, Brette-Morgan Snyder, Samantha Walker, Rachel Wannike, Melissa Watson, Melinda Wells.

*Great Job!*



## WNY Tech Academy

By: WNY Tech Academy Principal Tom Schulte

On Friday, March 27, the students of the WNY Tech Academy had the opportunity to spend the day onsite at Gunlocke, in Wayland, NY. For over 100 years, Gunlocke has been manufacturing high-end office furniture, including the chair that nine United States Presidents have used in the Oval Office. During our visit, students toured the manufacturing facility and observed the incredible diversity of employment opportunities that exist within the company. They were able to see some of the unique processes that help separate Gunlocke from many of their competitors, and got a great view of what advanced manufacturing looks like. The day ended with our Gunlocke partners walking our students through an activity where they learned about the manufacturing process and

process improvement. All in all, it was an incredible day of learning and we cannot thank our partners at Gunlocke enough for the time and energy they put in to support our students!



It is not too late for Byron-Bergen eighth-graders to take advantage of the outstanding learning opportunities in the WNY Tech Academy. Students and families interested in learning more about what our program offers and the application process can visit our website at [www.wnytechacademy.org](http://www.wnytechacademy.org); email the Principal, Tom Schulte, at [tschulte@wnytechacademy.org](mailto:tschulte@wnytechacademy.org); or call directly at (585) 494-1220 ext. 2304.



## New athletic placement process for interschool athletic programs

New York State has adopted a new process for the program formerly known as Selective Classification. This process allowed seventh- and eighth-graders to participate in junior varsity and varsity sports. The new process is called Advanced Placement Programs (APP). Students will now have to complete the Presidential Physical Fitness Test and need to score in the 85th percentile or better, in all categories, for their gender and age. This change will be in effect for the 2015-16 school year. As potential athletes take the test this spring for fall sports, we will be using this process. If you have questions, please contact Athletic Director Rich Hannan at 494-1220 ext. 2003.





## Sports All-Stars

Congratulations to the following Byron-Bergen fall and winter athletes named All-Stars during their sports season in the 2014-15 school year. All-Stars are nominated by their coaches and voted on by the Genesee Region League (GRL).

### FALL SPORTS ALL-STARS

#### **Volleyball**

Lauren Burke  
Erin Casey  
Abigail Kelley

#### **Football**

Steele Truax - Running Back  
Bryan Hallenbeck - Defensive Line  
Mike Shanley - Linebacker

#### **Girls Soccer**

Lindsey Lovett  
Samantha Morgante  
Allison Richardson

#### **Girls Cross Country**

Michaela Austin  
Danielle Foeller  
Ashley Montgomery  
Samantha Walker

#### **Boys Soccer**

Luke Hollenbeck  
Ryan Richardson  
Andrew Sczepanski  
Adam Strassner

#### **Boys Cross Country**

Sean Donovan  
Justin Hannan

### WINTER SPORTS ALL-STARS

#### **Swimming**

Jake Rada  
Morgan Fuller

#### **Wrestling**

Danny Khomitch  
Hunter Taylor  
Chaderic Toal  
Adam Walter  
Alan White

#### **Girls Basketball**

Abigail Kelley  
Lindsey Lovett

#### **Cheerleading**

Kaitlyn Harder  
Rachel Wannike



*Bethany Ezard, Roland Williams, and Karson Richenberg at the Sportsmanship Summit held at SUNY Geneseo.*

## Scholar-Athletes

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors those teams that excel in the classroom at the end of each sport season. To receive this honor, a minimum number of team members must achieve a scholastic average of 90 or above during their sport season. Congratulations to the following Byron-Bergen Scholar-Athletes for the 2014-15 fall and winter sports seasons:

### FALL 2014 SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

#### **Boys Cross Country**

Brandon Burke  
Luke Hollenbeck  
Jacob Lovelace  
Brandon Reiner  
Justin Hannan  
Sean Donovan  
Jake Rada  
Adam Walter

#### **Girls Soccer**

Olivia Audsley  
Morgan Fuller  
Hailey Hubbard  
Lindsey Lovett  
Kelsey Maurer  
Sam Morgante  
Alexandria Rosse  
Leah Thompson

#### **Girls Cross Country**

Michaela Austin  
Sarah Clay  
Danielle Foeller  
Alex Loewke  
Ashley Montgomery  
Sam Walker

#### **Girls Volleyball**

Lauren Burke  
Bethany Ezard  
Kaitlyn Harder  
Cora Ivison  
Abigail Kelley  
Alexa Strzelecki  
Sadie Vincent

### WINTER SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

#### **Girls Swimming**

Megan Ayers  
Sarah Clay  
Morgan Fuller  
Margaret Graney  
Michaela Kenward  
Celia Mercovich  
Rayelle Merrell  
Ashley Montgomery  
Brittany Rada  
Leah Stamp

#### **Girls Basketball**

Lindsey Lovett  
Samantha Morgante  
Karson Richenberg  
Abigail Kelley  
Bethany Ezard  
Abigail Noeth  
Christine Stevens

## Sportsmanship Summit

For a third straight year, Byron-Bergen student athletes and coaches took part in the Section V Sportsmanship Summit in April. Eleven of our athletes, together with 400 student athletes from around the Section V area, came to SUNY Geneseo for a day of interactive and cooperative games. In the afternoon, they spent time with the keynote speaker, Roland Williams. "Big RO" is a Rochester native and played football for Syracuse University. He then played in the NFL for eight seasons. Williams won a Super Bowl Ring with the St. Louis Rams, making him the only Section V native to win a Super Bowl title. He delivered a fantastic message in his keynote address about the importance of living in a good way, and what it takes to reach personal goals. The day was a fantastic opportunity for our coaches and athletes.



## Music Department News

Congratulations to all our student musicians for their wonderful performances at this year's events. And many thanks to music teachers, Laurence Tallman, Kevin Bleiler, Robert Lancia, and Karen Tischer, for helping them to prepare.

### Area All-State

Stephanie Buell and Mason Fuller were selected to perform with the Junior High Area All-State Chorus held at Pittsford Sutherland High School last November. Selection was based on Solo Festival scores from the previous year, where they each received superior grades on their solos and on their excellent sight-reading skills.

### Vocal and Instrumental Solo Festivals

Several Byron-Bergen students performed individual solos at the Genesee-Wyoming Music Educators Association's (GWMEA) annual Solo Festivals held in January. Students prepared individual solos, which they performed, by memory, before a judge specializing in voice or specific instruments. In addition, students had to sight-read music. This unique opportunity provided the young musicians with a chance to receive feedback as solo performers, as opposed to performers in a group setting. Judges provided feedback based on the individual musician's tone quality, preparedness, performance ability, technique, and aesthetic quality, among other attributes. Students were selected to perform with the All-County Band and/or All-County Chorus based on their performance scores.

## All-County Participants

### Senior High Band

Makayla Fee, Ashley Montgomery, Danielle Foeller, Samantha Walker, Melissa Watson, Marlaina Fee, Brandon Shade, and Adam Walter.

### Junior High Band

Hannah VanSkiver, Emma Goodman, Mariah Fee, Monica Fee, Isaac Ladley, and Annabella Vurraro.

### 5/6 Band

Emmy Stein, Kelly Ireland, Angel Heick, Grace Shepard, Sara Goodman, Jaden Pocock, Madelynn Pimm, Brooke Jarkiewicz, Emily Burlingame, Emily Chaback, and Veronica Duell.

### Senior High Chorus

Celeste Brownell, Clare Fraser, Emily Bowman, Lindsey Bowman, Reanne Dressler, Joelle Meister, Ashley Sine, Brette-Morgan Snyder, Sean Donovan, Andrew Sczepanski, Mason Fuller, Nathaniel McCarthy, and Colby Savage.

### Junior High Chorus

Stephanie Buell, Lydia Campbell, Leah Gale, Jason Hoehn, Janae Meister, Rayelle Merrell, and Hannah VanSkiver.

### 5/6 Chorus

Emily Chaback, Kelly Ireland, Julia Schlenker-Stephens, Madison Mucha, Hope Hersom, Nicole Stone, Rayna Brew, Andrew Parnapy, Deacon Smith, and Sarah Streeter



## Music Notes



**Sr. High  
Spring Band Concert**  
May 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High Auditorium

**Grades 7-8  
Spring Concert**  
June 3 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High Auditorium

**Music Boosters  
"Afternoon of Music"**  
June 7 - 3-5 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High Auditorium

**Sr. High  
Spring Vocal Concert**  
May 19 - 7:30 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High Auditorium

**Grades 5-6  
Spring Concert**  
June 4 - 7 p.m.  
Jr./Sr. High Auditorium

**Grade 4  
Spring Concert**  
June 10 - 7 p.m.  
Elementary Cafetorium



# Byron-Bergen Central School District 2015-16 DISTRICT GOALS

**The Byron-Bergen learning community will:**

- Provide a school environment that is proactive in maintaining an individual’s physical and emotional safety
- Produce graduates who are responsible, well-rounded, goal-oriented, life-long learners who are prepared for the future. The District will ensure high learning standards by utilizing researched-based curriculum and instructional strategies to create opportunities for all students to become college and career ready
- Provide ongoing professional development for District staff, administration, and the Board of Education in an effort to promote high quality educational opportunities
- Promote cost-effectiveness by developing a transparent budget that provides a quality education in a fiscally responsible manner, that is accomplished through multi-year planning. Continue to explore opportunities to sustain a viable district through collaboration, shared services, and revenue-generating opportunities
- Provide quality buildings, infrastructure, and facilities that are well-maintained and efficient

## WANTED: Substitute Food Service Workers

*Previous food service experience is helpful.*

**To apply:** Send letter of interest, application, and resume to:

Mary DellaPenna, Cafeteria Manager  
Byron-Bergen Central School  
6917 West Bergen Road  
Bergen, NY 14416

## Wrestling Club Annual Chicken Barbecue

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

4-7 p.m.

Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria



Presale tickets \$9.00  
(\$10.00 at the door)

For tickets, see any wrestler  
or contact Mark Miraglia at  
(585) 409-4621.

## SUBSTITUTES WANTED



“Do you have an interest in helping Byron-Bergen CSD in the capacity of Substitute Teacher and/or Substitute Teacher Aide?”

If so, please visit our website [www.bbschools.org](http://www.bbschools.org) and download an application. For more information, call Sally Mech at 494-1220 ext. 2201.



## Byron-Bergen Central School District



**We're here to serve you and your family delicious breakfasts and lunches. Convenient, economical, and healthy meals served July 6-August 7, 2015.**

*If you have questions, please call (585) 494-1220 Ext. 1015*

**All Kids Eat Free!**  
*No paperwork necessary must be 18 or under*

**Adults**  
**\$2.50 \$4.00**  
*Breakfast Lunch*

**Monday - Friday, 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**July 6 through August 7, 2015**

**Breakfast served 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. & Lunch served 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
Held at Byron-Bergen Elementary School, 6971 W. Bergen Rd., Bergen, NY 14416

***No paperwork required...just show up for a great Breakfast and Lunch.***

*This establishment is an equal opportunity employer/provider.*

## District-Level Collaborative Improvement Team seeks an at-large representative

The Byron-Bergen District-Level Collaborative Improvement Team (DLCIT) serves as a key communication link among the building-level Collaborative Improvement Teams in the District. This group meets approximately five times a year to coordinate District efforts to improve student achievement.

All interested members of the Byron-Bergen community are invited to apply for an "at-large" position. Any person who resides or works in the District is eligible, including parents, grandparents, staff, members of local businesses, and students currently in grades 8-11. Simply return the application below by Friday, May 29, 2015. If you have questions, please call Casey Kosiorek, Superintendent of Schools, at (585) 494-1220 ext. 2829.

### BYRON-BERGEN DLCIT APPLICATION FOR AN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a statement in which you explain why are you interested in serving on the DLCIT, which group(s) within our school community you believe that you represent, and what you, as an individual, could bring to the group.

**Return the completed application no later than May 29, 2015 to:**  
Mr. Casey Kosiorek, Superintendent of Schools  
Byron-Bergen Central School District  
6917 West Bergen Road • Bergen, New York 14416



## July 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 B.B. CENTRAL SCHOOL

### INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

2015-2016

#### JULY & AUGUST

TBD - Faculty Discretionary Day  
 August 26, 2015 - Professional Development   
 (non-tenured teachers)  
 August 26-27, 2015 - New Teacher Orientation ↔

#### HOLIDAYS

Independence Day Observed - July 3, 2015   
 Labor Day - September 7, 2015  
 Columbus Day - October 12, 2015  
 Veterans' Day - November 11, 2015  
 Thanksgiving Recess - November 25-27, 2015  
 Winter Recess - December 23, 2015 - January 1, 2016  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 18, 2016  
 Presidents' Day & Recess - February 15 & 16, 2016  
 Spring Recess - March 21-28, 2016  
 Memorial Day - May 30, 2016

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - Tuesday, September 8, 2015 ☉

#### REGENTS EXAMS

August 12, 13, 2015,  
 January 26-29, June 1, & June 14-23, 2016

#### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - June 23, 2016 ▲

(1/2 Days of School for Grades K-6 - June 21-23, 2016)

#### GRADUATION - June 25, 2016 ★

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAYS - No School for Students ▼

September 3, 2015 - Superintendent's Conference Day  
 October 9, 2015 - Superintendent's Conference Day  
 February 1, 2016 - Wrap Up Day  
 February 17, 2016 - Superintendent's Conference Day

#### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS ○

November 20, 2015 - 1/2 Day of School - PreK-6 (only)  
 November 23, 2015 - 1/2 Day of School - PreK-12  
 November 24, 2015 - 1/2 Day of School - K-12

#### DAYS OF INSTRUCTION

July & August ---  
 September 17  
 October 20  
 November 17  
 December 16  
 January 19  
 February 17  
 March 17  
 April 21  
 May 21  
 June 17

#### TEACHER WORK DAYS

1  
 1  
 1  
 2

TOTAL 182 5

#### 2015-2016 SCHEDULE OF MAKE-UP DAYS

If all extra days are used and there is:

1 day to make up March 21, 2016  
 2 days to make up March 21, 22, 2016  
 3 days to make up March 21, 22, 23, 2016  
 4 days to make up March 21, 22, 23, 24, 2016  
 5 days to make up March 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 2016

Approved by the Byron-Bergen Central School District Board of Education on February 5, 2015.

## January 2016

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 2016

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					

## March 2016

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 2016

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 2016

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 2016

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		★



# FOCAL POINT

## SUPERINTENDENT

Casey Kosiorek

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Debra List, *President*  
Daniel Ireland, *Vice President*  
Yvonne Ace-Wagoner  
William Forsyth  
Tammy Menzie  
Amy Phillips  
Jennifer VanValkenburg

## EDITOR

Gayla Starowitz

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lisa Constantine

[www.bbschools.org](http://www.bbschools.org)

Byron-Bergen Central School District  
Bergen, NY 14416

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Brockport, NY  
Permit No. 7

# BYRON-BERGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Budget, Proposition Vote, and Board Candidate Election

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 • 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Jr./Sr. High School Wrestling/Fitness Room

*(Northwest corner of the High School)*

**PROPOSITION #1** - For the purpose of adopting a budget of \$22,080,361 for the 2015-16 school year.

YES

NO

**PROPOSITION #2** - To authorize the purchase of (1) 66-passenger bus with luggage compartments and (1) 30-passenger bus with cost not to exceed \$155,000.

YES

NO

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING TWO (2) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2018.**

1. Debra List
2. William Forsyth

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

1. A citizen of the United States
2. A resident of the District for 30 days preceding the vote
3. At least 18 years of age