



Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Superintendent Update Email April 2024

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Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,

By now, some of you have had the opportunity to participate in a valuable scientific survey being conducted by a BBHCSD-hired information gathering firm, for the purpose of obtaining feedback about the district and our path forward. A follow-up Google survey link will accompany my message next month, for those we miss during this initial input-seeking measure, to ensure that as many individuals as possible have a chance to participate. This season of surveys comes after the engagement sessions earlier this spring, and in advance of the administrative team working towards the completion of a community-based strategic plan. Without question, your valuable feedback has made this first year together active, exciting, and positioned for future successes.

The 2023-2024 school year continues to move along, and testing season is upon us right now. Perhaps at no other time is the dedicated excellence of the students and staff on display more than this important stage of the school year. Please keep in mind that encouragement can mean empowerment for our students when it comes to testing. Let's get our students prepared with positivity, proper nutrition, and rest between now and the end of the school year. Thank you in advance to our families for playing an active role in our students' academic successes.

While last month's report featured a spotlight milestones and achievements at the High School, I write with some interesting updates from the Middle School and Elementary School. One aspect of school life I have learned during the past several months as your superintendent, is that a commitment to achievement and being appropriately directed on a path to success takes place at a young age in this district. Some of the stories below demonstrate this very significant attribute of our school district. As always, learn more at www.bbhcsc.org.

BBHMS Model UN Team Success at Statewide Competition

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School Model United Nations Team recently experienced great success at the statewide competition, winning one of the Best Resolutions honors along with several individual accolades. The team, comprised of fourteen 7th and 8th grade students representing Australia, North Korea, and Yemen, concentrated their efforts on addressing forest fire destruction, education reform, and helping those less fortunate. Thoughtfully developing solutions to these global problems, the resolution entitled *Too Hot to Handle*, from the Australia delegation including 8th graders Shreyas Mahalaha, Oliver Bellone, Morgan Harrison, Sophia Riley, Gwyn Popielski, and Chris Morcos won a Best Resolution Award. Individual honors

were earned by Shreyas Mahalaha and Sophia Riley, who won Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Delegate, respectively. According to group advisor Eric Lapsansky, “all three of the teams represented BBHMS with class and dignity in this outstanding global educational experience.” Congratulations to this team on their culminating effort at the statewide competition and also to Mr. Lapsansky for his mentorship. The BBHMS Model UN Team completes this season with success and looks forward to a new effort with new teams next year.

BBHMS Students Excel at Regional Scholastic Art Competition

Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School had an excellent showing at the 2024 Regional Scholastic Art Competition hosted at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Gold Key Winner
Zoey Zitterbart
“Fish Vase”



Silver Key Winner
Annelies Chase
“Extravaganza”



Silver Key Winner
Rose Szczepanik
“A Smile”



A total of seven awards were given to BBHMS students in recognition of their outstanding artistry. Zoey Zitterbart was awarded the prestigious Gold Key award and will move on to the National Competition. Annelies Chase & Rose Szczepanik were Silver Key recipients, with Rose also receiving two Honorable Mention awards. Additional Honorable Mention award recipients included Camille Reed and Deniza Cuceinic. All Gold and Silver Key award winners will have their artwork displayed from May 18th through June 1st at the Cleveland Institute of Art’s Reinberger Gallery. Congratulations to our Middle School Scholastic Art Competition award winners on their significant accomplishments!



Esports Club Launches at BBHES

Esports is one of the fastest-growing co-curricular activities in the country and has now arrived at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Elementary School with great excitement. The BBHES Esports Club officially launched in November 2023 with nearly seventy students attending tryouts. Led by advisor and BBHES STEAM teacher, Mr. Bihari, the new student club features

thirty team members comprised of fourth and fifth graders who are required to maintain good grades and set a positive example in their behavior.

The students held their first practice on December 5th and regularly met twice per week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the STEAM room just outside the Media Center. After dedicating the first six weeks to practicing, the students were organized into teams featuring three to four members who compete against each other in the Mario Kart Deluxe 8 game each week. Students play on eight Nintendo Switches and Pro Controllers that were generously donated by the BBHES PSO. The response to the Esports Club has been extremely positive as team members look forward with anticipation to competing and improving their gaming skills each week, with many also practicing at home to beat their competition times.

Students from all grade levels can be seen checking the team standings which are posted on the outside of the glass wall of the classroom. The afterschool club is a

