

WHY BYRAM HILLS IS A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Special Recognition



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Byram Hills Central School District
10 Tripp Lane
Armonk, New York 10504





BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A great place to learn"

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William M. Donohue, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 2016

Dear Byram Hills Parents and Community Members,

During the period from 1997 through 2010, the Byram Hills schools experienced extraordinary enrollment growth. Our enrollment increased from 2,180 students to 2,794 students - an increase of almost 30%. This growth created the need and opportunity to provide new and timely programs designed to ensure the highest quality of education for our students. These programs were central to our goal of moving from Good to Great as espoused by noted business author Tom Collins, whose work has been our guide throughout the process.

Evidence of our accountability and success is presented in the document "*Byram Hills Is a Great Place to Learn*" which is available on our website or from the District Office. This document provides data that we use to track our progress on everything from college admissions results to athletic records.

I hope you find this information informative and inspiring!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Donohue".

William M. Donohue, Ed.D.

BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Why Byram Hills is
a great place to learn!

Special Recognition

Program Awards and Recognition

Superior College Admissions

77% of our students in 2014 were accepted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools, an increase of 20% since 2001 where 57% were accepted!

Tier I (Most Competitive) and Tier 2 (Highly Competitive) are part of Barron's 6 levels of college rankings based upon competitiveness. Tier 1 and Tier 2 constitute about the top 12% of four-year colleges in the United States.

Years	Tier 1 Acceptances	Tier 2 Acceptances
Acceptance 2006	31%	33%
2007	30%	39%
2008	37%	28%
2009	42%	27%
2010	41%	33%
2011	45%	24%
2012	52%	25%
2013	47%	32%
2014	49%	28%
2015	53%	29%

Attended Tier 1 and Tier 2 colleges

2001	2015
45%	71%

Byram Hills students attend Ivy League Schools every year!

Years	Attending Ivy League Schools
2004	6%
2005	9%
2006	8%
2007	8%
2008	5%
2009	9%
2010	6%
2011	6%
2012	5%
2013	7%
2014	7%
2015	7%

Top Ranked High School

*Byram Hills High School has ranked **in the top 100** of public schools in the U.S. by Newsweek and Forbes magazines. Identified as a district that provides "value added" by Standard & Poor's.*

Intel Science Talent Search

The Byram Hills Authentic Science Research program was named one of the TOP FIVE authentic science research programs in the world by Intel.

The Intel Science Talent Search is the most prestigious science research competition for high school seniors. The competition provides a national stage for America's best and brightest young scientists to present original research to nationally recognized professional scientists.

Results from 1991-2016:

Semifinalists: **96**

Finalists: **18** (*Only 40 finalists are selected nationally each year.*)

Total Graduates of Byram Hills Authentic Science Research Program: **374**

Excellent Test Data

Byram Hills students have consistently excelled on state assessments! Examples include:

In 2015, Byram Hills ranked in the *top 4% of school districts in NYS* (out of about 700 districts) on 7 state assessments. Some highlights include:

- ranked #1 on the 6th and 8th grade English Language Arts assessment
- ranked #1 on the 6th and 7th grade mathematics assessment
- ranked #7 on the 5th grade English Language Arts assessment

99% of Students passed the English Regents Exams from 2004-2010.

99% of students passed the Common Core Algebra Regents in 2014.

100% of Byram Hills students passed the U.S. History and Government regents, Living Environment regents, and the Geometry regents in 2015.

In grades 3-8, Byram Hills students scored on average 33% above students in the state on the English Language Arts assessment and 34% above on the math assessment

Students with disabilities in Byram Hills, compared to students in the region, pass the state assessments on average: 18% points higher in ELA and 21% points higher in mathematics.

Nationally Recognized Middle School

H.C. Crittenden Middle School was presented with the Blue Ribbon Award in 2006 in recognition of HCC's exceptional programs and performance!

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

H.C. Crittenden received **First Place** and **Superior** Citation awards in 2005 for the student literary magazine, *Harold's Pen*. This magazine was also recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English.

NYS Reward School

Byram Hills has received Reward School status from NYS Education Department for having schools with high achievement. To receive this recognition, schools must be in the top 20% in the state for ELA and mathematics achievement for two consecutive years, show growth from year to year, and have no significant gaps in student achievement between subgroups.

2015-2016 Wampus Elementary and H.C. Crittenden Middle School

2014-2015 H.C. Crittenden Middle School

2013-2014 H.C. Crittenden Middle School

Technology Pioneer Award

Awarded in 2001 for recognition of outstanding professional learning communities that integrate technology into the curriculum at all grade levels.

Excellent Music Achievement

Byram Hills students consistently achieve top honors in state and regional performance competitions.

Students were selected from the top percentage in the state/region based upon performance criteria.

Student participation from 2001-2013:

New York State School Music Association

All-State Conference, grades 10-12: **47 students**

Area All-State Festival, grades 10-12: **162 students**

All-County High School Jazz Festival, grades 10-12: **9 students**

Westchester County Student Music Association

All-County Intermediate Festival, grades 7-9: **194 students**

All-County Elementary Festival, grades 5-6: **88 students**

Environmental Recognition

*The Wampus School and H.C. Crittenden Middle School were given the **Raising Recycling Awareness award for Westchester County Schools** by the Department of Environmental Facilities of Westchester County.*

Outstanding Athletic Program

The Byram Hills Athletic Program has achieved outstanding results, including:

- Boys Cross Country Sectional Champions 2008, 2009, 2010
- Four teams ranked in the top 15 in New York State 2008; three teams ranked in 2009
- Girls Divisional Swim Champions 2008
- Boys Soccer State Champions 2007 and Semifinalists 2009; 2014 Sectional and Regional Champions 2009; League Champions 2009, 2010 and 2013
- Boys Track Team nationally ranked 2006
- Girls Volleyball League Champions 2009, 2013 and 2014
- New York State Scholar Athletics Awards (24 of our 28 teams each year)
- Girls Field Hockey Team – highest GPA in NYS 2003
- Ice Hockey team awarded the Howard Kosel Team Sportsmanship Award each year since 2002
- New York State School of Distinction Award, 2005-2006

- Boys Tennis Section 1 Champions 2009, 2010; 2014 Division 1 Champions 2009; Doubles Champions 2009
- Swimmer qualified for All-American Team, 2009, 2013
- Boys Basketball Section 1 Class A Champions, 2011; Regional Champions, 2011; State Final Four, 2011, League Champions 2013, 2014
- Girls Basketball 1 League Champions, 2010, 2012
- Winter Track Section 1 League Champions, 2010
- Boys Golf All Section, 2010
- Cross Country League Champions, 2011
- Westchester County Cross Country Champions 2010
- Boys Basketball Section 1 Class A Champions 2011 - Gold Ball
- Section 1 Diving Champion, Section 1 Diving Champion, Section 1 Diving Champion, 2011
- Cheerleading Section 1, Conference 3 Champions, 2011
- Girls Soccer League Champions, 2014, 2015
- Girls Tennis League Champions, 2014
- Football, Bowl Champions, 2014
- Baseball, League Champions, 2014

Student Recognition

2006 Presidential Scholar Award

The Presidential Scholar Program recognizes and honors some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Nationally, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars each year, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

Academic Challenge Recognition

National Academic Champion in 2006

National Semifinalist in 2005 & 2009

"The Challenge" on Channel 12:

- *Westchester/Hudson Valley Finalist in 2008*
- *Westchester/Hudson Valley Semi-Finalist in 2009*

1st Place, OMAR Q BECKINS quiz bowl tournament, 2010

BHHS Mock Trial

The Byram Hills High School Mock Trial team was a finalist 5 times since 1992 in the Westchester County Bar Association Tournament.

The Mock Trial Team has qualified for the elimination rounds in every year but twice in the last 25 years.

1st place – 1992 & 1993

2nd place – 1995, 2003 & 2008

Semi-finalists – 1998, 2004, 2006, 2013 & 2014

BHHS Debate Team

The Byram Hills High School Debate Team ranked 1st place three times in the Rockland County Forensic League: 2002, 2005 & 2006! In 2012, the team has doubled in size, and we compete in four tournaments. Our students have received numerous awards, and 2011-12 saw four freshman place in the top 5 speakers.

Harvard Model Congress

Led by Harvard graduate students, over 1,500 high school students participate in this dynamic simulation of American Government. In 2011-12, 32 Byram Hills students participated, the largest delegation ever from one school. In 2010-11, two students received 2nd place awards within their respective committee. Byram Hills High School has sent a delegation to Harvard Model Congress for at least twenty consecutive years.

National Neuroscience Award

Brett Roston, graduating class of 2014, is one of four students nationwide to win the prestigious Neuroscience Research Prize awarded by the American Academy of Neurology and Child Neurology Society for his research with Alzheimer's disease. Brett conducted his research in Byram Hill's Authentic Science Research program.

Science Olympiad

Middle School:

Excellent performance on the regional Science Olympiad Competitions!

- First Place in 2004 & 2005
- Second Place 2006

High School:

- 2009 – First time in the 25-year history of the lower Hudson Valley Science Olympiad that a first year team finished in the top three! Received 2 gold and 1 silver medal. Won the Best New School award at state competition at West Point.
- 2010 – Received 1 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals at state competition.
- 2011 – Received 3 gold and 2 bronze medals at state competition.
- 2012 – 7th Place overall at the Lower Hudson Valley Regional. Received medals in 4 of 19 events.
- 2013 – Team A received medals in 4 of 19 events; Team B received medals in 4 of 19 events.
- 2014 – Team A finished 5th Place (receiving medals in 9 of 19 events); Team B finished in 12th place (receiving medals in 3 of 19 events). Highest finishing team for the Lower Hudson Valley at the State Competition.
- 2015 – Team A finished 2nd Place in the Lower Hudson Valley Regional (receiving medals in 13 of 19 events). Team B finished in 12th Place (receiving medals in 7 of 19 events.) Highest finishing team for the Lower Hudson Valley at the State Competition.

New York State Mathematics League

36 students qualified for state competition over the past 5 years.

High School Students qualify for state-wide competition based upon performance in the Westchester Math League on a series of competitive math challenges.

National Geography Bee Champion

State Champion 2000 & 2002

World Languages

Board of Distinction on the National French Exam. Over 100,000 students take the National French exams. Each Byram Hills student place in the top 10 in Westchester County. In 2009 and 2011, students received 1st place in Westchester and 2nd place nationally.

On the 2012 National French Language Exam, Le Grand Concours, one eighth grade student ranked first place nationally. In 2013, 1 student ranked second place with 11 students ranking in the top 10.

On the 2013 Spanish National Exam, 3 students received Gold Placement; 5 students earned Silver placement; 10 students earned Bronze placement; and 8 students received Honorable mention.

In 2012, two Italian students were recognized by Westchester County as outstanding students of Italian by County Executive Rob Astorino, District Attorney Janet DiFiore, and Francis Nicolai, Justice of the Putnam County Supreme Court.

Outstanding Student Recognition in Athletics

Each year, Byram Hills athletes are selected for All American, All-State and All-Region. Numerous athletes go on to play college level athletics.

New York State Gatorade Player of the Year for Boys soccer 2007

Max Prep Volleyball Player of the Week for New York State 2008

9 Con Edison Scholar-Athlete Award winners

40-80 athletes receive All-League, All-County and All-Section Awards annually

Swimmer qualified for All-American Team 2009-10

Student Publications

Based upon their work in the Authentic Science Research program, many students have published articles in professional journals. Below are some samples of publications from our students.

2016 Okun, Jared

Okun, Jared (April, 2016). Evaluating the improvements of StarCraft gameplay in the ABL agent EISBot by implementing dynamic specificities through an external component; 2016 2nd International Conference on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (ICRAI2016); MATEC Web of Conferences (ISSN: 2261-236X).

2016 Mautner, Alexandra

Mautner, Alexandra. (2016). "Living 10 Months for 2:" The Social Impact Residential Camp on the Development of the Self in Preteen and Teen Girls. 2016 American Camp Association Research Forum Abstracts (pp. 38 – 40).

2016 Rowan, Dominick

Rowan, Dominick; Meschiari, Stefano, et al. (2015) The Lick-Carnegie Exoplanet Survey: HD32963 – A New Jupiter Analog Orbiting a Sun-like Star, arXiv: 1512.00417v1 [astro-ph.EP] 1 Dec 2015.

2014 Cohen, David

Distribution of non-Gal antigens in pig cornea; Relevance to corneal xenotransplantation. *Cornea* 2014;33:390-397.

2014 Guberman, Alec

The mass of the black hole in LMC X-3. arXiv:1402.0085v1 [astro-ph.SR] (2014).

2013 Brook, Andrew D.

Comparison of CT and fluoroscopic guidance for lumbar puncture in an obese population with prior failed unguided attempt. *Journal of Neurointerventional Surgery* (2013) (First Author).

2013 Grossman, Eric

Athletic Participation in Children with Symptomatic Spondylolysis in the New York Area. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* (2013)

- 2013 Glatt, Daniel**
Visual navigation during colony emigration by the ant *Temnothorax rugatulus*. *PLoS ONE* 8(5): (2013) e64367.
- 2013 Klein, Elizabeth**
Oncolytic Immunotherapy Using Recombinant Vaccinia Virus GLV-1h68 Efficiently Kills Sorafenib-Resistant Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Surgery*. (Author).
- 2013 Klein, Elizabeth**
Oncolytic Viral therapy for Pancreatic Cancer: Current Research and future Directions. *Oncolytic Virotherapy*. (Author).
- 2013 Taft, Amanada**
Situational and environmental factors associated with a child's willingness to use an epinephrine auto-injector. *Abstract and poster accepted for presentation at the 2014 AAAAI Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA*. (February, 2014); abstract for the online version of *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (Feb. 2014).
- 2012 Gardner, Allie**
Weather Variability Affects Abundance of Larval Culex (Diptera: Culicidae) in Storm Water Catch Basins in Suburban Chicago. *Journal of Medical Entomology* (2012) 49(2):270 (first author).
- 2012 Xu, Aurora**
Reanalysis of Refractive Growth in Pediatric Pseudophakia and Aphakia. *Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus*. (Currently in Press.)
- 2011 Cannold, Sammy**
Institute of Global Education & Policy Studies; State University of NY at Albany (December, 2011) (Conference Presenter).
- 2011 Klugman, Maddie**
The effects of pre-season and in-season neuromuscular training on the tuck jump assessment: A test used to identify risk of ACL injury in female athletes. *National Strength and Conditioning Association 33rd National Conference 2011*: Orlando, FL (Published Abstract).
- 2011 Klugman, Maddie**
Does an in-season only neuromuscular training protocol reduce deficits quantified by the tuck jump assessment? *Clinical Sports Medicine* 30 (2011) 825-840.
- 2010 Kosminsky, Eli**
World of Warcraft: The viability of massively multiplayer online role-playing games as platforms for modeling and evaluating perfect competition. *Journal of Virtual Worlds Research*. 2(4) (2010) 4-6.
- 2013 Klein, Eli**
World of Warcraft: Finding Adam Smith in Azeroth. Cuddy and Norlinger (eds.), *World of Warcraft and Philosophy* 45: (2009) Chicago: Open Court (Author).
- 2009 Kosminsky, Lily**
Review of Osseointegrational Technology for Patients with Amputations: University of Utah: (April, 2009,) (Conference Presenter).

- 2009 Kramer, Stephen**
Comparison of the effect of human interaction, AAT And AIBO-AT on long term care residents with dementia. *Anthrozoology.org* 22(1) (2009) 43-57.
- 2008 Blum, Jeremy**
Cancellation of force induced artifacts in surface EMG using FSR measurements. *Myoelectric Controls/Powered Prosthetics Symposium 2008*: New Brunswick, Canada (Published Abstract).
- 2007 Cruz, Christopher**
Soft tissues in ammonoid cephalopods from the Bear Gulch Lagerstätte, Montana, USA. *Cephalopods-Present and Past*; Tokai University Press, Tokyo: 147-153 (Published Abstract).
- 2007 Formicola, Courtney**
Natural T cell immunity to HER-2/NEU HLA class II peptide, P885-899, in patients with breast or ovarian cancer. *Journal of Immunology*. 30(8): (2007) (Published Abstract).
- 2006 Roberts, Benjamin**
Blocked exit syndrome: A serious risk in venue emergencies. *Fire and Safety Magazine* (Fall, 2006).
- 2004 Albert, Matthew**
Visual rotation detection and estimation for mobile robot navigation. *International Conference on Robotics and Automation*; New Orleans, LA (Conference Presenter).
- 2003 Stauffer, Julian**
Double bonds in fused hexacyclic systems. *Journal of Mathematical Chemistry* 34(3-4) (2003) 297-301.
- 2003 Colasacco, Lauren**
Release of oncofetal fibronectin from human placenta. *Placenta*. 24 (2003) 843-850.

Teacher Recognition

New York State Coach of the Year

Scott Saunders, 2015

New York State Master Teacher Program

Chris Lewick, 2015

American Chemical Society Award of Excellence in High School Teaching

Steve Borneman, 2014

Teacher Publication and Presentation

Steve Borneman. Synthetic Organic Electrochemistry in Ionic Liquids: The Viscosity Question. *Molecules*, 2011.

Steve Borneman. Presentation at the 2013 American Chemical Society Symposium.

Various Teaching Guides for Harper Collins Publishing Company

Sue Orenstein,

Boys Basketball League Coach of the Year

Ted Repa, 2010, 2011

President of Soccer Coaches Association

Bryan Horn, Matt Allen, 2010, 2011

Nichols Foundation High School Chemistry Award

Steve Borneman, 2010

Volleyball Coach of the Year

Jared Christian, 2009

Innovative Teaching Award, recognized by Manhattanville College

Judy Brewster, 2008

New York State Boys Soccer Coach of the Year

Matt Allen, 2008, 2010

League Football Coach of the Year.

John Naughton, 2008

President of Westchester School Council Music Association

Marna Weiss, 2006 – 2008

Distinguished Teacher Award

Anne Kaplan, 2006

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics by the U.S. Department of Education

Chris Lewick, 2005

Fulbright Scholarship

Bob DiMartino, 2004

Smart Exemplary Educator Award

Ken Kaplan, 2004-2005

Teachers in Space program, NASA's Educator Astronaut Program

Chris Lewick, 2004

American Dreamer Achievement Award

David Wolfe & Janet Thompson

Special Recognition in Recycling Award

Meg Johnston

Albert Shanker National/International Conference Scholarship

Laura Borneman, Robin Langsam, & Chris Lewick

President of Westchester/Putnam/Rockland Counseling Association

Susan Buchman

Middle States College Board Advisor/Council

Anne Kaplan

Administrator Recognition

Author: Curriculum Guide for the Movie, Sisterhood of the Night

Andrew Taylor, published 2015

Armonk Rotary Outstanding Citizen Award

Bill Donohue, 2008

Franklin R. Buchanan Prize of the Association of Asian Studies (2006)

**Author: From Silk to Oil: Cross-Cultural Connections Along the Silk Roads
(Oases Town and Caravans: pp. 82-99)**

M. Amster & Jennifer Laden, published 2005

Author: Kaplan AP World History

Jennifer Laden & P. Whelan, published 2005

President of the Westchester/Putnam/Rockland Middle School Principals Association

Evan Powderly, 1998 – Present

Dissertations

Sandra Abt. *A History of the Changes in the Policies and Practices of Student Control and Discipline in the Public Schools of New York State 1812-1980*, 1992.

Paul Beeken. *Electronic Energy Transfer in Small Molecules*, 1983.

Kenneth Cotrone. *The Heart of the Matter: The Relationship Between Stress and Anxiety and the High Performing High School Culture*, 2014.

William Donohue. *The Advocacy Design Center: An Institutional Analysis of an Effort to Build Community and Promote Change in the Paterson Public Schools*, 1993.

Tim Kaltenecker. *Understanding the Role of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in Leading School Improvement*, 2011.

Michael McGrath. *Retention of Freshmen Students at Iona College: A Multi-Method Investigation*, 1996.

Ellen Medd. *The Effects of Facilitated Incubation on Fourth Graders' Creative Writing*, 2002.

Evan Powderly. *Anatomy of an Annexation*, 1993.

Andrew Taylor. *Impact of Access, Ability, and Attitude on Teacher and Administrator Use of Data*, 2009.

Yvette Thompson. *The Impact of Play on Language Development*, 2002.