

THE FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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MAMMA MIA! DELIVERS UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCES

Bravo to the entire cast, crew, and production team of Mamma Mia! The Varley Players performed four sold-out performances of the upbeat musical. The entire production was truly outstanding!



NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

All six Byram Hills High School seniors selected as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program have advanced to become finalists and will compete for scholarships worth nearly \$28 million! The finalists are **Cyrus Aly, Samara Brown, Aaron Lestz, Daniel Ndocaj, Alexander Woodworth** and **Yicheng Yang**.



JSHS RESULTS

Congratulations to our Science Research students who presented their research at the Upstate Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held at SUNY Albany this week! **Ayaka Ammon, Jake Fenster, and Yicheng (Rocky) Yang** presented their work as speakers, while **Ben Levy** and **Abby Cushman** presented their research through posters. Notably, Ben and Abby secured second place in their respective categories. Rocky's outstanding presentation earned him first place in one of the five speaker rooms, allowing him to present his work once more to a crowd of 300 individuals in a ballroom setting. This remarkable achievement also qualifies Rocky to participate in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Albuquerque, NM, this May. Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and dedication!



CHARLOTTE BRODBECK WINS THE NEIL GINSBERG AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Congratulations to **Charlotte Brodbeck** for winning the Neil Ginsberg Award for Human Rights! This prestigious honor, presented by the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center, acknowledges individuals who have shown an exceptional commitment to advancing human rights causes. Charlotte's dedication and efforts in promoting and defending human rights have rightfully earned her this esteemed recognition.

VALENTINA MARINO REACHES PREMIER DISTINCTION IN SPEECH AND DEBATE

Valentina Marino has reached Premier Distinction, the highest degree in the National Speech & Debate Association Honor Society! Fewer than 3% of NSDA members earn Premier Distinction prior to graduation and she is the fourth student in our school's history to earn this award, joining Sammi Cannold (class of 2012), Lia Aldea-Lustig (class of 2023) and Aidan Aldea-Lustig (class of 2023).

SPEECH AND DEBATE NEWS

Congratulations to **Alyssa Chen** and **Lindsay Coady** for reaching the Quarterfinals in Public Forum Debate at the Lakeland Invitational Tournament the weekend of March 2nd-3rd.

ALL-DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVALS

From February 14th to 16th, students from across the District came together for three all-district music festivals. Students from Wampus, HCC, and BHHS, representing string, chorus, and band groups, dedicated their mornings to displaying their musical abilities, practicing together, socializing, and performing as cohesive ensembles. A big thank you to the Byram Hills PTSA for their co-sponsorship of these festivals!



JACK QUINN EARNS SPOT IN PRESTIGIOUS GOLDEN DOZEN

Congratulations to **Jack Quinn** on being named to the prestigious Golden Dozen. The Golden Dozen recognizes the top 12 football student-athletes who exemplify excellence on the field, in the classroom, and in their community.



WINTER ATHLETICS POSTSEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to our Section 1 Class A Champions Boys Varsity Basketball team and to our New York State Regional Champions Varsity Boys Ice Hockey team!

OPERATION PROM

On Thursday, March 21st, the Senior and Sophomore Grade Activities Boards will be conducting a prom dress drive to support teens in our area. If you have any lightly used formal wear including prom gowns, bridesmaid dresses, tuxedos, or any other formal wear that might offset a teenager's prom costs, we hope you will consider dropping it off in the Byram Hills High School cafeteria between 2:30-3:30 on the 21st.

Please reach out to David Hubbs at DHubbs@byramhills.net or Meaghan Williams at MWilliams@byramhills.net with any questions.

SPRING BREAK

"Spring Break" has grown into a major industry that now attracts as many high school students as their college counterparts. The potential for abuse of sex, drugs, and alcohol remains a major concern. In addition, the popularity of international resorts as Spring Break locations has occasionally led to the exploitation of students who are vulnerable as minors and foreigners in unfamiliar cultures

Before confirming any plans, we suggest that you check into <http://travel.state.gov/> for more information about travel advisories and the country under consideration. We also suggest that you check references for any charter companies that you are depending on for flights and accommodations. Canceled flights, switched hotels, and even exploitation by local police have occurred to Byram Hills students in the past. This information is provided to give parents as much information as possible to make informed decisions. The school district does not organize, support, endorse, or partner with any travel companies providing "Spring Break" vacations or services to our students. Additionally, student-athletes should fully understand the consequences of missing games or practices over the break prior to making Spring Break plans.

MARCH SOFT SKILL

Sense of humor. Countless studies have shown the tremendous impact that a strong sense of humor has on a student's overall wellness. Being able to see the humor in situations gives a greater sense of perspective and can help students reduce stress and anxiety.

UPDATED NYS COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

The NYS Department of Health has updated the COVID-19 Guidance and can be found [here](#). Please contact our nurse, [Jill Drucker](#), if you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 15th

Superintendent Conference Day (Staff Only)

Tuesday, March 19th

Principal's Coffee 9 am

Board of Ed. Mtg. & - Budget Hearing II 7:30 pm

Wednesday March 20th

PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am

Thursday, March 21st

BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm

Monday, March 25th

Spring Recess

Schools Closed/Offices Open

Holi

Tuesday March 26th

Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule

Spring Recess

Schools Closed/Offices Open

Wednesday, March 27th

Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule

Spring Recess

Schools Closed/Offices Open

Thursday, March 28th

Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule

Spring Recess

Schools Closed/Offices Open

Friday, March 29th

No Athletic Games or Practices

Spring Recess

Good Friday

Schools Closed/Offices Closed

Saturday, March 30th

No Athletic Games or Practices

Sunday, March 31st

Easter

Monday, April 1st

School Reopen

Tuesday, April 2nd

Board of Ed. Mtg. &

Budget Hearing III, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 3rd

AP Art Show @ BHHS

8 am - 2:30 pm

AP Art Show and Community

Reception @ BHHS 7 - 8:30 pm

Thursday, April 4th

AP Art Show @ BHHS

8 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday, April 9th

PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am

Last Day of Ramadan

Wednesday, April 10th

Eid al-Fitr

Thursday, April 11th

BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm

Friday, April 12th

Byram Blues Jazz Coffeehouse

[BHHS & HCC] @ BHHS 7 pm

Saturday, April 13th

ACT

Monday, April 15th

Tri-M Honor Society Induction 7 pm

CLICK HERE
FOR UPCOMING
ATHLETIC EVENTS

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 - 3 Spring Sports On-Line Registration Begins (Gr. 7-12)	2
3	4 - 4 EF Tour Info Session 6:30 pm	5 - 5 School Counseling Discussion Group 9 am PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am Board of Ed. Mtg. Presentation of Administration's Proposed	6 - 6 Faculty Meeting	7 - 7 The Varley Players Performance - Mamma Mia! 7 pm	8 - 8 The Varley Players Performance - Mamma Mia! 7 pm Registration Deadline for 4/13 ACT	9 SAT The Varley Players Performance - Mamma Mia! 2 & 7 pm
10 BHEF Harlem Wizards 2:00 pm Daylight Saving Time Begins Ramadan Begins	11 - 1 Hang Up & Drive Assembly 9:20 am Gr. 8 Parent Orientation @ BHHS 7 pm Spring High School Sports Begin	12 - 2 Site Based Team Mtg 4-6 pm Senior Fashion Show Dress Rehearsal 7:30 pm	13 - 3 Department Meetings Senior Fashion Show 7:30 pm	14 - 4	15 Superintendent Conference Day (Staff Only)	16
17	18 - 5	19 - 6 Principal's Coffee 9 am Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing II, 7:30 pm	20 - 7 Learning Communities PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am	21 - 8 Operation Prom 2:30 BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm	22 - 1	23
24	25 Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open Holi	26 Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	27 Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	28 Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	29 No Athletic Games or Practices Spring Recess Good Friday Schools & Offices Closed	30 No Athletic Games or Practices
31 Easter						

APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Schools Reopen	2 - 2 Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing III, 7:30 pm	3 - 3 AP Art Show @ BHHS 8 am - 2:30 pm & Community Reception @ BHHS 7-8:30 pm	4	5 - 4 AP Art Show @ BHHS 8 am - 2:30 pm	6
7	8 - 5 Solar Eclipse 2:45-4:00 pm	9 - 6 PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am Last Day of Ramadan	10 - 7 Eid al-Fitr	11 - 8 BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm	12 - 1 End 3rd Marking Period (Gr. 9-11) Byram Blues Jazz Coffeehouse [BHHS & HCC] @ BHHS 7 pm	13 ACT
14	15 - 2 Tri-M Honor Society Induction 7 pm	16 - 3 Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing IV, 7:30 pm	17 - 4 National Art Honor Society Induction 7 pm	18 - 5 Spring Concert: Band/Orchestra/Choir 7 pm	19 - 6 Registration Deadline for 5/4 SAT	20
21	22 No Athletic Games or Practices After 5 pm Holiday Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open Passover Begins at Sundown Earth Day	23 No Athletic Games or Practices Holiday Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	24 - 7	25 - 8 PTSA Exec. Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am C.H.I.L.D. Evening Event 7 pm	26 - 1	27
28	29 - 2	30 - 3 Principal's Coffee 9 am Board of Ed. Mtg. & Adoption of Budget 7:30 pm Last Day of Passover				