

SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



National *Blue Ribbon* School

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CLASS OF 2021

REFLECTIONS

THE DISTRICT REFLECTS & MOVES FORWARD

WRITERS WORKSHOP SUCCESS

AT COMAN HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENTS THRIVE

AT WAMPUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PERSON OF THE YEAR

AT H.C. CRITTENDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

INNOVATIVE MOMENTS

AT BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR CLASS

GRADUATES, CEREMONIES, AND AWARDS

MOVING UP

FROM GRADE 5 AND GRADE 8

CELEBRATING

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS: LONGEVITY, TENURE, AND RECOGNITION



After one of the most challenging school years to date, the Class of 2021 deserved every celebration orchestrated in their honor. The celebrations began with Senior Field Day, a first-time event at Byram Hills, which offered games, a barbecue food truck, and the creation of a time capsule. Students participated in painting the Byram Hills rock, decorating their cars, and chalking the sidewalks, all senior rights of passage. That evening students enjoyed the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* under the stars on the turf field, sponsored by the Byram Hills Education Foundation.

The celebrations continued at prom night on the BHHS campus. For the first time in Byram Hills history, students were welcomed to an outdoor prom, including a livestreamed red carpet entrance, food trucks, DJ, dance floor, beautiful decorations, and lots of Bobcat spirit.



Another celebration included seniors and their families at SUNY Purchase to watch a heartfelt video tribute. The PTSA sponsored drive-in-style event included refreshments, a photo booth, and two huge viewing screens. The presentation consisted of good wishes from teachers and administrators, a diploma hand-off, and slides representing the senior class. During the tribute, Valedictorian Olivia Canter and Salutatorian Mia Dittrich addressed their fellow students with powerful and inspiring messages. The evening was filled with emotion and was the perfect prequel for the graduation to be held the following night.

On Tuesday, June 22, 2021, Byram Hills High School held its 52nd Commencement Ceremony. "I will remember this class for its gratitude, perspective, and joy that they bring to everything they do," said Mr. Christopher Walsh, Byram Hills Principal. Dr. Jen Lamia, Byram Hills Superintendent, spoke to the students about finding their voice while always seeking where other voices come from. "Go forward, find your own strength, and be your best self," she said. "The world is waiting for you, and we will always be standing behind you."

The seniors made their way across the turf field to receive their diplomas and share the last moments together as a class. Finally, they gathered on the bleachers, gazing out at their families, and triumphantly tossed their caps in the air, marking a glorious end to this chapter. Congratulations to all BHHS graduates, and GO BOBCATS!



THE DISTRICT REFLECTS AND MOVES FORWARD

The pandemic changed the approach to almost every aspect of school for staff and students. Instruction, attendance, grading, the role of technology, and human connections were evaluated and re-evaluated. Due to the stringent return-to-school protocols and procedures, set by the District, Byram Hills was back in school at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Grades K-6 were in the buildings full-time, and students were thriving in the classroom environment. They had crates for their belongings, protective desk shields, handwashing and sanitizer stations, upgraded air filtration systems, and much more. Students and staff adjusted quickly and upheld protocols each day. Grades 7-12 experienced hybrid learning - in school two days a week, alternating Wednesdays, and remotely for two days. Hybrid learning kept the number of students at half capacity each day, allowing for social distancing, until it was increased to 70% capacity later in the year.

Every building was transformed to create socially distanced learning spaces. Schools opened movable walls between classrooms while gymnasiums, music, and art rooms were restructured as educational spaces. "Our room was the library, which was cool because our whole class could be together," said grade 5 student Maxwell DeLuca. In addition, the Byram Hills Education Foundation generously provided ViewSonic monitors to every teacher in the District, allowing interactive lessons for remote and in-person learning. "I got used to working on my chrome book and with the Promethean board very quickly. I think it was easier to do everything through google classroom, and I liked all the new technology," said grade 5 student Layna Delk.

A year later, the District is ready to move forward with a full-time return-to-school plan for 2021-22. The goal is for 100% in-person learning back in original classrooms. K-5 will continue to utilize crates and outdoor learning spaces while lunch and specials will head back to their original areas. Plastic barriers around students' desks will no longer be in use, and Wednesdays will go back to full-day learning K-5. The HCC schedule will begin the day with Xpod, as it had many benefits for all students. Grades 7 and 8 will run a block schedule allowing for extended



Wampus Elementary students enjoying Field Day.

periods to delve deeper into content. There will be similar blocks of class time at the high school with their new schedule, and an extended lunch period for the entire building.

As mask and capacity rules changed near the end of the 2020-21 school year, students began to feel their school day return to normalcy. One of the biggest days for Wampus students is Field Day, and in mid-June children were able to share in this experience once again. Jacob Singer, a grade 5 student and a winner of the Field Day Sportsmanship Award said, "It was the best day of the school year. It felt so good to be together as a grade." Leah Stein, also a fifth-grader and winner of the Field Day Sportsmanship Award said, "It felt like things were starting to be back to usual like we were all together as one fifth grade community."

During this event, the positivity felt by students and teachers was acknowledged as a reassuring sign of things to come.

"Field Day felt like we were all together as one fifth grade community."

COMAN HILL AND WRITERS WORKSHOP

Writers Workshop allows students to practice writing as a meaningful part of the daily classroom curriculum working on the fundamental skills of literary growth. Students begin by learning how to hold a pencil correctly, coloring within the lines, and drawing pictures that help reflect their stories. “Teachers reinforce the basics; left to right, top to bottom, letter formation, spaces between words, and more,” said Mrs. Elise Feder, Kindergarten teacher. Students learn that one written word matches one spoken word early in the process.

“We are developing the child’s innate ability to narrate their personal experiences because they are natural storytellers. We are encouraging and fostering that goal while teaching structure, conventions, and mechanics,” said Mrs. Jean White, Kindergarten teacher. Developing narration, story sequencing, and plot are critical steps in this growth.

Students experience their stories becoming actual writings and get excited as they discover that they can be authors. “It all starts with self-confidence and independence,” said Mrs. Linda Haracz, Kindergarten teacher. Taking small slow steps is crucial as students start with pictures and gradually move to words. Stretching out words through inventive spelling is valuable for beginners, as well as practicing sight words displayed around the classroom.

“One incredible thing about kindergarten is that teachers track the fundamentals and foundations of reading and writing.

We see the pieces come together,” said Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Devin Steinberg. “It is the magic of the grade!”

“This year, while we are teaching in two classrooms, the children benefited from smaller group settings to learn the fundamentals of writing,” said Mrs. White. The kindergarten teachers learned the value of collaboration, as they modified instruction and incorporated best teaching practices.

Writers Workshop is based on the idea that students learn to write best when they frequently practice for extended periods on topics of their choosing. The Coman Hill kindergarten teachers spend a great deal of time building a solid foundation and getting students to tell their stories through their writer’s voice.

WAMPUS STUDENTS THRIVE

Students have flourished in unexpected ways at Wampus during the past year. “A life-long lesson from this experience was not to take anything for granted and be grateful for what you have,” said Mrs. Peggy McInerney, Wampus Principal. A life-long skill that grew from the pandemic was developing children’s organization, promoting resilience, problem-solving, and confidence. Each student became more accountable for their space and more responsible for their belongings. “For children to develop these skills at the foundational level sets them up for future success,” said Mrs. McInerney. “To be successful, you need organizational skills physically, mentally, and emotionally as well as executive functioning skills as students become more independent learners.”

With social distancing rules in place, Wampus class sizes became smaller. “Small group instruction is what our students need now,” said Ms. Jeanne Marie Key, grade 4 teacher. “Students are less distracted, and get more one-on-one time.” Wampus teachers have also been encouraged to utilize the outdoor spaces generously provided by the Byram Hills Education Foundation. Classes are taught on the spacious new deck equipped with tables, benches, and overhangs and allow for fresh air, easy social distancing, and a welcomed change from the classroom.



Jeanne Marie Key collaborating with her students on the Wampus deck.

The social/emotional piece is a significant component of student success. “Students take encouraged risks in our group setting and feel safe and secure,” said Ms. Lisa Pena, grade 5 teacher. Students can navigate independently and have become more flexible socially and emotionally, which are essential real-life skills. They are more comfortable volunteering in class, have more confidence, and are more compassionate.

Technology has also helped Wampus students get through these unusual times. Teachers were all given ViewSonic, a technological tool to help with blended learning, as new platforms became necessary for synchronous and asynchronous work. This District-wide grant was made possible by the Byram Hills Education Foundation. “Another new digital platform was I-ready, an adaptive assessment tool to monitor student learning. It individualizes a learning path for reading, writing, and mathematics as it tailors to the strengths or needs of students,” said Ms. Kelly Moriarty, grade 4 teacher.

The entire Wampus Community is proud of their work, as seen by the happy faces around the building. Wampus students thrived on the consistency of being in school every day and came in each morning ready to learn.



Liz Courtney works with a kindergarten student in Writer’s Workshop.



Addison Freeman,
Ella Salstein,
Ashley Stangel
and John Cavada
- winners of the
HCC Person of the
Year Project.

WHO IS YOUR PERSON OF THE YEAR?

In March, grade 8 students participated in the HCC Person of the Year project, choosing and researching someone who inspired them. They practiced their persuasive writing and public speaking skills to convince an audience that their person was the most worthy of this honor.

"Students had the option of doing a live speech or a pre-recorded video," said Mrs. Melinda Fuller, grade 8 teacher. "Some students, who initially did not want to present in person, changed their minds as they saw their peers taking risks by delivering live speeches. The build of confidence was great to see."

As a result of the pandemic, this year provided students with more diversity in their selection of new heroes and role models. Students watched sample speeches for motivation and researched articles, videos, and other sources to gain information about their person. There were three presentation opportunities after students completed their research, note-taking, and speech writing. Students were evaluated on the depth and accuracy of their research and how compelling they were in communicating their point of view. "I liked this project because it gave us a solid platform to show who we looked

up to and why they were important," said student Ashley Stangel. "We got to shine a spotlight on our person and share information with our peers." Ashley chose Kamala Harris, who she admires greatly. She expressed her excitement throughout the presentations and gained confidence while cultivating her communication skills.

Delivering her speech was the most valuable skill that student Ella Saltstein attained from this project. She worked on her pace, eye contact, and general comfort in front of a group before her official presentations. "I chose Mae Jemison, the first woman of color in space," said Ella. "I was inspired by her drive, her medical background, and of course her space travel."

John Cavada chose Dr. Anthony Fauci after listening to his press conferences during the pandemic about the nation's medical state. "My favorite part of this project was presenting my speech," John said. "Not only did I gain an understanding of medicine and the impact of Dr. Fauci, but also how to be a leader and make a difference." John hopes to become a scientist someday and plans to model the virtues of Dr. Fauci.

"It was hard to choose one person because so many people were making an impact this year, so I chose all frontline workers instead of one individual," said student Addison Freeman. "They are making such an impact this year even though they get such little recognition." Addie was so pleased that others agreed with her choice that frontline workers were worthy of this honor. "I loved presenting my speech and moving to the next level. I felt so proud," said Addie.

The grade 8 team of teachers could not have been happier with the outcome of this project. "The students' hard work, persistence, collaboration, and rigor all reflected their thirst for knowledge," said teacher Ms. Jeanine Cappello. "The people they selected and their enthusiasm for the project was nothing short of astounding."

Students were steadfast in their decisions about the Person of the Year and were convincing in their arguments. They also gained valuable insight into other significant people by listening to and assessing their classmates' projects. The benefits from this experience are immeasurable and will be utilized throughout these students' academic and professional futures.

INNOVATIVE MOMENTS AT BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

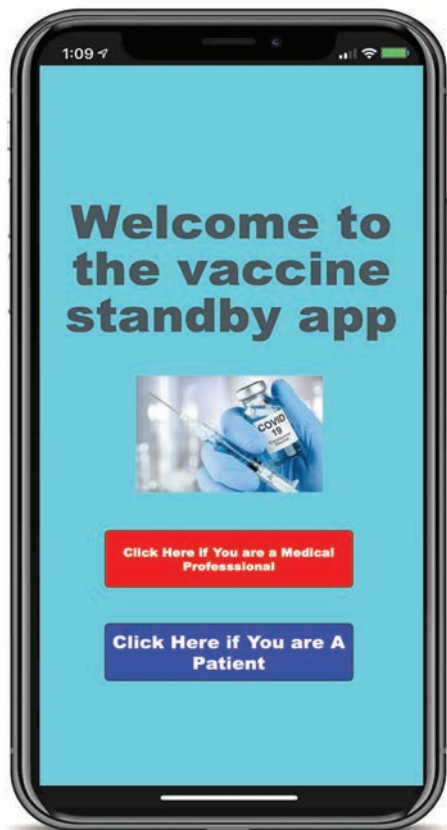
The recent public health challenge offered teachers instructional opportunities to tap into students' innate curiosity and deliver timely lessons. This situation prompted students to explore subjects further and even provided comfort during these unprecedented times. Many teachers at Byram Hills High School found ways for students to rise above the noise with unique, thoughtful assignments.

In the AP Computer Science Principles [CSP] classes, teachers Ms. Lisa Pellegrino and Ms. Carley Saracco designed a curriculum for students to build a vaccine application. This app was for people looking to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. CSP was designed to be a programming class where students could see the impact on humanity. Students gain experience in C, Scratch, SQL, JavaScript, and Python while exploring how computing solves societal and global problems.

The app added or removed someone from the vaccination list to be utilized by doctors or patients. "We designed it



Robert Ziff and Michael Rocco



Sample of Vaccine App Page

from an app builder website but taught the students the fundamental skills on how to create different functions and interact with variables," said senior Paul Lestz, a teaching assistant for the class. "On the right side, you have code, and on the left side, you have a functional app that you could click through." In addition, students created welcome and questionnaire screens giving each of their apps a unique look. "This was an extremely pertinent assignment because when we began building the app, nobody was getting the vaccine," said Paul. "There are many now, but to design your own that can organize such a complex system is important and impressive, and to feel like we could make an impact was incredible."

Many other students participated in pandemic-related projects this past year and gained real-world experience. Students created an action plan on a current or relevant topic during year two and year three of the Global Scholars course and found solutions through the multiple steps studied in year one. For example, sophomores Michael Rocco and Robert Ziff were passionate about the restaurant business, aware of the struggles during the pandemic, and wanted to help.

"The state put many restrictions on restaurants, like indoor capacity limits, so we wanted to dive deeper," Michael said. "We spoke to the owner of a restaurant in NYC and Armonk. With no way to make a profit, he was forced to lay off 95% of his NYC staff."

The students developed a local fundraising campaign known as Eat Out Tuesdays. It promoted and encouraged people to dine out on Tuesdays, which was typically a slower night. Their concept included an incentive of a free drink or dessert with a meal. They were working diligently on a social media and marketing plan to disseminate the information throughout Armonk. "In this class, you learn so much the first year and get to apply what you've learned to real-world scenarios in years two and three," said Michael. "I am so glad our work can continue as the restaurant business opens up."

Both projects gave students thorough insight into the pandemic and how it affected our community. In each case, students took an idea from fruition to implementation by utilizing the skills attained from their class and their determination to make a difference.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021!

Ryan Benjamin Abatemarco	Gabriella Brianna Gentile	Kathryn Petlyuk
Daniel Patrick Ahern	Rachael Morgan Getreu	Olivia Rose Picca
Caroline Bailey Albright	Nicholas Ghelarducci	Elaina Sophia Piecyk
Lauren Eline Amico	Alexia Victoria Giordano	Zachary Michael Piecyk
Achal Singh Anand	David Adam Gold	Jonathan Poppo
Amanda Lauren Anikstein	Andrea Shiri Goldberg	Andrew Richard Priore
Michael Anthony Ascanio	Skyler Goldin	William Christopher Quinn
Rilind Bajraktari	Bailey Isaac Goldstein	Matthew Benjamin Quintiere
Illeana Sophia Baquero	Justin Gordon	Nicole Ramirez
Brooke Rose Benz	Olivia Marie Grande	Eli Ratzan
Zachary Noah Berger	Dylan Rachel Green	Gabrielle Brooke Ripka
Jonah Maxwell Bergman	Ali Hafez	Melissa Rivera
Nathaniel Wolff Bergman	Alexander Nelson Hansburg	Oliver Thomas Rivera
Maxwell James Berman	Kalden Harp	Angel David Roca
Jordyn Bernard	Haley Elyssa Harris	Chloe Sofia Rocco
Zachary Bryan Binder	Rhys Emmett Healy	Ryan Rosenblatt
Luke Briody	Alexa Nicole Hershaft	Chloe Sampere
Connor Alan Brodbeck	Jared Holden Ilan	Olivia Marie Scaglione
Jack Gabriel Brook	Kyra Jacovatos	Marlee Schneider
Liam Czeslav Bruskewicz	Madison Althea Jakubek	Tessa Sofia Schwartz
Craig Joseph Buonanno	Alexander Paul Jankovic	William M. Scoufaras
Tallulah Rae Canaan	Alexa Rose Jindal	James Joseph Seiferheld
Marleigh Robbins Canter	Cyrille A. Jousse	Peter Anthony Severino
Olivia Grace Canter - Valedictorian	Alexa Eryn Justman	James Robert Seymour
Peter James Capua	Christian Kalian	Benjamin Robert Sfarra
Patrick John Carcano	Raquel Isabella Kanner	Ariel Hanna Sheinberg
Austin Jax Carlin	Brady Michael Karp	Harry James Siegel
Julian Joseph Carnevale	Brett Tyler Kaufman	Jordan Abigail Siegel
Daniel Casler	Palvasha Khan	Skylar Claire Silverstein
Lilly Claire Ceisler	Luca Gino Kingston	Alyssa Singer
Joseph Philip Cipriano	Anika Kumar	Matteo John Sinon
Aidan Miller Cogan	Jack Charles Leary	Drew Siskin
Sam Ian Cohen	Gabriel Lee	Leah Beth Sokol
Alexa Hayley Cohen	Megan Lee	Mia Grace Spadafino
Sari Michelle Cohen	Samantha Leigh Leff	Carly Rose Sperber
Marianna Colabello	Paul Samuel Lestz	Andrew Nathan Sporn
Lucca Conigliaro	Rena Lieberman	Benjamin Alan Stanzione
Gabriela Jolie Coronel	Katherine Lin	Hannah Gabrielle Stern
Jaclyn Marie Correia	Bryan Benjamin Lipton	Griffin Storick
Luke Coviello	Thomas Lombardo	Sophie Maie Stumacher
John A. D'Avanzo	Melissa Nineth Lopez Martinez	Eli Alexander Suchman
Kiduce Daniel	Sam Wyatt Lubcher	Emma Francis Sullivan
Ryan Alexa Dany	Trey Marley Lukow	Jade Brooke Simpson Swiss
Alexander Xavier Dec	Elizabeth Manowitz	Jake Ross Teitelbaum
Lily J. Deitzelzweig	Tyler Luke Marcus	Ellie Paraskevas Thadani
Matthew Anthony DeLuca	Alyx Paige Marvin	Jack Tillinger
Cristian Anthony DeVincenzo	Ryan Maryanek	Sasha Anderson Travers
Kenneth Arthur Dinkel	Blake Kylee Massoni	Emma Lyn Trembone
Talia Dinstein	Dominick Salvatore Miano	Luca Vito Trotta
Lorraine Mary DiSano	Jolie Alyn Miller	Alexa Rose Tusiani
Mia Nicole Dittrich - Salutatorian	Josh David Miller	Kaitlyn Ucker
Sydney Mei Dooley	Lola Sophia Minutillo	Michael Thomas Varsames
Kristin Eickelbeck	Noam Molloy	Nicholas Varsames
Madison Endico	Jennifer Allison Mui	Nicholas Verzello
Dylan Lee Ertel	Kayla Rose Mulvaney-Cherico	Anthony Joseph Webster
Megan Nicolette Falto	Diego Naranjo	Matthew Harris Weiler
Trevor Thomas Fermann	Griffen C. Nenner	Benjamin Miles Weinhoff
Calvin Taylor Fontaine	Logan Xavier Nieves	Chloe Bella Weissman
Daniel Michael Fontana	Lindsey Taylor Noel	Anastasia Sylvia Whelley
Haleigh Francis	Leon Gerard Orlov-Sullivan	Emma Lindsay Zdanoff
Steven James Franco	John Mario Pantusa	Alison Isabel Zeng
Dayden Elijah Fruhling	David Gomes Pereira	Andrew Zimmerman

THE BHHS AWARDS CEREMONY

Every Spring, many juniors and seniors receive a notification letter informing them of an award nomination but are not told for which honor. The letter represents an invitation to the celebrated Byram Hills High School Awards Ceremony, a significant milestone in the school year and marks the metaphorical beginning of the end of the school year.

The 2021 Award Ceremony opened with Principal Christopher Walsh sharing his thoughts on the challenging but successful year since the start of the pandemic. "Our students have had their lives fundamentally changed since March 2020, yet they have demonstrated courage, creativity, and resilience in their time here," said Mr. Walsh. "These awards reflect the commitment of our District and are proof of the many ways to prepare our students as productive, responsible citizens of the 21st century."

Similar to last year, this ceremony was livestreamed, as the school community found out together who received which award. Presenters spoke about each recipient and why they were suited for each award before announcing their name. Categories covered English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, World Languages, Fine Arts, Music, Theatre, and Physical Education and were chosen by teachers, coaches, and administrators.

There was a special mention of Mr. Vincent Greco during the award named for him, as he passed away earlier this year. He was a big supporter of Byram Hills, from being a member of the Board of Education to

PTSA CARUOLO LEADERSHIP AWARD

DAVID GOLD



advocating for school programs. Mr. Greco especially enjoyed Science Research, for which he had the utmost respect. He made a significant impact on the District and will be greatly missed.

There are two awards that Byram Hills students and faculty/staff nominate. The first was the 2021 PTSA Caruolo Leadership Award given to a senior based on leadership, character, dedication, loyalty, humanity, and interest in education. This year's award went to David Gold. David has been a mentor, musician, actor, and football player in his time at Byram Hills and is a bright and caring young man.

The second award, The Hy Blatte-Jack Wollenberg Memorial Award, was the final

award of the evening and is considered the highest honor for a graduating senior. It goes to the student who has a humanitarian outlook, a willingness to extend themselves for others, and an optimistic approach to life and its challenges. "The award does not go to the student with the highest grades, best extracurriculars, or most friends," said Mr. Walsh. "This year's winner embodies all of these qualities and has made Byram Hills High School a better place during her time here." The winner of this year's award went to Olivia Picca. Olivia delivered a heartfelt speech to close the Awards Ceremony. The full ceremony is available by scanning the QR code below. Congratulations to all of the Byram Hills High School award recipients!

BHHS AWARDS 2020-2021



HY BLATTE-JACK WOLLENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD

OLIVIA PICCA

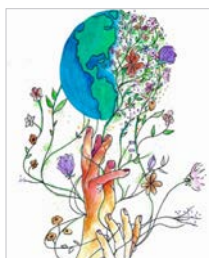


BHHS AWARDS
CEREMONY

BHHS AWARDS 2020-2021



BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM AND INDUCTION CEREMONIES



On June 2, 2021, 32 seniors were honored at the **32nd Annual Authentic Science Research (ASR) Symposium** virtual event. These students graduated from the program after

spending hundreds of hours researching in their fields of interest. Mrs. Stephanie Greenwald, Director of the ASR program, gave one of many heartfelt speeches. She said, "Seniors, you have encountered so many challenges, and you did it! You faced a world of insurmountable hurdles, and you accomplished the unimaginable." The symposium theme "Forging into the Unknown" seemed appropriately named based on the unique pandemic-related experiences students dealt with during their projects. A hard-working group of juniors, known as the Fab-5, ran the event that concluded with an invitation to a virtual Hall of Presentations by sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Congratulations to the following ASR graduates.

Lauren Amico
Luke Briody
Marleigh Canter
Olivia Canter
Joseph Cipriano
Alexa Cohen
Alexander Dec
Lily Deitelzweig
Lorraine DiSano
Mia Dittrich
Kristin Eickelbeck
Dylan Ertel
Skyler Goldin
Bailey Goldstein
Ali Hafez
Haley Harris
Jared Ilan
Alexa Jindal
Raquel Kanner
Anika Kumar
Lizzie Manowitz
Griffen Nenner
Elaina Piecyk
William Quinn
Gabby Ripka
Melissa Rivera
Chloe Sampere
Tessa Schwartz

Drew Siskin
Sophie Stumacher
Jake Teitelbaum
Chloe Weissman



On April 27, 2021, 45 Byram Hills High School students were inducted into the **Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society**. Mu Alpha Theta is dedicated to encouraging the pursuit of

mathematics and service to others. The principal purpose of Mu Alpha Theta is to stimulate a more profound interest in mathematics, as seen through student reflections delivered by several students during the ceremony. They offered valuable insight into their experiences with math throughout their years in Byram Hills. Congratulations to the following Mu Alpha Theta inductees.

Edith Bachmann
Zoe Banko
Zachary Berkowitz
Chloe Bernstein
Irene Byrnes
Milena Chan
Ethan Cherry
Gabrielle Cohen
Jacqueline Cohen
Gabriella Colabello
Massimo Colella-Albino
Talia Deutsch
Nicole Di Paolo
Alaska Fairbanks
Lily Feldman
Danielle Freiberg
Aliza Hammond
Olivia Hazan
Callie Higgins
Ella Javorsky
Gavin Javorsky
Brett Kaufman
Mihir Kumar
Madison Lee
Kate Levy
Tyler Lynch
Remi Matza
Samantha Milewicz
Lindsay Miller
Danielle Molloy

Peter Mon
Caleb Palappillil
Christine Parisi
Nicolas Paslar Bunemer
Olivia Picca
Jonathan Poppo
Olivia Schlossman
Jed Strober
Chloe Talbot
Max Teitelbaum
George Triebenbacher
Kelsey Vaquero
Jaden Wurm
Abigail Yallop
Christopher You



On March 18, 2021, 17 Byram Hills High School students were inducted into the **National Art Honor Society (NAHS)**. This society recognizes high school students who demonstrate outstanding artistic and academic strength and commitment to service through the arts. This ceremony included student reflections on various art genres and the presentation of specific art pieces. Congratulations to the following National Art Honor Society inductees.

Lia Aldea-Lustig
Amanda Anikstein
Lilly Ceisler
Ryan Dany
Reese Ertel
Alicia Huang
Sofia Mahairas
Ewa Miano
Samantha Milewicz
Elaina Piecyk
Ruth Seo
Jordan Siegel
Drew Siskin
Leah Sokol
Emma Sullivan
Marianna Vataj
Ana Whelley

GRADE 5 AND GRADE 8 MOVE UP

On June 18, 2021, Wampus celebrated eight **Grade 5 Moving-Up Ceremonies** on the outdoor deck generously donated by the Byram Hills Education Foundation. Additionally, there was a virtual ceremony held for remote students. Wampus Principal, Mrs. Peggy McInerney, welcomed the students and parents who joined the ceremony via livestream. She referred to them as completing half of their Byram Hills educational journey as they prepare to move on to middle school.

Mrs. McInerney suggested that students reflect on their time at Wampus and how naturally the pandemic would enter these thoughts. "There were times where the pandemic could be compared to an emergency. We may think of times that felt serious, unexpected, or urgent, such as the closure of our schools," she said. "This was a serious matter, an emergency. The definition of an emergency is an unforeseen occurrence requiring immediate attention, yet the Latin origin of the word is 'to emerge.' I want you to think about how you will emerge from these experiences. Be confident in all that you have learned and believe in yourselves, as you have been doing. Remember, your number one job is to emerge as the best version of you every day as you head to HCC," said Mrs. McInerney.

Ms. Kim Lapple, H.C. Crittenden Principal, offered the Grade 5 students a warm welcome and suggested they think about their goals for the middle school. Mr. David Mack, Wampus Assistant Principal, closed each ceremony by telling the students how proud the faculty and staff were of them. "You lead the school, you



Amy Passman's class celebrating Grade 5 Moving-Up.

set examples for others, and you will be one of the few fifth-grade graduation classes in the country that came to school every day during the pandemic," said Mr. Mack. As each class left the ceremony, the BHEF gifted students a cookie - a sweet ending to a heartwarming event.

On June 14, 2021, the **Grade 8 Moving-Up Ceremony** was held on the field at the high school for the first time in Byram Hills history. The storm clouds cleared to blue skies as feelings of Bobcat spirit and Byram pride swept over the crowd. "Neither the pandemic, the threat of thunderstorms, nor a bear sighting could stop the class of 2025 from filling

this field tonight," said Dr. Jen Lamia, Byram Hills Superintendent. "Carry your experiences forward with you, and know that with each ending and transition, a new beginning will be here to greet you."

Ms. Kim Lapple, Principal of H.C. Crittenden, spoke of sacrifice, determination, and dedication, as being the cornerstone of the graduating class' success. "You simplified your lives, maximized opportunities to learn and engage, and embraced new friendships," said Ms. Lapple. "As normalcy returns, I challenge you to hold on to these lessons that have made our community fuller and your lives healthier."

Mr. Christopher Walsh, Principal of Byram Hills High School, addressed the audience and proudly accepted the class of 2025. "The next four years will go by in a blink of an eye. In 78 days you will be entering our building as the 58th class at Byram Hills and my hope is that you will all take advantage of the opportunities that come your way - Get involved, take risks, and get out of your comfort zone," said Mr. Walsh.

Students accepted their rolled tee-shirts as each name was read, and lined up on the track to walk a ceremonial lap to finish the event.



The Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony on the BHHS turf field.

TENURED TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

On June 8th, 2021, six Byram Hills teachers and two administrators were recognized by the Board of Education to receive tenure. This year's teachers include Nicole Lividini, Meredith Vasta Briean, Tara Ryan, Lauren Congelossi, Caroline Matthew, Gregory Quirolo, and the administrators were Angelo Ancona and Kim Lapple. "These teachers and administrators have accepted a long-term commitment in Byram Hills, and that is what tenure means here," said Byram Hills Superintendent Dr. Jen Lamia. "Each one of the tenure recipients gives back to their teams, their grade levels, and their departments in very significant ways."

Nicole Lividini, a special education teacher at Wampus, has brought many different skills from the NYC Department of Education and is described as an instructional leader. Nicole was instrumental in adopting the current online programs for students at the elementary level.

Meredith Vasta Briean, a special education teacher at HCC, looks to increase her students' engagement through differentiated instruction. She ensures that her students assimilate beyond the classroom through extracurricular activities. Meredith is the field hockey coach and the assistant varsity basketball coach helping to revitalize that program.

Tara Ryan is a physical education teacher at HCC and coaches varsity basketball, softball, and swim. She is a strong and passionate athlete who modifies her classes to students' needs which has helped her adaptive PE classes for special education students.

Lauren Congelossi, a special education teacher at BHHS, focuses on ensuring that her content and delivery will result in successful student outcomes. Lauren is also a big part of the community outside the classroom as an assistant advisor for the Social Advocacy Club working with her students on community service opportunities and charitable events.

Dr. Caroline Matthew is an excellent addition to our science research program and a valuable resource to students and colleagues. Her Ph.D. in microbiology and strong knowledge of the sciences is a tremendous asset. Caroline contributed to the design of the virtual science symposium and organized a parade to visit each 2021 senior to honor their achievements.

Gregory Quirolo is a passionate and caring BHHS school counselor and contributes significantly to his department and students. He created video tutorials and a web page for the College Clinic anticipating student needs for the college

application process before the school closure in March 2020.

Angelo Ancona, Assistant Principal of HCC, has an incredible passion for his students. He was a well-respected science teacher before becoming an administrator and focuses on student emotional wellness and the strength of the middle school community. He implemented Project ME, a successful program that builds and fosters community and personal growth.

Kim Lapple, Principal of HCC, successfully guided the middle school through a global pandemic. She is a strong, caring leader who created *Wellness for All* and redesigned students' end-of-year practices. Kim is tremendous for morale, culture, and climate at HCC and is responsible for the positive tone set in the building. She has helped many students reach great heights academically, socially, and emotionally and is held in high esteem by the District.



SCAN ME
TO VIEW
TENURED
STAFF
& ADMIN

LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD

There was an astounding 690 years of service among our faculty and staff recognized as Longevity Service Award candidates on June 21, 2021, at the Board of Education Meeting. Dr. Sandra Abt, who is ending her 50th year of service, was here when the District was just starting. Our 30 and 25-year recipients saw the shaping of Byram Hills, as the Armonk population dramatically increased. "What keeps our staff members here is not doing the same thing every year but continuously improving on their work," said Dr. Jen Lamia, Byram Hills Superintendent. "It is about finding this work as your life work and making sure you are the best at it." Congratulations to the following Longevity Service Award recipients.

50 Years:

Sandra Abt

30 Years:

Martin Gilbert
Sandra Levin

25 Years:

Kimberly Braverman
Jennifer Croke
Janine Guastella
Jayne Karlin
Kathryn Meaney

20 Years:

Julie Calembo

Reginald Carter

Carole Consigliere

Roseanne DeTomaso

Liza Devaney

Angela Dukes

Maria Facciola

Dana Ferraro

Umberto Foarero

Melinda Fuller

Anneliese Galgano

Michael Hubertus

Sewcharan Jawahir

Lily Li

Alan Lounsbury

Heather Manriquez

Mohammed Minhas

Annamarie Nardi

Karen Orlando Vetter

Theodore Repa

Giovanna Roviezzo

Consolato Rizzo

Kathy Shelhart

Kristina Wilson



SCAN ME
TO VIEW
AWARDED
STAFF &
FACULTY



BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
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ARMONK, NY 10504

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Our Mission

In an environment of mutual respect, the Byram Hills School District and its community will provide students with the means, the knowledge, and the opportunity to excel in order to become productive and responsible citizens of the twenty-first century.

"A great place to learn."

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2020-2021 TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Teacher Recognition Award is given annually to one teacher from each school for a particular contribution beyond the scope of a teachers' performance. Typically, this award is announced at a Board of Education meeting with family, friends, and colleagues present, but nothing was typical about this past school year. Alternatively, school principals and administrators recognized and awarded **all** teachers at **all** Byram Hills schools! "If teaching this year were an Olympic event, I'd give all of our teachers gold medals," exclaimed Dr. Jen Lamia, Superintendent of Schools. Teachers were surprised at a faculty meeting and honored with a video that included photos of each of them.

The following are excerpts from each principal's presentation to the teachers.

Coman Hill

"Since the start of the pandemic, the Coman Hill teachers have accomplished what many would have deemed impossible," said Mrs. MaryBeth Crupi, Coman Hill Principal. "From restructuring classrooms to creating warm learning spaces, embracing new technologies, supporting each other and our students, the Coman Hill teachers have shined brightly." Mrs. Crupi concluded, "We are honored to present the entire Coman Hill faculty the 2021 Teacher Recognition award."

Wampus

"The 2020-2021 school year was like no other year in the history of Wampus, Byram Hills, or the rest of the world. The challenges that were presented to the teachers were magnificent," said Mrs. Peggy McInernery Wampus, Principal. "How the Wampus teachers handled all of these challenges was far more magnificent than the challenges themselves. Wampus teachers' ability to manage significant responsibilities, problem solve, adapt, teach and set the example on

how to lead a school was evident this past year," Mrs. McInernery said.

H.C. Crittenden

"When thinking about the HCC Teacher of the Year award in the past, that person committed to their students, sought improvement, reflected on their work, collaborated with colleagues, engaged in professional development, and put students first," said Ms. Kim Lapple, H.C. Crittenden Principal. "It seemed impossible to identify just one person in a year that was the most challenging of our teaching careers," Ms. Lapple said.

Byram Hills High School

"As I reflected on this year, I felt that recognizing only one of our colleagues would be counter to the spirit of the award," said Mr. Christopher Walsh, Byram Hills High School Principal. "Each of our teachers set an example of professionalism, dignity, perseverance, and excellence in the most difficult year to teach in our school's history. In addition, teachers found innovative ways to connect with students allowing them to feel stable during an unstable time."

TEACHER VIDEO TRIBUTES

COMAN HILL



WAMPUS



HCC



BHHS

