



WINTER 2020

# Brandywine REVIEW

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## BSD NAMED TO COLLEGE BOARD'S AP HONOR ROLL

The Brandywine School District is pleased to be the only district in Delaware to be named to the College Board's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll. The AP District Honor Roll recognizes school districts committed to increasing access to AP for underrepresented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP exam scores of 3 or higher. AP District Honor Roll awardees are committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

Along with dedicated teachers and counselors, the AVID structure, starting in middle school, has prepared many students to take and successfully earn a score of 3 or higher on AP exams. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) targets students in the academic middle – B, C, and even D students – who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families. In addition to enrolling in their school's toughest classes, AVID students also participate in the AVID elective – one period per day where they learn organizational and study skills, critical thinking, and problem solving, and can receive on-site tutorial support. AVID is offered in all six secondary schools in the district.

Inclusion on the 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2017 to 2019.

## LINCOLN HOHLER NAMED INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

At the November 18 School Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to appoint longtime BSD educator Lincoln Hohler to the position of Interim Superintendent, effective February 1, 2020. Originally hired in 1992 as a teacher at Harlan Elementary School, Mr. Hohler has been an assistant principal, principal, Race to the Top director, director of secondary schools, and, most recently, assistant superintendent in BSD.

Mr. Hohler was named Interim Superintendent due to the retirement of Dr. Mark Holodick as Superintendent. After ten years as Superintendent of the Brandywine School District, Dr. Mark Holodick announced to staff on October 16 that he would be joining the Delaware Academy for School Leadership (DASL) at the University of Delaware as a senior leadership specialist. Dr. Holodick, a well-respected and award-winning school administrator, will serve as the lead faculty for DASL's Principal Preparation Program beginning in February 2020.

The District is working with the Delaware School Boards Association to conduct a search for a new superintendent with the goal of having a new superintendent in place on or before July 1, 2020.



## FORMER SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear BSD Community,

As I move on to a new position with the University of Delaware, I'd like to share the following thoughts and sentiments. It is with the utmost sincerity that I thank you for the support you have provided me as Superintendent over the past ten and half years. The superintendency is an awesome position, one that carries great responsibility. It is also one that carries great opportunity. As a product of the district, and as the parent of

a daughter who graduated from Mount in 2017 and two daughters currently attending Springer, the job has been very personal for me.

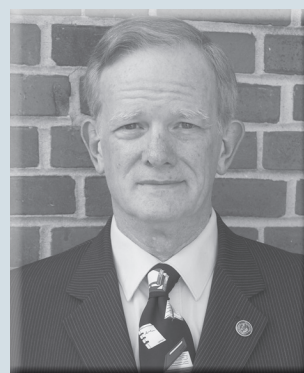
I have had the opportunity to build valuable and lasting relationships with many students, families, and organizations - relationships that are valued and appreciated. I am proud of the many accomplishments of our students and staff during my tenure as superintendent. Many of those accomplishments have been highlighted in the Brandywine Review over the past ten years. Indeed great things are happening right now in Brandywine schools, due in large part to our incredibly dedicated and committed staff.

With that said, I truly believe change in leadership such as this is an opportunity. It's an opportunity to reflect on vision and purpose and then refocus. Brandywine has a strong Board of Education who will undoubtedly take the responsibility of selecting the next superintendent very seriously. Needless to say, the Board will work hand-in-hand with the selected candidate. The relationship between the superintendent and Board is what often makes or breaks the progress of a school district. I have been blessed to have worked with 19 different, but similarly vested and committed, Board members over the past ten years. What it usually boils down to is relationships - relationships that are steeped in trust, honesty, and respect. If the adults in charge continue to work collaboratively and model this type of behavior, I have no doubt that Brandywine will continue to be a district that meets the needs of its diverse and amazing students and families!

Sincerely and with gratitude,  
Mark A. Holodick, Ed.D.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Ralph Ackerman



Believe it or not, half of the school year is already history. Each year it seems to pass by faster and faster! There are several updates that I want to be sure you are aware of. First, as many of you know we will be looking for a new superintendent. Dr. Holodick has been a wonderful superintendent for 10 years and we all thank him for the job he did here in Brandywine. He has been instrumental in moving our district forward, and we can all look with pride at our district's many accomplishments during his tenure. All of us wish him the best of luck at the University of Delaware. He will be missed in Brandywine.

The board has appointed our Assistant Superintendent Lincoln Hohler as the Interim Superintendent effective February 1. We are contracting with the Delaware School Boards Association Executive Director, Dr. John Marinucci, to assist the board with the search process. The posting for the superintendent will be published shortly, and a period of time will be allotted to apply. Once the posting closes, there will be a screening of credentials with the goal of a set of finalists who will go on to the interview process. We expect to have a new superintendent in place by July 1.

Finally, I want to brief the community on the work of the Redding Consortium. This was formed in the last days of the 2019 legislative session with little debate. The purpose of the consortium is, among other things, to look at possible redistricting in northern New Castle County, possibly including the Brandywine School District. There is no school board representation on this consortium per the legislation. There will be public hearings on any redistricting proposal and our board will carefully review any change. There are three possible ways for the recommendation to be implemented: one is referendum, another is a board resolution, or the general assembly may pass a resolution, signed by the Governor. This could have a dramatic impact on local taxes. I recommend you review any plan, attend the public hearings that the State Board of Education will hold, and make your voice heard. In my opinion, a referendum should be held to pass any change; I hope you agree and will ask your elected representatives to insist on a referendum. We will publish important dates and information on the BSD website as the process moves along.

As always, thank you to the residents of the Brandywine School District for your support. It is because of you and the entire education community that the district shines.

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## IN THIS REPORT

- PS Students Create Menu Items for Wawa
- Harlan Girls Code
- Spring Musicals
- Construction Update





# P.S. DUPONT STUDENTS CREATE MENU ITEMS TO BE SOLD AT LOCAL WAWA STORE

Through a competitive process, STEM students at P.S. earned the right to become future food scientists



Eighth grade STEM students in Mrs. Evans’ class at P.S. duPont Middle School had the unique opportunity to pitch menu items to Wawa’s Product Development Team, and one recipe has been chosen to debut for sale in a Wawa store in Delaware this year.

P.S. duPont was selected for the Wawa Future Food

Scientist Program through an online application process. In October, the students visited the Wawa Test Kitchen and learned about careers in culinary & nutrition science, food safety, nutrition, and product marketing. Their homework was to develop a new menu item and present it to a team from Wawa. Their presentations had to include not only the tasty treats they imagined, but also how they would be stored, cooked, and served, calorie counts, food safety precautions, marketing ideas, and suggested pricing.

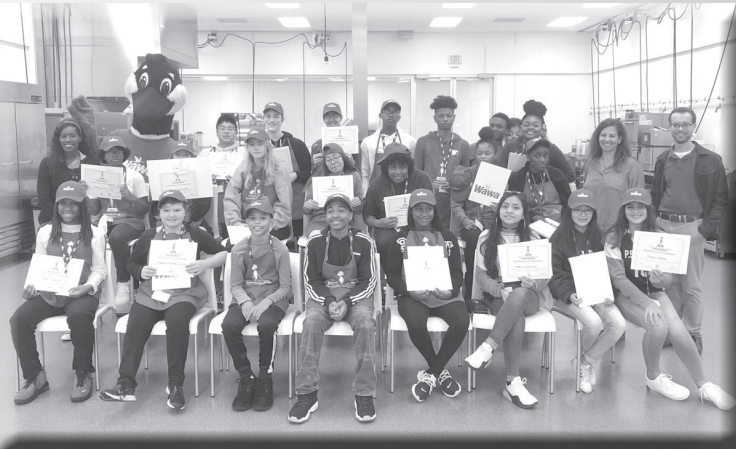
Six groups of students presented their ideas, and two were selected to be featured in a Wawa store in Delaware. The winning entry, the P.S. duPont Spicy Chicken Snack Wrap, is a tortilla with chicken strips, lettuce, cheese, spicy ranch, and jalapenos. It will make its debut at Wawa Store #801 at 727 Philadelphia Pike on March 3 at 4 p.m. and was imagined by students Eshon Slowe, Berhane Brown, and Josef Golembiewski. The Spicy Chicken Snack Wrap will be available at Wawa Store #801 from March 3-10, with proceeds benefiting the Food Bank of Delaware. Samples of a runner-up item, a smoothie with cookies, pretzels, and caramel, will also be offered in the store during the March 3 event. Students Michelle Zang,

Benjamin Harkin, Jahkai Gray, Marina Chakar, Osman Baig, and Hasan Arar created the smoothie.

STEM teacher Stella Evans said, “It was such an honor to have my students participate in this amazing experience. In the technology classes at P.S. duPont Middle School, we teach our students to solve problems and develop products using the engineering design process. The Wawa innovation center allowed them to put it into practice. Taking what they knew about the design process and combining it with what they learned at Wawa allowed the students to internalize the learning and put themselves in a real-world situation. This experience will stay with them for a long time.”

“Wawa is proud to continue its commitment to the community by inviting local students into our test kitchen to have a hands-on, innovative experience as they explore potential careers in food science,” said Mike Sherlock, Chief Product Marketing Officer. “This program enables us to fulfill lives in new ways by sharing our values and commitment to great food, while enriching the curriculum of our local schools.”

Mark your calendar and enjoy these delicious treats for a limited time!



## IT’S ALMOST SPRING MUSICAL SEASON

BSD schools are proud to present their spring musicals for 2020. Please join us at these fantastic productions! Show times are listed on the BSD calendar at [www.brandywineschools.org](http://www.brandywineschools.org).

**Brandywine High School presents A Chorus Line**

March 5-7

**Springer Middle School presents Annie Jr.**

March 12-14

**Mount Pleasant High School presents Chicago**

March 26-28

**Talley Middle School presents Frozen Jr.**

March 26-28

**Concord High School presents Beauty & the Beast**

April 23-25

**P.S. duPont Middle School presents The Music Man**

April 30-May 1

## BE OUR GUEST

Did you know that senior citizens, age 62 and up, who reside in the Brandywine School District can become members of the Golden Club? Golden Club members attend games, plays, and other events free of charge.

A Golden Club card is all you need to attend any home sports event, musical or theater production, or art show at any of the schools in the Brandywine School District free of charge. Your Golden Club card is not transferable, and there is no need to renew it every year.

All of our schools offer a wide variety of events. For more information on the schedules or the Golden Club card program, please call any BSD school. You can also call the District Office at 793-5000 for information.

Some events have limited seating capacity and ticket sales. If you would like to attend such an event, please present your Golden Club card to that school office for a free ticket prior to the performance date.

We hope you enjoy the events our schools have to offer!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Runners and walkers are invited to join the BSD Joint Student Council at the second annual BSD for Mental Health 5K on April 25. Starting at 1 p.m., participants will run or walk from Mount Pleasant High School into Bellevue State Park and back, with a finish on the track at MPHS. All proceeds will benefit the Sandy Hook Promise. Student leaders from all three high schools are responsible for organizing the event – from the course to the volunteers to the prizes and refreshments. Last year’s inaugural race drew more than 225 participants and raised \$4,000 for the Sandy Hook Promise. Registration information will be available soon at [www.brandywineschools.org](http://www.brandywineschools.org).



## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SPANISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Families in the Claymont, Lancashire, and Maple Lane feeder patterns who are interested in learning more about BSD’s Spanish Immersion program for kindergarten students are invited to attend an informational meeting. More information is available on the BSD website at [www.brandywineschools.org/immersion](http://www.brandywineschools.org/immersion).

All incoming kindergarten families are welcome to attend an informational meeting; however, please note that priority will be given to students who reside in the feeder patterns for the three schools offering immersion. If seats are available after feeder pattern students have enrolled, we will accept kindergarten students who have completed a School Choice application and selected Spanish Immersion as their program choice.

Learn about the benefits of enrolling your child in BSD's Spanish Immersion

# SPANISH IMMERSION

### 2020-2021 School Year

**ENROLL NOW!**  
Seats are limited.

Now enrolling kindergarten students who live in the Claymont, Lancashire, and Maple Lane Elementary feeder patterns

Please join us at an informational meeting!

Claymont Elementary	Lancashire Elementary	Maple Lane Elementary
3401 Green Street Claymont, DE 19703 792-3880	2000 Naamans Road Wilmington, DE 19810 475-3990	100 Maple Lane Claymont, DE 19703 792-3906
Tami Grimes-Stewart, Principal	Veronica Wilkie, Principal	Yulonda Murray, Principal
**February 20 - 9:30 a.m. March 11 - 6:30 p.m. April 9 - 6:30 p.m. May 7 - 6:30 p.m.	February 11 - 6:30 p.m. March 12 - 9:30 a.m. April 8 - 9:30 a.m. May 14 - 6:30 p.m.	February 11 - 6:00 p.m. March 12 - 9:30 a.m. April 8 - 6:00 p.m. May 7 - 9:30 a.m.
**2/20 meeting will be held at Darley Road Site 500 Darley Road Claymont, De 19703		



## BRANDYWINE AND CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING STUDENTS ARE STATE FINALISTS

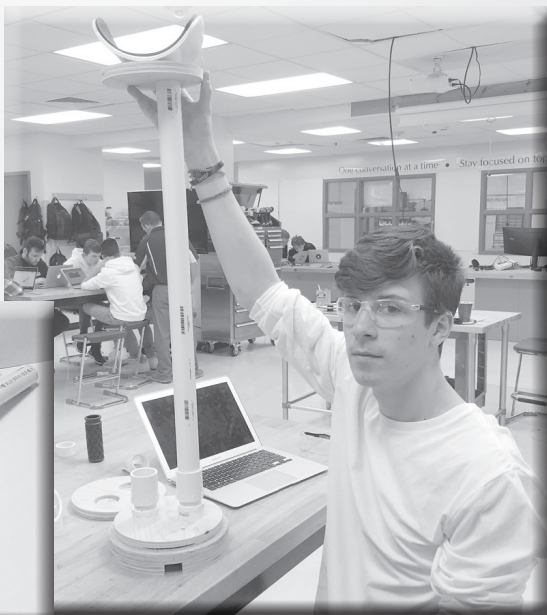


Brandywine and Concord High School engineering students were named state finalists in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. Through this competition, students design technological solutions to improve their community and surroundings.

Concord students, under the leadership of teacher Jordan Estock, designed prototypes for one of their teachers, Mr. Runyan, who lost a leg to cancer. Their project focused on designing and building a low-cost prosthetic limb for him to use in the shower so that he is not at risk of damaging the electromagnetic system in his \$50,000 limb. The applications of this project are far-reaching and could help tens of thousands of amputees every year.

Dr. Jud Wagner's students at Brandywine High School focused on a small wearable device that would detect poor posture in students and alert the student to self-correct in order to reduce pain and prevent misalignment. Students already deal with risk factors for poor posture due to heavy backpacks and cell phone use, so the device could help identify postural issues before they become repetitive.

While neither school advanced to become the state winner, both groups of students will continue working on their projects for the remainder of the school year with the hope of assisting others through STEM.



## SPRINGER MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Springer Middle School students and staff again recognized Martin Luther King Day with a day of service. To honor the legacy of Dr. King, more than 50 volunteers collected clothing and books for those in need, made 37 fleece blankets for children in foster care, and assembled more than 300 bag lunches for the Sunday Breakfast Mission.



## HARLAN GIRLS CODE!

This fall, fourth and fifth grade girls at Harlan Elementary School had an opportunity to join a new after-school club, Girls Who Code. For ten weeks, the students developed teamwork and leadership skills while learning fundamental computer science concepts such as loops, variables, conditionals, and functions that form the basis for all computer programming languages.

The girls also coded robotic mice and created four obstacle courses; soon they will introduce their creations to second graders and teach them the basics of coding with the mice. The club also earned a total of \$600 in grant money to purchase more technology for the school. Library Media Specialist Regina McAlonan and Harlan's Math Coach, Herietta O'Neill, thoroughly enjoyed this experience with the girls and are so proud of their work.

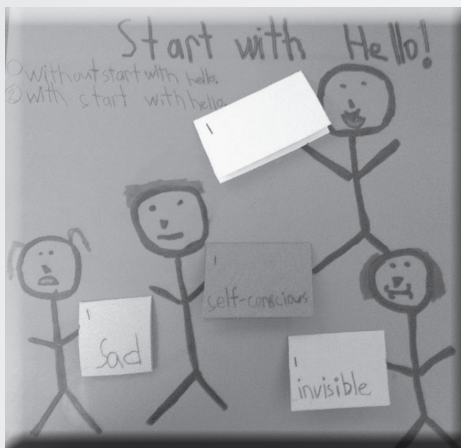
Related to computer science, this past December Harlan students (K-5) participated in Hour of Code, a grassroots campaign that celebrates computer science around the world. For their participation, Harlan won ten micro:bit computers for their school library! Micro:bits are handheld, programmable personal computers that can be used to create anything from a robot to a musical instrument.



## MOUNT PLEASANT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS START WITH HELLO

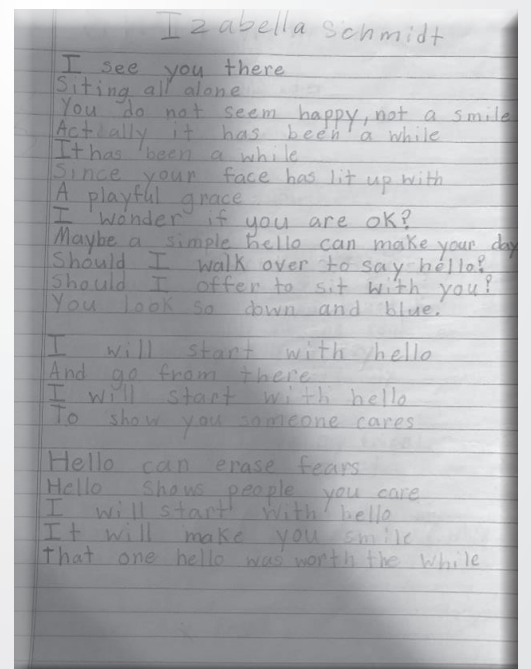
Congratulations to four Mount Pleasant Elementary students who were recognized by the Sandy Hook Foundation in the Start with Hello Student Voices Competition!

Caleb Peres was a winner in the Visual category, Rajvi Nayak and Jackson Molnar received Honorable Mention recognition in the Spoken Word category, and Izabella Schmidt was a winner in the Writing category. All four students are in second grade (Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Denham's classes).



The Brandywine School District partnered with the Sandy Hook Promise at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year and implemented three programs: Start with Hello, Say Something, and Signs of Suicide. All staff have been trained in these programs, and age-appropriate activities take place throughout the school year in all BSD buildings. Start with Hello teaches young people of all ages to minimize social isolation and empathize with others through the simple act of saying hello.

Watch Rajvi's video here - <https://bit.ly/37o1Ulv> - and Jackson's video here - <https://bit.ly/36iDgBl>.





# TWO MPHS STUDENTS NOMINATED FOR U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES

Congratulations to two Mount Pleasant High School students for their recent nominations to United States service academies! JROTC Cdt. Nicolas Harpey received nominations from Senator Carper, Senator Coons, and Representative Blunt Rochester to attend the United States Naval Academy. JROTC Cdt. Avery Steffen received nominations from Senator Carper, Senator Coons, and Representative Blunt Rochester to attend the United States Merchant Marines Academy.



JROTC Cdt. Nicolas Harpey



JROTC Cdt. Avery Steffen

# CLAYMONT AND FORWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE OF DELAWARE



Congratulations to Forwood and Claymont Elementary Schools, two of only 37 schools across the state to earn an Exceeds Expectations ranking on the Delaware School Success Framework. Exceeds Expectations is the highest possible rating; Claymont received it for the second consecutive year. Schools were assessed on such mea-

sures as student proficiency and growth, attendance, and the progress of English learners.

At the end of January, Education Secretary Susan Bunting visited both schools to personally present their banners.



# CONCORD STUDENT ARTISTS HONORED

Congratulations to the following Concord HS students for being named regional winners in the Scholastic Arts & Writing Competition! All Gold winners will exhibit their work in Dover and have earned the opportunity to compete in the national competition. Hannah Chillingworth, recipient of the Gold Key, will automatically advance to the national contest.

- Hannah Chillingworth - Gold Key Drawing Portfolio, Gold for drawing, and Silver for sculpture
- Bradley Graybeal - Gold for drawing
- Meghan Hale - Silver for painting
- Molly Oldham - Silver for painting
- Sarah Pisano - Silver for painting
- Katie Raab - Gold and Silver for painting
- Allyson Smarr - Honorable Mention for painting
- Julia Spina - Honorable Mention for photography
- Destiny Tang - Gold for painting
- Mandy Wang - Gold and Silver for painting



# DON'T MISS THE 2020 YOUNG BRANDYWINE ARTISTS EXHIBITION

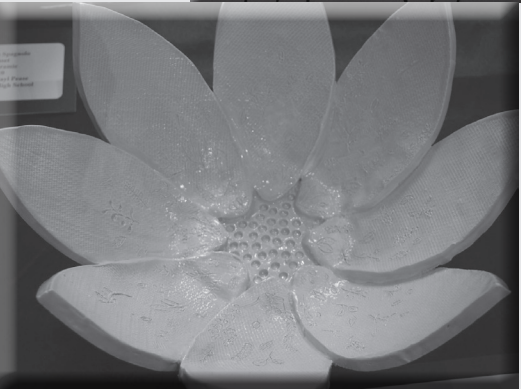
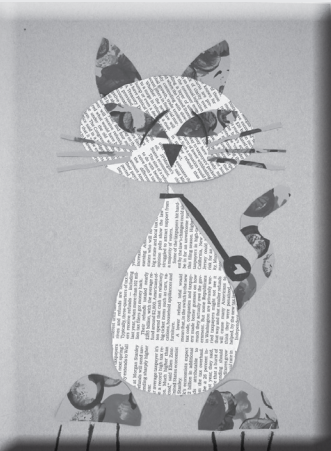
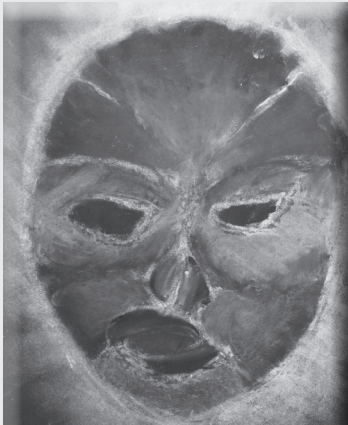
The 2020 Young Brandywine Artists Exhibition – a celebration of the visual arts – will run from March 4-15 and March 18-29. The show will be on display at the Blue Ball Barn in Alapocas Run State Park, 1914 W. Park Drive in Wilmington. The first installation will feature the District's elementary schools, with a second show for middle and high school students' art.

The dates and hours are as follows:

**Elementary Show (grades K-5)**  
March 4-5 - Opening Nights 5 to 8 p.m.  
March 6-15 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (including weekends)

**Secondary Show (grades 6-12)**  
March 18 - Opening Night 6 to 8 p.m.  
March 19-29 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (including weekends)

The Young Brandywine Artists Exhibition features outstanding artwork created by students in all schools within the Brandywine School District – from elementary through high school. Each year, approximately 1,200 pieces are displayed, including paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, and three-dimensional pieces. This is the sixth year that BSD is partnering with the Delaware State Parks and Blue Ball Barn to exhibit the annual show. The public is invited to attend during show hours.





# THE BSD BUDGET IS ONLINE

Each year, school district administrators, School Board, and District Finance Committee members work together over the course of several months to develop a budget that meets the needs of our students while keeping costs down for our taxpayers. We are pleased to present a budget for the 2019-20 school year that preserves academic opportunities and provides outstanding performing and visual arts, award-winning STEM programs, inclusive, equitable programs and services, a focus on social-emotional learning and growth, and of course academic rigor. Our mission as a school district is to provide a family atmosphere to allow our students to learn in a warm and supportive environment. We believe this budget allows us to further this mission, and we are grateful for the support from our community.

For the 2019-2020 school year, we strive to provide highly engaging and rigorous learning opportunities with a focus on communication, creativity, and inclusivity that will help all students learn, grow, and prosper. To meet this mission, the Operating Budget increased by 5.3% from the prior fiscal year to a total of \$205.7 million. With more than 10,500 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, along with the Bush Early Childhood Center, SITE Program (Skills for Independence, Transition, and Employment) and ECAP (Early Childhood Assistance Program), the district saw an increase in enrollment over the 2018-2019 school year and continues to see increases in enrollment with students with special needs. The Brandywine School District Tax Rate increased 9.5¢ in FY2020 due to increases in Debt Service (3¢), Tuition (5¢) and Match and Minor Capital Improvement (1.5¢). There was no increase in the Operating Tax for the 2019-2020 school year. When crafting the district budget, we consistently review ways to conserve, consolidate, and reduce, while staying committed to providing our students and community with an exceptional experience and education.

The complete Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget can be located on Brandywine School District's website at <https://www.bandywineschools.org/Page/6343>. There is a shortcut to that page from the homepage Headlines section.

We thank you for your support, as well as for valuing and understanding the important role education plays not only for our students, but also for our larger community. 16 Great Schools...One Strong Community!!!

Sincerely,

Jason S. Hale, Ed.D., CPA  
Chief Financial Officer, Community Member, & Parent  
[jason.hale@bsd.k12.de.us](mailto:jason.hale@bsd.k12.de.us)

# SCHOOL BOARD URGES STATE TO RECONSIDER STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Shortly after its December 2019 meeting, the Brandywine School District Board of Education sent a letter and resolution to the Delaware Department of Education and State Board of Education expressing concerns about the statewide assessment, Smarter Balanced.

Specifically, the resolution, reprinted below, outlined three main concerns, which were detailed in the letter as follows:

- We do not believe Smarter Balanced is the correct assessment. [...] Delaware is one of only eight states to still use Smarter as its primary assessment. We believe a state-designed test would be far more appropriate, or, if that is not possible, a test that has been implemented with success in another state.
- The length of the test is problematic and produces anxiety for both students and staff. We believe that a well-designed test can measure student achievement in an hour or two and provide valuable data to inform instruction.
- The practice of testing in every grade should be eliminated. We would like to return to the former practice of testing in specific grades such as 3, 5, 8, and 10.

The letter, signed by Board President Ralph Ackerman on behalf of the School Board, invited the Department and State Board to begin a dialogue with not only BSD but also the Delaware School Boards Association “to come to a solution that benefits all students and educators across the state.” That dialogue has begun and will continue as educational leaders throughout the state continue to evaluate and plan best practices to encourage student achievement. BSD is grateful to Secretary Susan Bunting for her responsiveness and willingness to meet on this important issue.

## RE-EXAMINE THE USE OF SMARTER BALANCED TESTING TO MEASURE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

WHEREAS, our nation’s future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship, and life-long learning, and strengthens the nation’s social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, like other states across the country, Delaware’s school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money, and energy on high-stakes and standardized testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators, and schools; and

WHEREAS, the overreliance on high-stakes and standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in public schools by hampering educators’ efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and deep subject-matter knowledge; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness, and furthermore we do not believe testing in every grade from 3-8 is necessary or beneficial nor that Smarter Balanced is the most accurate assessment to measure student proficiency or educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on standardized testing has narrowed the curriculum, led to teaching to the test, and reduced a love of learning, leading to a school climate that is steeped in unnecessary stress and anxiety for students and staff.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Board of Education of the Brandywine School District supports state and/or locally developed, authentic assessments as drivers of instruction and more time for educators to teach and students to learn; and

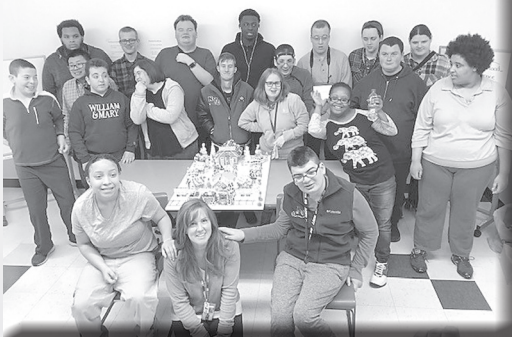
THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Board of Education of the Brandywine School District calls on the Secretary of Education and State Board of Education to reexamine public school accountability testing in Delaware.

Affirmed on December 16, 2019.

# SITE PROGRAM WOWS AT GINGERBREAD CONTEST

For the second consecutive year, student interns in BSD’s SITE program won the Claymont Gingerbread Contest, which was sponsored by the Claymont Community Center and hosted at the Claymont Stone School. The SITE entry included Santa’s workshop, elves at work, reindeer, and the village of the North Pole. Many thanks to teacher Donna Goetz and SITE parents for their generous donations toward this project, which provided outstanding team-building and creative opportunities for SITE interns.

SITE stands for Skills for Independence, Transition, and Employment. SITE provides vocational training and opportunities for 18-21 year-old student interns with special needs who have completed the requirements for a high school diploma. Through in-house businesses and community internship placements, SITE interns develop skills and confidence to help them reach independence.



# RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Congratulations to the following BSD School Counselors for their nominations for Delaware School Counselor of the Year! They were recognized at an event during National School Counseling Week.

- Ciara Carter, Claymont Elementary School
- Stefanie Feder, Talley Middle School
- Lauren Kaplan, Springer Middle School
- Tania Milionis, Talley Middle School
- Michelle Skelly, Talley Middle School
- Brenton Vickers, Springer Middle School
- Catherine Ward, Forwood Elementary School

School counselors help maximize student success for all students through academic planning, lesson plans, advocacy, data analysis, referrals, and collaboration with teachers, administrators, and families.

In addition to the recognition listed above, Forwood Elementary School Counselor Catherine Ward was recently named to the board of the Delaware School Counselor Association. Her term will start in July 2020.

Several of BSD’s counselors are pictured here with administrators





# CONCORD ENGINEERS DEVELOP ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION EQUIPMENT FOR SPRINGER STUDENTS

Two engineering students at Concord High School, Sabina Jozwik and Nya Glispy, have created an adaptive device that will allow younger students to participate with their peers in physical education classes. Their prototype, developed in their Level III Design & Engineering class with teacher Jordan Estock, is a customized kicking device that features two interactive buttons to accommodate a variety of motor skills, a large kicking surface that mimics a human kicking motion, and the coding and wiring required to release the kicking board when the buttons are pressed. Through the engineering process, the students identified a problem, brainstormed solutions, developed prototypes, and tested and refined their product. Made of wood, PVC pipe, pipe connectors, wires, and a gate latch, the product cost less than \$35 to make but will have a huge impact in increasing access to recreation for students with disabilities.

In the students' written report, they described their device. "Our inspiration for our design came from the traditional ladder ball game, the swinging motion of a leg, and a servo's ability to rotate an attachment. The base of the ladder ball game is very similar to the base of our kicking equipment made out of PVC pipes and connectors. The swinging motion of a human leg inspired our design of a swinging 2x4. The swinging 2x4 mimics the swinging motion, from back to front, which is traditionally used to strike a ball. The coded servo has an attachment that turns 180 degrees, and when the button is pressed the servo releases the leg from the gate latch."

The device was presented to adaptive physical education teacher Jessica Dugan at Springer in early February and provided Sabina and Nya with valuable feedback about necessary enhancements and refinements. With slight modifications to the computer coding, the device is now being used at Springer. This spring, Sabina and Nya will design a similar device for baseball/softball.



# LOMBARDY CELEBRATES ITS DIVERSITY

Like all BSD schools, Lombardy enjoys a diverse student body reflecting the diversity and multiculturalism of our community. In late January, Lombardy celebrated its diversity with the second annual family Multicultural Evening. Led by reading specialist Jessie Chen and ESL teacher Erin Mulligan, the night featured foods, artifacts, attire, and traditions from Lombardy families representing 22 countries around the world. Students earned passport stamps by visiting different countries, and a local Irish dance troupe performed to entertain and educate the attendees. By all accounts, the evening was a success.

Other BSD schools routinely learn about the diverse world we live in. As an example, Lancashire Elementary hosts an International Night in the spring, and Hanby Elementary first graders learned about and celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, in the fall. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.



# LANCASHIRE STUDENT'S SELFLESS ACT OF KINDNESS

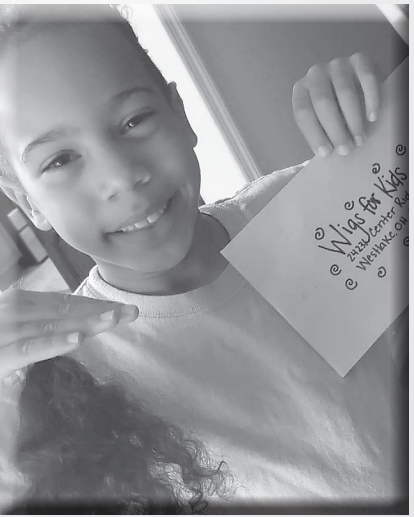


When Lancashire second grader Harlan Harris was four years old, he saw a commercial for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Puzzled, he asked his mother why the children on tv didn't have any hair. When she explained that their medicines or treatments could cause them to lose their hair, he asked if it would grow back. Upon learning that sometimes the children wear wigs

that are made from hair donations, Harlan decided he would grow his hair and donate it to a child that needed it more than he did.

More than three years later, Harlan fulfilled his goal when he donated 11 inches of hair to Wigs 4 Kids, an organization that provides free wigs to children. His mother, Elizabeth Harris, was not surprised. "This journey was from him. He is truly an amazing kid with a huge heart."

Donating his hair was not Harlan's first experience with altruism. He has volunteered with Ronald McDonald House, and his family keeps care packages in the car in case they see someone in need. "He definitely makes sure he tells me when we need to restock," according to his mother.





# STUCK ON READING AT MAPLE LANE & CARRCROFT

Maple Lane and Carrcroft Elementary School students got stuck on reading! At Maple Lane, Principal Yulonda Murray challenged students to read 1,000 books. Maple Lane students exceeded the challenge, and as a prize they earned the right to duct tape Mrs. Murray and Assistant Principal Tia Long to the wall. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a cotton candy treat.



At Carrcroft, students were challenged to decorate the entire cafeteria with snowflakes. Each snowflake represented one book read. Once the cafeteria was fully decorated, every student applied a piece of tape to adhere Principal Mark Overly to the wall, and one lucky student had the opportunity to smash a pie in his face – much to the delight of the other students!



# TALLEY TEAM WINS THE STOCK MARKET GAME

A team from Talley Middle School won the middle school division of the Delaware Stock Market Game. Students Keiona Davis, Deshawn Nitsch, and Dallas Thompson had a portfolio valued at \$117,262, an increase of more than 17% from their original investment. The team's winning strategy? Diversify their portfolio by buying different types of stocks in order to ensure balance in case some of the stocks underperformed.



[photo credit: University of Delaware]

In the Stock Market Game, students learn about the market and then research different stocks themselves in order to make selections for their portfolios. This year, more than 1,200 students participated across the state. Winning teams at each level (elementary, middle, and high school) are those that had the highest money-value portfolios at the end of the game. The Stock Market Game is a program of the SIFMA Foundation with support from the Delaware Department of Justice Investor Protection Unit, WSFS, and the University of Delaware's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics. Talley's team worked under the guidance of teacher Renay A. Mercer. They placed first out of 76 middle school teams in the state and second out of 396 teams overall.

# 2020-2021 BSD CALENDAR APPROVED

The Brandywine School District Board of Education approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar on January 13. Students in grades 1-5, 6, 9, and 12 will start on August 31, and all students in K-12 will report on September 1. The calendar has been posted on the BSD website in the Headlines section and in Families/School Year At A Glance.

# P.S. DUPONT STEM PROGRAM RATED EXCELLENT



The P.S. duPont Middle School STEM program has earned the Middle School Program of Excellence Award from the International Technology & Engineering Educators Association. Teachers Stephen Lee, Anarie Rio, Stella Evans, and Sam Fawks will be recognized at the ITEEA annual conference in March. They are pictured with Dr. Michelle Kutch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Interim Superintendent Lincoln Hohler.

# PATHWAYS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The following pathways are currently available for high school students in the Brandywine School District.

<b>BRANDYWINE</b> AP Capstone AVID Business, Finance, & Marketing Biomedical Science  Computer Science  Culinary & Hospitality Management Early Childhood Teacher Academy Engineering Fine & Performing Arts Jobs for Delaware Graduates Science	<b>CONCORD</b> AP Capstone AVID Business, Finance, & Marketing Early Childhood Teacher Academy Engineering  Fine & Performing Arts Jobs for Delaware Graduates  Science	<b>MOUNT PLEASANT</b> Army JROTC AVID A/V Technology & Radio Business, Finance, & Marketing  Culinary & Hospitality Management Early Childhood Teacher Academy Engineering  Fine & Performing Arts International Baccalaureate Jobs for Delaware Graduates Science
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# GROWING A LOVE OF FRESH PRODUCE

Culinary students from Mount Pleasant HS helped potential future Green Knights at Forwood with a delicious project. The Forwood students grow seasonal fresh greens and other delicious veggies in the school garden. With the help of the high school students, the Forwood community was able to enjoy them in their school lunches before the winter frost.





# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Thanks in large part to the support of the community through successful referendums, the Brandywine School District boasts some of the safest, best-maintained buildings in the state. The most recent capital referendum was passed in 2016 and included major renovations to Brandywine High School, Carrcroft Elementary School, and Claymont Elementary School, as well as the demolition of the former Burnett building.

## BRANDYWINE HIGH SCHOOL



center, new roofing over the lobby, auditorium, and music wing, and improvements to 24 classrooms on the second floor. The auditorium is receiving extensive renovations: new ceiling and wall coverings, all new seats, improved lights, and new curtains. Work on the auditorium is scheduled to be completed this spring. The final

With the exception of the current auditorium renovation, the work at Brandywine High School is being completed during the summers with all renovations scheduled to be finalized in the summer of 2020. Work already completed includes parking lot and sidewalk repairs, new exterior lighting, courtyard improvements, ADA upgrades, HVAC replacements in multiple curricular areas, renovations to the library/media center,



phase of renovations will take place this summer and includes renovations to the cafeteria, new meeting rooms adjacent to the library, and ADA improvements to public restrooms.



## CLAYMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Claymont Elementary School, originally built as a high school, has been undergoing extensive renovations since the summer of 2018. Due to the scope of work, areas of the school are closed, renovated, and then reopened. This has resulted in temporarily relocating classrooms in order to ensure student and staff safety; currently, all kindergarten and first grade classrooms are relocated to the Darley Road site. The District is currently completing phase four out of six. The following work was completed in the first three phases: parking lot and sidewalk replacement, new electrical system and generator, extensive renovations to the kitchen and cafeteria, relocation of the front office and nurse's suite, a completely renovated second and fourth grade wing with learning labs, classroom improvements, a new playground, upgraded security doors, and new HVAC, network, and security systems in all renovated areas.



The current work involves complete renovations to the first and third grade wing, and future work will include renovations to the kindergarten and fifth grade wing, new roofing, library/media center improvements, ADA upgrades in the auditorium, and a new fire stairway in the west wing of the building.



## CARRCROFT & BURNETT

Renovations to Carrcroft Elementary School were completed in the spring of 2019 and included relocation of and a major security upgrade to the front office and entrance, new cafeteria wing, three new classrooms, and other building-wide enhancements. The Burnett building was demolished in 2018 and is now green space and athletic fields for use by neighboring P.S. duPont Middle School.

## Joseph Brumskill Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)



Now enrolling four year-old students in our full-day program!

- Free full-day preschool for income-eligible families who live in BSD
- Curriculum to prepare for kindergarten
- Five Star rating from Delaware Stars
- Certified Early Childhood teachers
- Bus transportation within the feeder pattern
- Services for children with special needs
- Small classrooms with low teacher/student ratio
- Breakfast and lunch served every day
- Strong family engagement component
- Professional social work services based on individualized family needs
- Students must be four years old by August 31



**ECAP**  
701 W. 34th Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
(entrance on Monroe Street)

302-761-7420

[brandywineschools.org/ecap](http://brandywineschools.org/ecap)

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Brandywine School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status, national origin, or other legally protected categories in its educational programs, activities, employment, or student admissions policies or practices. Inquiries regarding compliance with the above can be directed to:

**Section 504:** Contact Dr. Lisa Lawson, Executive Director of Special Education and Support Services, Brandywine School District, at 1311 Brandywine Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19809 or by phone at 302-793-5043.

The Section 504 Coordinator's responsibilities are to coordinate the Brandywine School District's efforts to comply with the disability discrimination laws.

**Title IX, Elementary Students:** Contact Lavina Jones-Davis, Executive Director of Elementary Education, Brandywine School District, at 1311 Brandywine Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19809 or by phone at 302-793-5010.

**Title IX, Secondary Students:** Contact Dr. Cary Riches, Executive Director of Secondary Education, Brandywine School District, at 1311 Brandywine Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19809 or by phone at 302-793-5055.

The Title IX Coordinators' responsibilities are to coordinate the Brandywine School District's efforts to comply with and carry out the District's responsibilities under Title IX, including any investigation of any complaint alleging noncompliance with Title IX or alleging actions that would be prohibited by Title IX.

# THE BRANDYWINE REVIEW

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[www.bandywineschools.org](http://www.bandywineschools.org)  
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Alexis Andrianopoulos, Editor-In-Chief

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Unless otherwise noted at [www.bandywineschools.org/schoolboard](http://www.bandywineschools.org/schoolboard), the School Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m.