Superintendent’s Message

Dear BSD Community,

On June 2, we honored the accomplishments of the BSD Class of 2019. Watching nearly 700 proud students walk across the stage to accept their diplomas reminded me of how much we have to celebrate in BSD and how many people are responsible for our successes. I would like use this space to thank several groups, starting with our outstanding staff. Our employees consistently go above and beyond to ensure that every student not only receives a quality education but also feels supported emotionally and socially in safe, secure, and clean buildings. Employees are truly the backbone of any organization, and BSD is no exception. I am deeply grateful for their professionalism, dedication, and caring.

I thank the School Board for its support of our district, schools, staff, and students. Being a School Board member is a challenging and sometimes thankless volunteer job, but our seven elected Board members do it with enthusiasm and a commitment to our #1 customers—our students.

Thank you to the families who have chosen to send their most precious members, their children, to us. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us and do not take it lightly.

Thank you to the greater community for supporting BSD through your attendance at events, support of referendums, and sponsorship of activities, programs, and students. We consider our community to be an important partner in our work, and we try our best to be good neighbors to all of you.

And of course, thank you to the 10,500 students who have worked hard, matured, and shown empathy for each other and for our world. It is exciting to watch all of you grow academically, emotionally, and socially each year.

Have a great summer.

Best wishes,
Mark A. Holodick, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Message from the Board President

Ralph Ackerman

June is graduation month, and I was very happy to be able to enjoy the graduations of the classes of 2019. Brandywine, Mount Pleasant and Concord all graduated on June 2 at the Bob Carpenter Center at University of Delaware. Our graduates conducted themselves in a way that makes all of us proud of their accomplishments. As a Board member, we have the pleasure of shaking the hand of every graduate. Graduation is the best day of the year for Board members as all of us put in many hours as elected volunteers, but this day makes all of that worth it. I wish the Classes of 2019 the best in their future, whether that is going on to college or trade school, the military, or entering the work force.

Though school is out for the summer, the work will not stop to make our facilities top-notch. In our last referendum, money was allocated for multiple projects. Claymont Elementary will start the second year of a three-year renovation, which will provide significant upgrades to the school. Brandywine High will also see additional improvements with the updating of the auditorium and more. It is hard to believe that Brandywine was last modernized 23 years ago! Multiple other projects will continue at various schools. This is a combination of the voter-approved referendum and increased minor capital improvement funds from the state. These projects will cause a minor increase in our debt service tax, but still less than at the peak of our modernization program. I want to thank our community for voting to support these efforts to keep our schools looking great, and we will continue to maintain our facilities long into the future.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the Brandywine staff for a great 2018-2019 school year: administrators, teachers, teaching aides, bus drivers, custodial staff, technology staff, nutrition workers, and our administrative support teams. If you are a 10-month employee, enjoy your summer and if you are a 12-month employee, I am hoping you will take some time off to relax while school is out.

We look forward to everyone’s return as we shift into the 2019-2020 school year. In the meantime, have a safe and happy summer!

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- BSD High School Mac High Rankings
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- SIE Interns Enter the Workforce

CongratulaTions to the BSD Class of 2019!

On June 2, the Brandywine School District celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2019 at commencement exercises for Brandywine, Concord, and Mount Pleasant High Schools. Nearly 700 students from all three schools earned $26 million in scholarship money to attend colleges and universities across the country, many of which are listed below and on page 2. Here are some Class of 2019 highlights.

The following distinguished scholars were named valedictorians of their classes and maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average throughout their high school careers.

- **Brandywine**: Noah Hann-Deshaine, who will spend next year as a volunteer with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps to do hands-on service projects around the southeastern US, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands focused on energy conservation, environmental stewardship, infrastructure improvement, natural and other disasters, and urban and rural development, after which he will major in physics at Colgate University; Caitlin Kidd, who will attend De Sales University to study physical therapy; and Nathan Yoder, who will attend Williamson College of the Trades.

- **Concord**: Openipoolouwa Adejeyi, who is enrolling in the seven year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program at Boston University with a Medical Science major; Antonio Carvalho, who will study mechanical engineering at the University of Delaware; Cassidy Evans, who will attend the University of Rhode Island to study in the six year Doctor of Pharmacy program; Benjamin Gonce, who will major in music at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami; Srivasudha Jaryanthi, who will attend Brown University to study applied math and environmental science; Sarah Panek, who will attend the University of Southern California to study human biology with a pre-med emphasis; Chloe Paolucci, who will attend Barnard College of Columbia University to student neuroscience; Kelsey Wagner, who will major in history in the Honors Program at the University of Delaware; and Julia Weeks, who will attend the University of Delaware to study construction engineering and management.

- **Mount Pleasant**: Holly Cobb, who will study environmental engineering at the University of Delaware; Jane Loney, who will attend the University of Rochester to major in linguistics; Hannah Marvil, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

On June 2, the Brandywine School District celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2010 at commencement exercises for Brandywine, Concord, and Mount Pleasant High Schools. Nearly 700 students from all three schools earned $26 million in scholarship money to attend colleges and universities across the country, many of which are listed below and on page 2. Here are some Class of 2010 highlights.

The following distinguished scholars were named valedictorians of their classes and maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average throughout their high school careers.

- **Brandywine**: Noah Hann-Deshaine, who will spend next year as a volunteer with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps to do hands-on service projects around the southeastern US, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands focused on energy conservation, environmental stewardship, infrastructure improvement, natural and other disasters, and urban and rural development, after which he will major in physics at Colgate University; Caitlin Kidd, who will attend De Sales University to study physical therapy; and Nathan Yoder, who will attend Williamson College of the Trades.

- **Concord**: Openipoolouwa Adejeyi, who is enrolling in the seven year Liberal Arts/Medical Education Program at Boston University with a Medical Science major; Antonio Carvalho, who will study mechanical engineering at the University of Delaware; Cassidy Evans, who will attend the University of Rhode Island to study in the six year Doctor of Pharmacy program; Benjamin Gonce, who will major in music at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami; Srivasudha Jaryanthi, who will attend Brown University to study applied math and environmental science; Sarah Panek, who will attend the University of Southern California to study human biology with a pre-med emphasis; Chloe Paolucci, who will attend Barnard College of Columbia University to student neuroscience; Kelsey Wagner, who will major in history in the Honors Program at the University of Delaware; and Julia Weeks, who will attend the University of Delaware to study construction engineering and management.

- **Mount Pleasant**: Holly Cobb, who will study environmental engineering at the University of Delaware; Jane Loney, who will attend the University of Rochester to major in linguistics; Hannah Marvil, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010 - continued on page 2
CONGRATULATIONS

76% of the graduates are entering college right away, with another 5% entering the workforce and 3.5% joining the armed forces. (The remaining 15% plan to attend a trade school or did not report their plans to their school counseling offices at the time of publication.)

33 members of Mount Pleasant’s Class of 2019 graduated with the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma. In addition to traditional coursework, the IB Diploma requires a minimum of 150 hours of creativity, action, and service, as well as an extended research paper of at least 4,000 words. Some of the research paper topics this year were:

- What Elements of Dystopian Literature, As Found in George Orwell’s 1984, Are Significant in Understanding and Criticizing Society?
- To What Extent Has Language Been Influenced by the Social Concept of Gender in How It Is Learned and Used Throughout Life, and How Have Gender Stereotypes Contributed to the Ways in Which Different Genders Communicate?
- Study on the Correlation Between Religion and Cultural Dimensions of a Religious Group
- Finding a Solution in a New Generation of Innovation: Undermining the Tradition of Fossil Fuel Usage

A total of 52 members of the Mount Pleasant Class of 2019 were enrolled in the IB program; 33 diploma candidates and 19 additional students in the program. Together, they took 467 IB exams in 10 different subjects.

A total of 195 seniors in all three high schools took a combined 365 Advanced Placement exams in 16 different subjects.

3 of the graduates across all three schools were enrolled in the AVID program. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) targets students who have the ability and the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. Often, they are students in the academic middle – B, C, and sometimes even D students – who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Many of them are the first in their families to attend college. In addition to enrolling in their schools’ toughest classes, these students 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 BSD secondary schools.

In addition to the colleges listed on page 1 and above, members of the Class of 2019 were accepted to many prestigious colleges and universities across the country. Here is a partial list: Albright College, Allegheny College, American University, Bates College, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Bucknell University, California University of Pennsylvania, Camden County College, Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve, Clemson University, College of William and Mary, College of Wooster, Culinary Institute of America, Delaware College of Art & Design, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Duke University, Elizabethtown College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emerson College, Florida Institute of Technology, Fordham University, George Washington University, Hampton University, Haverford College, Hofstra University, Howard University, James Madison University, Juniata College, Kent State University, Kings College, Lehigh University, Lincoln University, Marymount Manhattan College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McDaniel College, Millsaps College, Muhlenberg College, New York University, North Carolina A & T University, Paul Mitchell Beauty & Cosmetology School, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, Savannah College of Art & Design, Shippensburg University, Spelman College, Syracuse University, Temple University, Towson University, University of Connecticut, University of Massachusetts, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Arts, University of the Sciences, University of Virginia, Ursinus College, Vanderbilt University, Villanova University, Washington College, Westminster College, Wesley College, West Chester University, West Virginia University, Widener University, and York College of Pennsylvania.
Three Springer Middle School students were recognized as the top middle school team in the 2019 Delaware Stock Market Game. Grace Towler, Elizabeth Braddock, and Cat Shapiro, all 7th graders, successfully invested a fictional amount of $100,000 using real-time stock prices to earn an impressive $13,304 profit in ten weeks - more than 8% better than the S&P 500. The winning team is pictured with Social Studies teacher Michael Glazier. Springer performed well overall, with six of the top ten teams in the state. The Stock Market Game is run through UD’s Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship.

In addition, Elizabeth Braddock was honored as the statewide winner of the Investwrite competition. Her winning essay on the Dominion Energy company and its efforts to combat climate change was judged by a panel of financial experts from around the country.

Grace, Elizabeth, and Cat plan to start an after-school club next year to continue learning about investing and get a head start on their quest to repeat as state champions!

Springer Students Are State Stock Market Game Champions

Brandywine High School Engineering Students Design Computer Tablets

Last summer, 15 elementary teachers in the Brandywine School District took part in district-sponsored STEM professional development. One of the tools they used was a Kano computer kit, an interactive kit that allows students to assemble a tablet, learn coding, access the internet, improve literacy, and more. After the professional development opportunity, five kits were purchased; however, many additional teachers were interested in having them in their classrooms or schools.

To assist, BSD turned to high school engineering students through the HelpMeBSD.com application. Three groups of engineering students at Brandywine High School answered the call and created prototype computer tablets similar to Kano computer kits but at a much lower cost. The high school students met with elementary teachers and their students multiple times over the course of this school year to get their feedback, have them test their prototypes, and learn more about how the tablets will be used in classrooms.

On May 8, the three high school groups presented their projects to elementary teachers in the district. Students from Claymont Elementary School received a gift certificate for a computer tablet to take home for summer reading. Five third grade classrooms donated gently used books from their own collections and sought donations from others, then set up a bookstore in the school's STEM lab. Each class in the school was invited to shop for free summer reading materials over three days during the last two weeks of school.

Students who do not read or read infrequently over the summer are likely to see their reading abilities stagnate or even decline, according to the US Department of Education. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the educational system; therefore, it is imperative to instill good reading habits and a love of reading at an early age. USDOE recommends encouraging children to read at least 30 minutes per day, providing incentives for them to do so, making reading a social act when all members of the family gather to read individually or out loud to each other, and connecting reading to family activities, such as coupling a day trip to an aquarium with a book about sea life.

Locally, the Delaware Division of Libraries has launched the 2019 Summer Library Challenge: A Universe of Stories. Young readers can sign up in person or online, log their reading activity, and earn incentives for reading over the summer. Visit https://lib.de.us/programs/summerreading/# for more information.

Presenting the District’s 2020 Teachers of the Year!

Please join BSD in celebrating the 2020 Teachers of the Year. Each building selects its TOY through a competitive process, and from that distinguished group of educators the District’s TOY is chosen. This year, Choral Director and Vocal Music Teacher Dr. Lauren Conrad from Concord High School was named the 2020 BSD Teacher of the Year.

All of these outstanding educators have made significant contributions to their students, families, and school communities. It is our pleasure to present them to the community.

Congratulations to the 2020 Brandywine School District Teachers of the Year!

First Place Finish in the State Spanish Competition

Huge congratulations to P.S. duPont 7th grader Malti John, who placed first overall in Delaware in the National Spanish Examination for Category 1 - Grades 6-12. She is pictured with Spanish teacher Dr. Linda Acker. In addition to Malti’s amazing accomplishment, four additional P.S. duPont Middle School students earned a gold medal for scoring in the 95th percentile across the US. Congratulations to Alex Zheng, Eliza Johnson, Anand John, and Helen Qi.
BSD partnered with Jobs for Delaware Graduates (JDG) this spring to host a Career Fair for students. 31 vendors participated in the 2019 Career Fair, which was held at Mount Pleasant High School. More than 280 students from all three BSD high schools attended. The District provided transportation for students from Concord High School and Brandywine High School, and JDG also supported the event by providing transportation for the students currently enrolled in JDG. Students submitted applications and completed on-site interviews at the event. Vendors reported having received more than 40 applications each - an overwhelming response.

Exhibitors included Boys & Girls Clubs, City of Wilmington Youth Career Development Program, Brandywine Zoo, Bennington Pool Services, Boomerang Excluders, Campbell Soup, First State Bank, Home Depot, House of straw, Clantsmont Fire Company, Delaware Army National Guard, Discover, Job Corps, Goldey-Beacom College, New Castle County Libraries, ShopRite, Wells Fargo, Paul Mitchell, and many more.

Brandywine Review

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Libraries, ShopRite, Wells Fargo, Paul Mitchell, and many more.

Sixth grade students in the IB program at Talley Middle School completed Environmental Awareness projects. All projects met the theme of repairing damage to the environment. The assignment included researching problems and their causes, promoting awareness of the issue, and developing solutions.

Late in the school year, they presented their projects for evaluation by 20 community leaders including Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Representative Ray Seigfried, State Senator Cathy Cloutier, retired educators, environmentalists, business owners, and an Arden trustee. Students were evaluated on how well they knew and understood the problem, their ability to communicate, and their investigative methods.

Two classes from Mount Pleasant Elementary School took the top two prizes in the Philadelphia Zoo UNLESS Contest! Congratulations to Mrs. Turner’s second grade class (grand prize winner) and Mrs. Moore’s first grade class (second place winner). Through the UNLESS contest, students create awareness about endangered species and conservation, ultimately inspiring local action to combat climate change. As part of their project, Mrs. Turner’s class lobbied the BSD School Nutrition Department to change breakfast delivery from plastic bags to reusable plastic caddies, eliminating 100,000 plastic bags from the landfill every school year. Mrs. Moore’s class held a fundraiser as part of their project and raised enough money to purchase a BPA-free reusable water bottle for every student in their school after collecting 4,000 plastic bottles to build a greenhouse for the school’s vegetable garden.

The youngest among us can and will make a difference!

LANCASHIRE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY

Lancashire fifth graders celebrated International Day as part of the social studies unit on immigration. Each student selected a country to research and completed a report about its customs, history, geography, government, economy, and more. From that report, each student created a display and shared what they learned with their peers. The unit concluded with a field trip to Ellis Island.

Two classes from Mount Pleasant Elementary School took the top two prizes in the Philadelphia Zoo UNLESS Contest! Congratulations to Mrs. Turner’s second grade class (grand prize winner) and Mrs. Moore’s first grade class (second place winner). Through the UNLESS contest, students create awareness about endangered species and conservation, ultimately inspiring local action to combat climate change. As part of their project, Mrs. Turner’s class lobbied the BSD School Nutrition Department to change breakfast delivery from plastic bags to reusable plastic caddies, eliminating 100,000 plastic bags from the landfill every school year. Mrs. Moore’s class held a fundraiser as part of their project and raised enough money to purchase a BPA-free reusable water bottle for every student in their school after collecting 4,000 plastic bottles to build a greenhouse for the school’s vegetable garden.

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