

THE BERLIN BANNER

MAY 2018

BUDGET EDITION

Last year at this time, the surrounding trees were in leaf, the spring flowers were poking through the soft warm ground, migratory birds were returning from their winter retreats, and students were engaged in learning in classrooms throughout the District. While nature is slightly behind schedule as spring progresses into summer, our teaching and learning process is moving full steam ahead.

The Berlin School Board and I want to thank the BSCD residents for the generous show of support you have provided to our students, teachers and schools earlier this year. With the passage of two separate bond referendums, totaling 13 million dollars, the community has shown their desire to support progress and change. A new transportation facility, renovated instructional and support spaces in schools, exemplary science and technology classrooms, and a running track, soccer field, and baseball fields will be constructed over the next few years. This is another sign of progress and change in the Berlin Central School District.

Progress and change go hand in hand. Just as nature returns on a seasonal cycle, the budget process does as well. The 2018-2019 proposed budget maintains programs that keep students engaged in the learning process, that keep the focus on raising student achievement and increasing mastery levels in all academic areas, and in graduating all students in a timely manner.

As we prepare for progress next year, several changes will be made through the budget process. The 2018-2019 budget calls for a much needed *school psychologist* position. This is the only new position in the instructional side of the budget. The position will address many of the mental health, emotional, and social concerns of our students. A new course in *Materials Processing* and a district-wide *computer science curriculum* will be developed with additional funding. Berlin Elementary School will see two additional teams supported- *Odyssey of the Mind* and the annual *BES Yearbook*.

On May 15th you will be asked to vote on the 2018-2019 school budget which totals \$20,569,913. Our tax levy is estimated to be \$9,331,076. This is an increase of \$137,894 for a 1.5% increase over last year. Our estimated State Aid totals \$10,478,208. Due to an increase in NYS revenue to Berlin in the amount of \$560,086, and with careful budget planning over the previous five years, we are well positioned financially for progress to occur in the next school year.

The future of all Berlin students relies on your continued support. Please take the time to vote on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Your vote counts!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Young
Superintendent of Schools



Kindergarten students in Kasey Hannigan's class celebrated the completion of their writing pieces by sharing and reading them to their first-grade friends in Mr. Dobbins' class.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Budget Vote and Board of Education Election to be held May 15, 2018 from noon to 9 PM at Berlin Elementary School
- ◆ Class of 2018 Valedictorian & Salutatorian Announced
- ◆ Dramateers
- ◆ Budget Information
- ◆ Art Department News
- ◆ Board of Education Candidates

Berlin High School Announces Class of 2018 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian - Vincent Scott

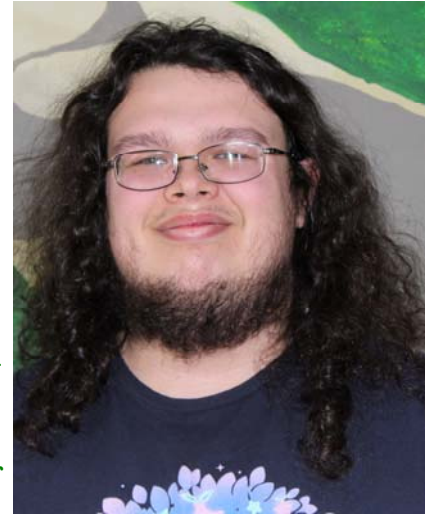
Vincent Scott, son of Ken Scott and Jill Denué, was named Valedictorian for the Berlin High School Class of 2018.

Vincent was inducted into the National Honor Society during his sophomore year and continued his membership throughout his high school career. Vincent also participated in the Berlin High School's MasterMinds team from grades 9 through 12. Through their outstanding efforts, Vincent and the MasterMinds team earned a spot at the national competition in Chicago, Illinois for the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) Small Schools Championships in 2017.

Vincent has also dedicated time to volunteer pursuits guiding younger students through the Journey Through the Body. Journey Through the Body is an annual family health event designed to educate children about the functions of the human body. In school, Vincent demonstrated leadership through his participation in the prom committee and with his activities in the Link Crew.

Vincent is an outstanding student with particular interest in chemistry, which he credits to his high school chemistry teacher Mr. Mellor. "Chemistry is the most interesting to me particularly in combination with computer hardware engineering and the body's internal chemistry," Vincent explained.

Vincent's many achievements are a credit to his ability to persevere through personal and academic challenges. Vincent has not yet decided on his post-graduate plans but he will likely study biochemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Berlin Central School District's Parade Band *by Miss Keem*

Parade Band is very active in the Berlin CSD community! Under the direction of Miss Bethanie Keem, Parade Band has provided event-appropriate music for Berlin's Memorial Day Parade (including playing The Star-Spangled Banner at the town monument and sounding TAPS at the cemetery), Berlin's Independence Day Parade (including fun music such as Kookaburra Round and Katy Perry's song "Firework"), and Stephentown's Veterans Day ceremony where the new memorial was unveiled. We have received many positive compliments about how great we sound together and how nice it is to see students giving back to the community and learning about important traditions, such as sounding TAPS and participating in meaningful community events.

Special thanks to Mrs. Jessica Gould for sounding Echo Taps with Miss Keem, and kudos to all our dedicated students who braved the frigid temperatures to play special music and show honor and respect to our veterans.

Salutarian - Amanda Despart

Amanda Despart, daughter of Jim and Kathy Despart of Stephentown, was named Salutarian for the Berlin High School Class of 2018.

Amanda is a multi-sport athlete who has competed in every season during her high school career. She played high school and club soccer, basketball, softball and track. She is also an avid archer and continues to teach archery to younger children.

Amanda demonstrated leadership both in school and in the wider community. She was the Class of 2018 president or vice president from grade 6 through 11. She has also served as prom committee co-chairperson and varsity basketball captain. Outside of school, Amanda has served as the Youth 2 Youth co-president or vice president for the last two years. As a lifelong Girl Scout, Amanda is currently finishing her Gold Award Project.

Amanda is participating in the New Visions Medical Program this year through Questar III BOCES. Over the course of the school year Amanda was able to shadow surgeons as they practice their craft spending time in the operating room. Her experience led her to select pre-med in college. Amanda will attend the University of Rochester in the fall.



Budget Vote/BOE Election

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Berlin Elementary School

12:00 PM—9:00 PM

HELPING HANDS—BES Food Pantry

Thank you to all who have donated to our food pantry. We are currently feeding over 20 families which equals to over 75 mouths to feed. We have had a great deal of support from local businesses, families and community groups. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community. If you would like to help, there is a collection box in the main hall of the elementary school. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



District Receives School Safety Excellence Award

Berlin Central School District was recently awarded the School Safety Excellence Award from Utica National Insurance Group. The honor, presented annually, recognizes school districts' safety efforts as they work to create a secure learning environment for students, staff and visitors.

Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award Program has three levels- titanium, platinum, and gold- in which schools can earn a meritorious distinction by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall safety. Through the program, schools with their own transportation, schools with contract transportation, and BOCES are evaluated. Categories covered include bullying prevention programs, playground safety and other areas, and are measured using specific, quantifiable surveys. The Berlin Central School District achieved the Titanium with Honors designation the Safety Excellence Award's highest designation. Berlin is a first time recipient of the award.

Utica National Insurance Group is a nationally recognized insurer offering both personal and commercial insurance products and services and ranks as one of the top 100 property and casualty companies in the country. Utica National's personal lines cover auto, home, renter's, motorcycle, boat, snowmobile and identity theft coverage. The commercial lines include general commercial insurance as well as various specialty markets, including coverages for the graphic arts industries, educational institutions, volunteer fire departments, religious institutions, libraries, and others.



BERLIN MOUNTAINEER SPORTS!

This year, our athletic programs faced a new challenge—the Wasaren League. Students faced tougher, more consistent competition than we had ever seen before. Despite the ups and downs, athletic programs made great strides as each season went along.

Girls volleyball struggled to get going against Wasaren competition, but as the season wore on, they grew and were able to hold their own against the very best the league had to offer. With the number of girls who played on varsity and modified this year, the district is hopeful to field varsity, jv and modified teams for girls volleyball next fall.

The boys varsity soccer team finished second in the Battenkill Division during the regular season. The team advanced to the Section 2 Class C Championship Game with wins over Waterford, top seeded Mayfield and Battenkill Division Champion Cambridge. The team lost to Maple Hill 2 to 0 in the championship game. Wasaren League All Stars were Anthony Santon, Connor Douglas, Tyler Kellar, and Ryan Willis, who was named MVP of the Battenkill Division. Ryan Willis was also named to the All State Team. Coach Art Schmich was named Class C Coach of the Year.

The girls varsity soccer team began the season struggling to keep up with the Wasaren competition, but as the year progressed, the girls improved and became more competitive. Despite a strong finish to the season, the girls lost a heartbreaker in the first round of Sectionals to Middleburgh 2-1.

Boys and girls cross country came toe-to-toe with some familiar foes in Greenwich and Saratoga Catholic throughout the season. The team pushed through injuries to their top runners to be consistently in contention at every race. Come Sectionals time the boys finished 8th in Class D, while the girls came home 5th.

Boys volleyball maintained a strong season in the Patroon conference going 6-10, with 12 out of 16 games going the distance of 5 matches, including a challenging loss to reigning state runners up Voorheesville. Notable victories included Ichabod Crane, a B school and New Lebanon. The team advanced to the first round of Sectionals where they were defeated by a tough Chatham team in 3 close sets. This season marked Coach Paul Slaver's 150th career win as Boys Volleyball Coach.

In its fourth season, the Berlin/New Lebanon wrestling team made significant strides obtaining a school best 12 wins on the season and placing fourth in the Patroon conference. The team was successful in part because of the almost 30 participants (two of which went to the sectional tournament, with 3 others being alternates) and the addition of two new coaches. Three wrestlers were named to the Patroon conference all-star team, also a team best. This by far has been the best season for the young team, which only hopes to get better with the addition of the peewee program that allows younger children in the two districts to participate in the sport.

Boys varsity basketball came away with 4 wins this season and were very competitive throughout the course of the year. Senior Ryan Willis eclipsed the 1,000 points score mark in a tournament game versus Argyle and ended his career as the 2nd highest scorer in Berlin school history.

Girls varsity basketball struggled to gain footing in the competitive Wasaren basketball scene. Despite the struggles, the girls continued to improve each game and hung tough with some of the top tier basketball powerhouses in all of Section 2.

The Berlin athletic teams look forward to their next sports seasons.

BCSD 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

Expenses		2017-2018	2018-2019
		Adopted	Proposed
		Budget	Budget
Program Budget			
	Regular Education	5,259,888	5,086,766
	Special Education	2,400,446	2,362,112
	Occupational Education	535,236	557,573
	Continuing Ed/Driver Ed	25,000	25,000
	Library/Technology	625,970	603,162
	Educational Television	0	9,029
	Guidance	362,362	367,085
	Health Services	211,446	218,505
	Co-Curricular/Sports	226,213	299,115
	Transportation	1,571,262	1,595,166
	Employee Benefits	4,475,048	4,720,389
		15,692,872	15,843,902
Administrative			
	Board of Education	10,690	10,877
	Central Administration	237,785	249,526
	Finance	363,063	345,948
	Legal/Personnel/Public	96,679	122,169
	Insurance/Dues	94,615	99,832
	School Supervision	596,903	696,322
	Curriculum & In-service	75,239	87,687
	BOCES Administration	37,388	37,988
	Employee Benefits	534,236	531,935
		2,046,598	2,182,285
Capital Budget			
	Operations & Main.	1,380,840	1,342,836
	Central Data	91,488	206,150
	Debt Service	590,810	581,310
	Employee Benefits	399,233	413,431
		2,462,372	2,543,727
		20,201,841	20,569,913
Revenue			
	State Aid	9,918,121	10,478,208
	Real Property Taxes	9,193,182	9,331,076
	Miscellaneous	570,080	310,629
	Reserves	70,458	0
	Fund Balance	450,000	450,000
		20,201,841	20,569,913

Budget Vote

Proposition Vote

Board Election Vote

May 15, 2018

12—9 PM

**Berlin Elementary
School**

53 School Street

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polling place on May 15 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the District Clerk at 518-658-1500 Option 8, Extension 1010. If the ballot is to be mailed, the application for the ballot must be received by May 10. If the ballot is to be delivered in person, the application must be received by May 14. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 PM on May 15.

2018-2019 School Budget and BOE Vote

Voting will take place at the Berlin Elementary School, 53 School Street, Berlin, from 12:00—9:00 PM. Voters will be asked to vote on five items:

THE 2018-2019 BUDGET

The Budget for the 2018 – 2019 school year is not to exceed **\$20,569,913**. This is an increase of **1.5%** in the tax levy.

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase in fiscal year 2018-2019 one(1) 66 passenger bus and expend a gross sum not to exceed \$125,000. Which said total sum of \$125,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, may be raised by issue of obligations of the district therefore in accordance with the education law and local finance law.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

There are two people running for **two** open seats on the Berlin Central School District Board of Education. Both seats are three-year terms. Voters will have the opportunity to vote for **two** candidates. The candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order as determined by a random drawing.

Kellie Kaschak

Katie Snyder

2018 Board of Education Candidates

The Board of Education is comprised of seven members elected by district residents. All members serve without pay for three year terms. Under the Education Law of New York State, the Board is responsible for the education of students who attend the schools in the district; for the preparation of the annual budget, for district adherence to state law and State Education Department regulations concerning the conduct of the public schools. The Superintendent of Schools is charged with the administration of Board policies.

Kellie Kaschak

I have lived in Grafton for the majority of my life. I am a graduate of Berlin Central School District, Russell Sage College and Sage Graduate School. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and a Master of Arts Degree in Health Education. I have been a Registered Professional Nurse for almost 38 years. I retired from the Berlin Central School District in 2015 after serving as their School Nurse Teacher for 23 years. In addition to serving as a Board member, I am currently a member of the Rensselaer County Medical Reserve Corp as well as an Instructor for the American Red Cross, American Heart Association and the National Safety Council. I also currently work part time as a Senior Health Educator for Needham Risk Management. I have been married for almost 40 years to my husband Robert and we are proud parents of two daughters; Rebecca, an attorney and Kristen, a pediatrician as well as grandparents to 6 beautiful grandchildren. Our children would tell you, that above all else, we stressed the importance of a quality education.



As a Board of Education member having served my first term, I feel I have gained a new appreciation for the challenges the daily operations of a school district bring from a management perspective. I also believe I bring valuable insight to the discussions surrounding planning, policy development and daily operations having been an employee of the district for 23 years. During my first term, I served on the CSEA administrative negotiating committee, where we were able to come to agreement on a fair and equitable contract very quickly on behalf of the district. I also continue to advocate for what I believe is a balance of positive changes in the best interest of our students, staff and community of the Berlin Central School District.

Continuing to serve as a Board member will allow me to continue to share my knowledge and experiences both as a Berlin CSD graduate as well as an employee of the district with the multiple roles and positions I fulfilled on while employed there; including Health & Safety Designee, CPR/First Aid/AED Instructor, Wellness Coordinator, National Honor Society Co-Advisor, Class Co-Advisor, CSEA President, Medicaid Compliance officer, Free & Reduced Meals Liaison. If re-elected, I will continue the work necessary to establish and maintain a safe, positive and quality educational climate for our students and staff while maintaining fiscal responsibility for our district.

Katie Snyder

My name is Katie Snyder and I am seeking re-election for another term on the board. I have lived in the Berlin School District my entire life and currently reside in Petersburg with my husband, Mark and our three year old son, Stanton. Stanton will be starting Pre-K in September at BES. Over the past 6 years I have served as legislative liaison, on the facilities committee and as Vice-President. If elected to another 3 year term, I would continue my focus on improving opportunities for all students in a fiscally responsible manner to the taxpayers.



Family And Consumer Science News

In this room we were able to do so many fun activities such as an archaeological dig in 6th grade social studies, cooking club for the middle school during MMM, Financial planning Jenga and cooking in 8th grade FACS and even a car design challenge in 7th grade technology. With the space and resources available to me we were able to have so much fun in this room.



Curriculum Update—by Fred Hutchinson

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Berlin Central School District has worked to reinvigorate our Curriculum Development efforts. Prior to this work, we researched the projected changes in standards that are anticipated as the State Education Department moves away from Common Core Learning Standards into Next Generation Learning Standards. This change by the State will have measurable impacts on Regents exams, as well as the 3-8 Standardized Assessments, and we want to be prepared to provide our students with the best opportunities for success.

After some lengthy discussion with various teachers and leaders from within our Berlin Community, and with organizations outside our own district, we have determined that there are elements that we must include in lessons at every grade level, from Kindergarten through 12th grade. One of these elements is commonly referred to as the “Enduring Issues”. Enduring Issues are thematic concepts identified within the Next Generation Standards for Global Studies. They are complex, universal and timeless (hence the name). Studying them across all the grade levels will help our students understand these complexities, and appreciate their meaning over time. They will also help us to build out our character education initiatives at both buildings. The second of the elements are called “Crosscutting Concepts”, and these come from the Next Generation Science Standards. These concepts include empirical truths that are largely associated with Science and Mathematics, like *recognizing patterns, or cause and effect*. Again, *teaching these at an early age will help us develop our students’ proficiency and mastery with them over time*.

Dear Berlin Central School District Residents,

On behalf of the Members of the Berlin School District Board, I am pleased to share with you this recap of the district achievements over the past year and also our budget plan for the upcoming school year.

Our district continues to build on our record of increased graduation rates, lowered drop-out rates, improved school safety, and facility upgrades. This year our students received the Dyson Engineering Box Award, Olympics of the Visuals Arts Award and FCCLA Awards. Middle School/High School Principal, Dr. Allain, received the FCCLA School Administrator of the Year Award. Our boys' soccer team had a great year in the new Wasaren League, as did our combined Berlin and New Lebanon wrestling team. Congratulations all around!

This past year we completed a district-wide LED lighting upgrade, saving energy, and at no cost to the taxpayers. We're also moving forward with nearly \$10 million in Capital Projects, without any additional tax impact. Safety is always a priority, and this year our district received the Utica National Insurance Group's "School Safety Excellence Award". Congratulations to our administrators, faculty and staff for this recognition!

Our district has worked hard over the past six years to hold the line on tax increases, with an average increase of 1.2%. The proposed budget for the upcoming year continues the board's commitment to fiscal responsibility, and contains a proposed tax levy increase of 1.5%, again below the state's tax cap.

As a board, we're committed to working together to continue to move our district forward. Providing each of our students with a top quality education takes the combined hard work of everyone, including our dedicated teachers, non-instructional staff, administrators, board members, students, and parents. Your continued support is especially appreciated.

Again, on behalf of each board member, thank you. We look forward to working with you in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Zwack, President
Berlin Central School District Board of Education

Budget Vote/BOE Election

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Berlin Elementary School

12:00 PM—9:00 PM

www.berlincentral.org

Berlin Dramateers Wowed Audiences with “Seussical the Musical”

During the weekend of March 23, 2018, the Berlin Dramateers brought some of the stories and characters of Dr. Seuss to life onstage at Berlin MS/HS. Under the direction of the High School Music Teacher, Leslie Eliashuk, audiences were treated to their favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, lazy Mayzie and a little boy with a big imagination – Jojo.



Berlin Elementary School's Instrumental Music Program—by Miss Keem

Miss Keem is proud to announce that her 4th and 5th grade Instrumental Music Program is strong and successful! Our 4th and 5th grade student instrumentalists receive 1 instrument lesson per week in a small group, and 4th Band and 5th Band each have 1 full-group Band rehearsal per week. Our students love their instruments, and look forward to coming to lessons and Band each week. The Band/Gymnasium hallway is filled with the beautiful sounds of happy, successful young musicians playing songs on their instruments!

BES' Instrumental Music Program is 100% all-inclusive, and ALL children are welcome and valued for their unique musical abilities! The majority of BES students use school-owned instruments at zero rental fee, and Miss Keem is proud to be able to provide instruments to ALL children who wish to play. Miss Keem and her students would like to thank Berlin Central School District, Berlin Elementary PTO, Stewart's Shops Holiday Match program, and the community for their continued support of the BES Instrumental Music Program! Your support is essential to keeping our program running with working musical instruments, repairing broken instruments, replacing instruments that reach the point of no longer being repairable, replacing cases and needed accessories, and providing lesson books and Band music. Thank you for giving our students the gift of music! It is a wonderful and worthy endeavor that will last them a lifetime and that they will always remember!

This January, six of the 5th grade Band students were selected to participate in Rensselaer County's Elementary All County Band, which is a record number of BES students!



Berlin Elementary Pilots Writing Units

This school year, Berlin Elementary School piloted the Writing Units of Study authored by Lucy Calkins and her colleagues at the Reading and Writing Project at Columbia Teachers College. Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers are all teaching at least one full unit.

The curriculum includes units of study that allow students to practice narrative, informational and opinion writing. What makes the curriculum unique is that students learn the writing process that is practiced by authors. Teachers start with mini lessons, to break down the different pieces of writing.

First grade teacher Stephanie Henry has worked with the units for many years and said, “The units have pushed the depth of writing for students. The language is consistent for every grade providing cohesive writing instruction throughout all grade levels.”

Henry’s class recently published their informational writing pieces in which students taught their readers about a topic of their own interest. As an extension of informational writing students are currently conducting group research projects on various sea creatures. Students will use Chromebooks as well as other resources such as nonfiction texts and articles to gather information. Students will then synthesize their information and create a final product using Google Slides.

Budget Vote/BOE Election

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Berlin Elementary School

12:00 PM—9:00 PM

The Berlin Chapter FCCLA Members attended the NYS FCCLA Conference in Syracuse, NY, March 21-23, 2018. At the conference students attended workshops, participated in team building exercises, and competed in STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) Events.

Students who participate in STAR events compete to represent NYS at the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in early summer. This year the following 7th grade students competed: Rebecca Smith - cupcake decorating this a NYS level event only, she received a bronze medal (this was also her first year competing in STAR events), Cloey Purdy and Riley Smith competed for a second year as a team by doing an Illustrated Talk - they also received a bronze medal.

This year two 9th grade students competed in STAR events also. Kianna Flavin competed for the third year in a row with a Recycle Redesign project using old wall maps and various items around the house - Kianna received a silver medal and an alternate spot to represent NYS at the National Leadership Conference. Last, Ariana Hendricks also competed for the third year in a row with a Life Event Planning project. Ariana received a silver medal and will be representing not only Berlin MS/HS, but NYS at the National Leadership Conference (for the second year in a row) in Atlanta, GA from June 27-July 3, 2018.

This year at the NYS FCCLA Conference there were a few surprises for the attendees from Berlin. We had two graduates/Alumni come for a day. Trevar Hall and Katie Mellett evaluated STAR events on March 22nd. They were also joined by Mrs. Dianne Mosher, retired FACs teacher and FCCLA Advisor. The last surprise was when Dr. Cathie Allain, Principal of the Berlin Central MS/HS, arrived at the hotel in Syracuse. Dr. Allain was awarded the NYS FCCLA Administrator of the Year. Dr. Allain was accompanied by her mother, Kate Hulihan.



Curriculum Spotlight: Marine Biology

Berlin HS Students Make Fishy Donation

This year, students at Berlin HS fostered jellyfish for the Via Aquarium. The work was part of an independent study course supervised by science teacher Matt Christian.

As part of their independent study work, Vicky Scott, Parker Crandall, Hailey Madsen and Domnika Popov raised 7 jellyfish during the 2017-18 school year. The jellyfish were donated by the Via Aquarium and were delivered to Berlin high school as polyps.

The students were able to shepherd the jellyfish polyps through several phases of development. Once the jellyfish entered the ephyra stage, the students had to feed them every day.

The ephyra were fed brine shrimp eggs which the students prepared each afternoon for the following day. To prepare the food, students mixed shrimp eggs with saltwater in a tub fitted with an air hose filter to grow overnight. When the jellyfish reached the medusa, or adult stage, they are ready to be returned to the aquarium.

As a culmination to this work Mr. Christian and the four independent study students visited the aquarium on April 11 to deliver the jellyfish. While there, the students were able to meet with the aquarium staff and take a tour of the tanks.

The independent study course is an extension of the school's marine biology program and allows students who have additional interest in marine biology to learn more. The Marine biology class raised five catsharks that were donated as well. They photographed the embryos every week and made notes on their growth. The aquarium set up a new exhibit around them.

The marine biology program is unique to Berlin HS and it is the only course of its kind in the surrounding area. In the course, students engage in advanced science work and collaborate to solve problems.

In addition to the students on independent study the Marine biology class raised five catsharks that were donated as well. They photographed the embryos every week and made notes on their growth. The aquarium set up a new exhibit around them.

Matt Christian, the science teacher at Berlin MS/HS who initially developed the marine biology course, said the district has been supportive of the endeavor since he began working there more than 10 years ago.



ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Visit the MS/HS Art Department's Website:
<http://berlinarthappens.wixsite.com/berlinarthappens>



Join us for the 2nd Annual “Night of the Arts” Evening! *Tuesday, May 22nd*

- ★ Student Art Exhibit Grades 6-12
- ★ Juried “Best in Show” Competition
- ★ Student Photography Raffles
- ★ NAHS Induction Ceremony for New Inductees
- ★ Mountaineer Craftsman Wood Craft Sale



What has National Art Honor Society been up to this year?

- For their yearly **community service project**, students created an **art supply drive** to put together 50 Art Kits for sick children at Albany Medical Center. Thank you to all that donated! *(above right)*
- NAHS hosted **FOUR Paint N’ Pizza Nights** as a fundraiser for Art Club! Patrons were taught to paint a picture by Ms. Noles with assistance from NAHS members. ***It was a great success so more of these events are planned for the 2018-2019 school year!*** *(below right)*
- 3 of our NAHS members/officers were selected to be a part of **Questar III’s High School Invitational Art Exhibit**: Hailey Madsen, Mackenzie Dawes & Haley Hicks. Haley Hicks received an Honorable Mention Award! *(below left)*
- Mrs. Wallace’s Graphic Design class competed to create the new **Petersburgh Library Logo Design** and Isaiah Christensen’s design won. *(below middle)*



First Year Offering Advanced Placement (AP) 2D-Design!

This is the first year that Berlin offered a studio (art-making) course for college credit! AP 2D-Design has joined HVCC Survey of Art History I & II as the 3rd college art course offered at the high school! Students in AP-2D develop a portfolio in May to be judged by the AP College Board, which is a representation of their personal work throughout the school year.

The Wall Mural!

As you may have seen, the Art Department is embarking on a large wall mural in the Art, Music & Technology Wing. This mural will incorporate imagery having to do with those 3 content areas and is all student-designed and created! Many students from Grades 6-12 have put their permanent mark in Berlin history by contributing.



P. O. Box 259

Berlin, NY 12022

Board of Education

Frank Zwack, President

Katie Snyder, Vice President

Rachel Finney

Kellie Kaschak

Sherry Bowman-Kluck

Jeffrey Paine

Jim Willis

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Berlin HS Students Participate in Design Challenge

Berlin High School students from the HVCC CAD class participated in the annual design challenge sponsored by General Dynamics and held at the Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club on Friday, April 13th.

This year's challenge was to design and build a crane to accomplish three tasks. Berlin competed fiercely despite power setbacks on a couple of the crane's motors and scored points in both the tower building and the rescue mission tasks.



Go Mountaineers!