



Updates Abound

March - Bound Brook School District



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Superintendent's Message

Dear Bound Brook School Community,

Spring Break is truly a time to recharge and rejuvenate so that we can return in April, ready to finish the school year off on a strong, positive note. As we approach this much-anticipated break, I want to reiterate how proud I am to be superintendent of Bound Brook School District.

As I walk between our schools every day, I see the blossoming trees and flowers and am reminded that Bound Brook is a special place. I stop to talk to students and staff and am reminded that **Bound Brook Brilliance** is thriving in all of us.

For our students, please take this break to explore your interests and pursue your passions. Spend time with family and friends, and you have my permission to put schoolwork aside, at least for a moment. We all need a break sometimes!

For our teachers and staff, you provide an incredible level of dedication and support to our students. They are lucky to have you! I hope you also will find time to embrace your interests and enjoy this much-needed time off.

I look forward to seeing everyone when we get back in April!

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Freeman, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



Youth Art Month: BBHS students showcase their artistic talents

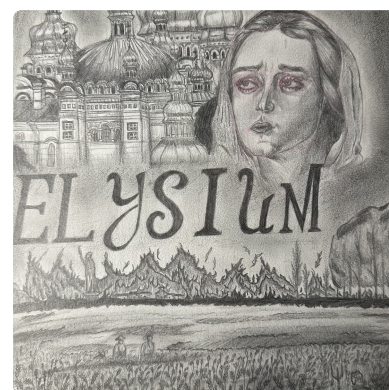
The Council for Art Education (CFAE) hosts Youth Art Month every year to encourage, support and promote quality art education programs. At the state level, the Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ) host individual county shows, in addition to a collective state exhibit, to celebrate the arts and promote the importance of art education to local communities.

Several students from Bound Brook High School (BBHS) were selected. Read more about these talented artists:

Denys Lelyanov

Senior Denys Lelyanov created his artwork as a cover for the Elysium Magazine, the school magazine at BBHS. Using a graphite pencil, Denys centered his art piece around the theme of human experience to illustrate it with a black and white medium.

"I tried to think of the human experience," Denys said. "I'm from Ukraine, so I tried to convey the experience people have over there for the magazine cover."



Sparked by his love for video games, Denys is interested in pursuing art as a career, specifically in the field of video game design. He will be choosing a college to pursue that career path this spring.

Denys is one of the top 70 student artists selected for the statewide Youth Art Month exhibition, which took place at the Grounds for Sculpture Museum from late February until late March.

Valentina Aleman

Valentina Aleman, a junior at BBHS, was one of 22 BBHS students whose artwork was selected to be featured in the Somerset County Youth Art Month show.

"To create variation, I made six different strawberries from different focal points to illustrate the various ways you can draw a strawberry," she said.



Valentina emphasized the support from her art teachers, Ms. Levering and Ms. Zybura, who continue to help ignite her passion and interest for art. It's especially important to her as she aims to pursue graphic design as a future career.

Marissa Hays

Junior Marissa Hays celebrated her appreciation for art by depicting pickles in various colors. She noted the difficulty in first drawing them but became excited to see how her efforts turned out to be a great result.

"I drew pickles first and then painted on top of them to represent four different color schemes," she explained. The artwork allowed her to use color variation to create visual interest, utilizing the color wheel taught to her in art class.



While Marissa plans to pursue nursing as a career, she loves to engage in art as a hobby. She especially enjoys painting to make use of shading and the colors available at her disposal.

All three students acknowledged the importance of Youth Art Month and the opportunities it grants to young artists who want to explore art and showcase their creativity. Twenty-two BBHS students had their artwork selected for the Somerset County YAM show. **Way to go, Crusaders!**

See all the students featured in the Somerset County YAM show

More #BoundToAstound Stories...



BBHS Student Honored with Unsung Hero Award

Vladyk Peter Rudyy, a senior at Bound Brook High School, was recently honored by the Somerset County School Boards Association with the 2024 Unsung Hero Award. The award acknowledges Vladyk's positive impact in the school community and beyond.

[Read more about his story.](#)

CMS Holds the Tenth Annual Dodgeball Tournament

Appropriately dubbed Dodging to D.C., Community Middle School held its tenth annual dodgeball tournament at Bound Brook High School to raise funds for the eighth-grade class trip to Washington, DC. Bound Brook School District staff formed teams and battled for the top spot. Team Slaughterhouse scored a back-to-back championship with their win this year and their fourth overall tournament victory.



BBHS students dive deeper into local history

Through the generosity of community members, four BBHS social studies honor students attended the symposium "Why Washington Chose Middlebrook: Geography and Logistics" held at Raritan Valley Community College.

The symposium, supported in part by the Abraham Staats House and the W3R-NJ Organization, gave students the opportunity to hear from multiple professional speakers about the Middlebrook Encampment, 1777 and the Middlebrook Cantonment, during the American Revolution. While learning about logistics, archaeology, surveying, and the transportation of the army, the event offered a true look into the eyes of a historian for our Crusaders!



Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration Now Open

Did you know full-day pre-kindergarten for three-year-olds is available at LaMonte Annex Elementary School? Registration is now open for following programs:

- **Pre-kindergarten:** Your student must turn 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1, 2024, to be eligible for this program.
- **Kindergarten:** Your student must turn 5 years old on or before October 1, 2024, to be eligible for this program.
- If your child already attends Pre-kindergarten, they'll automatically be registered for Kindergarten.

To begin the registration process, visit the [Genesis Registration Portal](#). More information, including what to bring to your appointment, is available on the [district website](#).

BBHS Robotics Team 56's Award Winning Season

R.O.B.B.E Team 56 (Robotics of Bound Brook & Ethicon), Bound Brook High School's robotics team, continues its impressive tradition with this season of FIRST® Robotics. The team has already collected several attribute-based awards this season:

- **FIRST Impact Award:** As back-to-back awardees, this prestigious honor recognizes the program's continued efforts to raise awareness of STEAM, including initiatives like mentoring young BBSD students.
- **Team Sustainability Award:** This marked the program's third triumph for this accolade, further building upon its legacy of environmental stewardship.
- **Dean's List Award Semi-Finalist:** This award celebrates sophomores and juniors who exemplify leadership. President Kimberly Chaves-Cubero will continue on to the next round of competition for this award at the FIRST Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship.
- **Donald Bowers Inspiration Award:** Mrs. Lauren Belli, Robotics Team Faculty Advisor, was honored with this award, which recognizes individuals who instill the values of FIRST Robotics. The judges commended the supportive atmosphere she helps foster for the team members.

What's next? R.O.B.B.E Team 56 will compete in the FIRST Mid-Atlantic District Championship in April at Lehigh University. Help us wish them luck during the rest of this #BoundToAstound season.

Learn more about what these awards mean for R.O.B.B.E Team 56



Building the Future – Strategic Planning 2024

Over the last few months, dozens of our students, staff, faculty, and community members assembled to discuss, and help plan, the future of the Bound Brook School District.

Whether you attended one, two or all three meetings, we extend our sincerest thanks to **everyone** who participated and committed their time to share different insights, perspectives, and experiences.

We also thank Gwen Thornton, Director of Field Services at the New Jersey School Boards Association, who helped to facilitate each meeting and gather everyone's feedback.

Keep an eye out in the Updates Abound newsletter for next steps for the district's Strategic Plan.



Let's Connect - Follow us on social media!



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bbrook.org (732) 356-2500
130 West Maple Ave Bound Brook, NJ 08805



Have a #BoundToAstound day!