

Building curriculum for success

At BKW, we are dedicated to creating opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and succeed. Through a thoughtfully designed curriculum that fosters growth and innovative programs tailored to diverse learning styles, we aim to position our students to achieve their highest potential.

Over the past several years, with strategic investments in programming and services, we have seen remarkable progress across all grade levels. From elementary to secondary classrooms, BKW students are excelling academically, demonstrating the strength of our educational framework and the dedication of our community.

The district employs four curriculum coordinators who collaborate within their respective departments to plan, schedule, and adapt to statewide educational requirements. Working closely with teachers, the coordinators ensure that each grade level develops engaging and developmentally appropriate academic programs, fostering student success from early childhood through senior year.

"Building and evaluating our curriculum is a critical piece in directing our outreach for student success," shared BKW Elementary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for Mathematics Ms. Fisher. "Our curriculum coordinators work together with our respective colleagues to outline the priorities of the New York State



Curriculum coordinators are working to shape student success at BKW. From left to right: BKW Elementary School's First Grade Teacher and Science Curriculum Coordinator Mrs. Thurber, BKW Elementary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for Mathematics Ms. Fisher, BKW Secondary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies Mr. Lemire and BKW Elementary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for English Ms. Crouse.

Education Department to ensure we are reaching the benchmarks for learning, whether that's in mathematics, English, science, or social studies. This work sets the tone for academic success and how we continue to achieve our goals."

The process is positively influencing today's students, with the district making remarkable strides in academic performance. According to the 2023-24

statewide exam results, the district ranks 38th out of 658 schools in math proficiency and 71st in the state for English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency for grades 3-8, outpacing statewide testing averages.

"Our process is two-fold as curriculum coordinators," said BKW Elementary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for English Ms. Crouse.

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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Building leadership one class at a time

Students in the secondary school are gaining access to the importance of leadership with BKW Secondary School English Teacher Mrs. Keyser. Mrs. Keyser's leadership class offers ways for students to become leaders, and gain access to different leadership pathways and careers. It's a curriculum built from their strengths to form leadership pathways in athletics, the classroom, and more.

"The leadership program is gaining momentum, and our students can gain experience to become leaders and build their resume for future use," said Keyser. "It's all about building confidence, whether through public speaking, leading a research group, or gaining experience mentoring someone in a leadership position. It's a great way to expand your skills and create options regardless of your educational pathway."

The leadership class is currently offered as a half-year English credit elective and interest in the class is growing amongst BKW students.



Students in the secondary school are gaining perspective on the importance of leadership with BKW Secondary School English Teacher Mrs. Keyser. The half-year English credit elective is drawing interest amongst BKW students. Pictured: BKW Secondary School students during Leadership Class with Mrs. Keyser (far right).

"This class is a different experience because it's not like other classes in terms of learning traditional course material. Instead, you're interacting with the real world and learning to make a difference and this class is more personal than learning a normal subject. This class builds your experiences to come up and make you the person who makes a difference instead of just

learning a subject," shared BKW junior Aggelos Lefkadditis.

Keep up-to-date on the leadership conversation through the district's social media accounts.

Great things are happening on our campus and we're looking forward to sharing our story!

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"Our first goal is to review state requirements and then our resources to adjust to those items. Sometimes changes are significant and our role is to work with our department teachers to ensure we are implementing high-quality resources to achieve those results for our students in Pre-K through senior year."

"Part of the approach is working as a team to identify any gaps where we aren't reaching our goal for our students," shared BKW Secondary School Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator for Social Studies Mr. Lemire. "We work to balance our curriculum and find new opportunities to introduce social studies into other

areas of study without disrupting the learning process. My colleagues in the elementary building are truly preparing our students for success at the secondary level. By working together across both buildings, you can witness the success from grade to grade up to graduation."

"Building a strong curriculum is an important part of the process of preparing our students," said Mrs. Thurber, BKW Elementary School's First Grade Teacher and Science Curriculum Coordinator.

"We actively engage our students to help them understand their schoolwork beyond just books or computer

programs," Mrs. Thurber explained. "Through hands-on activities, especially in science, we create lasting memories tied to their classroom experiences. In my class, for example, it's been fantastic to teach students about different animals and plant life experientially and have them report on their findings."

She continued, "When students are excited about what they are learning, they retain more and develop a love for learning that stays with them throughout their education. As curriculum coordinators, our primary goal is to foster passion and curiosity for learning."



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

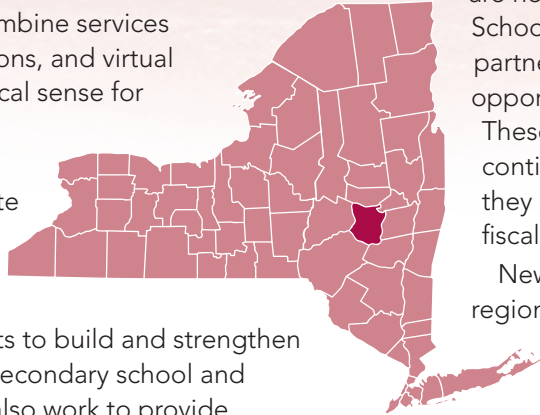
Regionalization: What to Know

At BKW, we stay ahead of the curve when preparing our curriculum, operational services, and staff to serve our students. Recently, you may have noticed the term “shared services” in neighboring school communities. The concept of “shared services” is a common theme involving public education and highlights the collaboration between districts to identify new ways to combine services like transportation, teaching positions, and virtual classroom instruction that make fiscal sense for school communities.

We are entering a new calendar year, and we are incredibly fortunate to be able to instruct our students, today and tomorrow, to do their best in the classroom.

As educators, we allow our students to build and strengthen their skill sets from elementary to secondary school and beyond. As part of that effort, we also work to provide resources, information, and news surrounding conversations involving rural schools across New York State.

The district continues the collaborative “regionalization” work with our neighboring partners which include the Schoharie Area Schools and Duanesburg Central School District. As part of that effort, we are also working to provide resources, information, and news surrounding conversations involving our schools, as it relates to



regionalization. In broader terms, those goals are: to address shared challenges among districts, enhance educational opportunities for our students, and improve operational efficiencies.

“As many of you know, collaborations of this nature are not new to BKW,” said Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Kane. “We have a strong history of partnering with local districts to offer our students opportunities that they may not otherwise have. These partnerships ensure that our students continue to receive the first-rate education that they deserve and that we continue to do so in a fiscally responsible manner for our community.”

New York State has provided districts with a regional planning tool that prompts reflection on areas of strength, areas of need, and individual district priorities. Additionally, the state has required that districts work collaboratively on a regional plan by fall, 2025.

As a district, we are committed to ensuring that all voices are heard and that this plan best serves the needs of our students and the greater community.

We will continue to share details regarding any new collaborations that benefit our students.

No Place for Hate

In September the district began participating in the No Place for Hate program for middle and high school students. The program focuses on opportunities to build communication and empathy between students.

Students may sometimes experience significant challenges at home, in the classroom, or their daily lives. The No Place for Hate program empowers them to engage in meaningful conversations and collaborate on solutions to create inclusive opportunities for everyone.

“The No Place for Hate program allows districts to implement programs and services to build connections, remove barriers, and deliver common areas of interest for students to participate in a better school community,” shared BKW Student Intervention Counselor Ms. Scialdo. “We are excited to build this program

on our school campus and look forward to the results as we engage our students in several events and activities to create a stronger environment for learning in today’s classroom.”

Various topics will be discussed ranging from poverty and discrimination to understanding the impact of words and creating positive environments for those with disabilities. Each activity will reinforce the importance of listening and comprehending the point of view of others, as no one’s journey is the same.

Stay tuned for additional updates surrounding our efforts to support students as they become better citizens today and tomorrow.



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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seal of Civic Readiness

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy delivered his iconic quote during his inaugural address to our nation: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." It is with this quote that the foundation was introduced to how to best serve our communities, large and small, through civic leadership and public service.



This year, the district was officially recognized by the Albany County Legislature as a Seal of Civic Readiness district. The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal honor from the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Students earn the Seal when they attain a high level of proficiency in civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindsets, and civic experiences. In addition, students can share this accolade on their high school resumes, showcasing their achievements in their pathway to college, military service, or in a particular trade school or industry.

The commendation highlights the students' commitment to engagement through participatory government, civic responsibility, and civic values. Students earned the Seal through Social Studies Regents scores, extracurricular activities, electives, and outside-of-school experiences. In other words, it is a significant recognition for the district and will allow BKW to continue to add to its experiences on our campus.



Stay connected!

At BKW, we're excited to showcase all the programs and services that allow our students to succeed in the classroom, on the stage or on the field! Stay up to date on the BKW conversation by visiting our Facebook and Instagram accounts and learn more about what's happening on our campus! 3-2-1, GO!



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