



BOLTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

THIS MONTH

BOLTON'S RANKING

Discover how BCS compares to other schools in the state.

A GPS FOR CURRICULUM

Learn what kind of map teachers are using for curriculum continuity.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Who's new or doing something new this year.

BUILDING ADDITIONS

Notice anything new when you walk in the main entrance of the school building?

STUDENTS FEATURED

Find out who was interviewed by a local weekly newspaper reporter and why.

READING ROCKS

Elementary students are off to a rocking start this year.

I AM BOLTON

Remarks from three randomly selected BCS students.

How Does Bolton Central School Really Rank?

That's a question that arose after a state reporting data error landed BCS on a Schools in Need of Improvement list this past March.

The category of Schools in Need of Improvement means that students in grades 3-8 didn't make adequate progress on English and math exams for two consecutive years in the same subject and grade. Students would need to score higher on certain exams to meet state mandated performance standards.

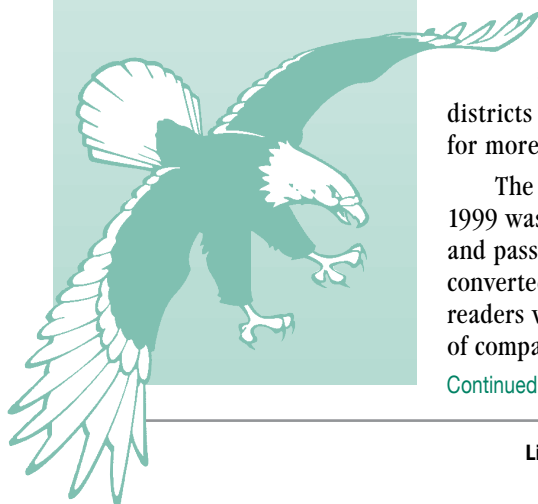
The New York State Education Department has acknowledged the mistake and has now released the corrected results as evidenced by *The New York Times* report published on Aug. 3 stating that BCS received an overall ranking of 61st percentile, which means they were ranked 271st of 695 districts in New York State. (* See back page for more information.)

The article explains that test data since 1999 was merged into a single database and passing rates and average scores were converted to percentile rankings so the readers would have a more complete context of comparison. See chart to the right.

Continued on pg. 2

New York State Test Scores

Grade and number of students who took all tests	Pass Rate Percentage of students who pass each year (Levels 3 & 4)	Advanced Percentage of students who are advanced proficient (Level 4)	Below Standards Percentage below basic standards (Level 1)
Grade 3 34 students tested	100%	24%	0%
Grade 4 22 students tested	91%	23%	5%
Grade 5 41 students tested	100%	39%	0%
Grade 6 36 students tested	83%	33%	3%
Grade 7 50 students tested	88%	12%	0%
Grade 8 46 students tested	89%	2%	0%



Continued from front page

Bolton Is Ranked Number One in a Different Category

According to the June 2009 Capital District's Business Review Schools Report, an annual index of how area schools rank, this is how BCS fared:

Out of 85 districts that were ranked, here's how BCS stands:

- **1st for Financial Ranking**

BCS came in first on the list for lowest school taxes per expenditure per pupil for 2006-07, which was \$23,148 based on its enrollment of 268 students. For BCS taxpayers, it meant a total revenue of \$7,133,899 that translated to \$1,299 in taxes on a house assessed for \$300,000 in 2008. (Taxes were computed using the aggregate tax rate, which does not account for multiple municipality tax rates within a district, homestead exemptions, STAR exemptions, etc.)

- **13th for General School District Ranking**

That's a jump up from 27th place from the previous year with a score of 93.66. BCS was categorized as a low needs/resources ratio district. The publication's methodology for ranking was derived from the State Report Card data that provided assessment, Regents tests scores and graduation rates.

- **16th for Teacher Ranking**

A position that is up from 42nd place last year and was ranked by the 2007-08 median salary of \$54,750. There is a very low turnover rate at BCS, out of 32 teachers, 13 percent hold advanced degrees.

- **3rd for High Schools with the Highest 3-Year Percentage of Graduates Planning to Go to 2- and 4-Year Colleges.**

The chart below illustrates the 2005-2008 data along with the 2009-10 data from the June 2009 issue of the *Eagle Eye*, which stated that out of this year's 22 graduates, 100 percent were accepted to college: 10 to a 4-year college, 10 to a 2-year college, and two to technical certificate programs.

Number of BCS High School Graduates Planning To Go To College

SCHOOL YEAR	TOTAL GRADS	DROPOUTS	4 YEAR COLLEGE	2 YEAR COLLEGE	WORK
2008-09	22	0	10	12	0
2007-08	20	1	12	7	0
2006-07	21	0	10	10	2
2005-06	23	0	10	13	0

The last piece of data to share is the June 2009 Regents results. They are shown in a chart on the back page.

Please note that at BCS, all courses, which include a Regents exam, use that exam as a mandatory final exam for the course.

Superintendent Ray Ciccarelli explained that because BCS has a collaborative summer school program with Queensbury High School, any students who did not pass the Regents exam in June had an opportunity to study for and pass the exam in August.

After reviewing all the latest data, Mr. Ciccarelli said, "It's gratifying for all of us at the Bolton Central School District to see our students and faculty receive regional and statewide recognition for their outstanding performance."

Continued on back page

Learning's Not Just For Students

Bolton Central School's teachers continue to learn as part of their ongoing professional development.

This year they are learning about curriculum mapping and differentiated learning.

BCS is entering into its second year of curriculum mapping, which is a method of curriculum continuity. It's collaboratively planning standards-based curriculum on a district level to achieve a more cohesive educational plan.

"Curriculum is a priority at Bolton Central School," said principal Mr. Damian Switzer.

The school has purchased a program called Atlas, which is an Internet-based program for curriculum mapping.

"It's very user friendly," said Mr. Switzer "and the data entered will provide a checklist of what standards need to be aligned with what courses. We'll be able to analyze teaching, curriculum, standards, and content.

"Research shows that schools that have clearly defined curriculum have the greatest student achievement. Curriculum and instruction ensure what's being taught is in alignment with the New York State Learning Standards."

A continuum of instruction makes for a smooth transition from one grade to the next on the elementary level. That's called vertical alignment.

"When you have curriculum mapping," Mr. Switzer added, "it facilitates dialog between teachers so they know what the others are teaching. In middle and high school, it's a collaboration across subject areas that's known as horizontal alignment."

There are also interdisciplinary lessons that combine a common theme thread through different classes, such as English and music, English and social

studies, or math and science.

"Curriculum mapping makes it easier for teachers to collaborate," said Mr. Switzer.

Teachers who teach pre-kindergarten to grade 5 have been training on using the software. The remaining teachers will be trained at the next staff development day in October.

While grades 6-12 teachers are being trained in how to use Atlas, the other teachers will learn about differentiated instruction from Dr. Terri Ward, an educational consultant from the College of St. Rose. She will provide instructional strategies for teachers on how to reach the needs of different learners.

All teachers have a Professional Development Plan (PDP) that tracks their professional development. If a teacher was certified to teach after 2004, he/she is required to take 175 hours of professional development over a period of five years.

"Research shows that schools that have clearly defined curriculum have the greatest student achievement..."

- Mr. Damian Switzer, BCS Principal

The district recognizes a variety of activities, such as workshops, committee and faculty meetings and mentoring.

Staff development is what the district provides whereas professional development consists of workshops, conferences and graduate courses that faculty members attend.

I am **Bolton**
Central School

KADEN TENNENT IS A FIRST GRADER

What I like best about school is finger painting. I paint airplanes. My favorite subject is math. I can count to 100. Macaroni and cheese is my favorite food. I like to play on the playground, go fishing, and play soccer.

I want to be Speed Racer when I grow up. My favorite movie is "Speed Racer," and I play, "Speed Racer" on Wii (video game console.) I always win when it's super hard. I like the "Transformer" movie, too. "Sponge Bob Square Pants," is my favorite TV show.



I am **Bolton** Central School

MARIE DELORENZO IS A TENTH GRADER

I like the fact that Bolton is a small school and all the teachers are willing to help you. My favorite subjects are Art and Global Studies. I enjoy both and like the teachers. Outside of school, I play soccer, basketball and softball. I like hanging out with my friends.

I'm thinking of being a lawyer. I am interested in law. I realized that career at last year's career day. I have a younger sister, Madeline.

I like the Twilight series of books. I don't like Bella (the main female character). "Twilight" is my favorite movie. "New Moon" opens Nov. 20.

Yes, I'm a big texter. I use it mostly for making plans. It's less pressure than talking on the phone.



Sign, Computer Lab, An Capital Improvement Project Completed

A brand new sign over the main entrance welcoming you to Bolton Central School is just one of the many esthetic and security additions that were completed this summer finalizing Phase II of the capital improvement project that began in 2008.

In May 2007, voters approved a capital project, which was designed to improve the condition, safety and security of the district's facilities. Funded by EXCEL (Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning) Aid, the project was accomplished at no cost to taxpayers.

In addition to the sign, more efficient insulation, new ceilings and lights were installed creating quieter and cleaner classrooms. The principal and guidance offices were moved to the first floor near the main entrance and another set of security doors were added to the entrance routing visitors into the office to sign in before entering the building. The new route



Photos clockwise beginning at the top: A close-up view of the new sign over the main entrance, the main entrance doors, the principal and guidance offices, the new route into the building, the main entrance sign, the new ceiling lights and windows in the classroom, and the new computer lab.

And More Security Added This Summer

to enter the building also increases the school video surveillance capability. Security locks were added to the majority of classroom doors providing higher security and a safer environment for students.

The space where the principal and guidance offices were on the second floor was transformed into a new computer lab sporting 15 new Apple computers with 24-inch cinema display monitors.

“Because it doesn’t have any windows, it’s considered a lab,” said Mr. William Green. It’s also where the majority of his business, finance and computer classes are held. This year, he’s also teaching a new media class that includes television production in its curriculum.

In the future, Mr. Green hopes to work with the students to create a television show that would be accessible throughout the school as well as aired on the local public access station.



entrance, additional security doors added at the main entrance, new media class working in the new computer lab, new classroom ceilings and lights, and more security

New Staff and New Roles

Welcome BCS's New Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Denise Clark is the newest member of the Bolton Central School family serving as the grades 8-12 guidance counselor.

This is her fifth year as a guidance counselor. Previously, she worked at the Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon, Vt., where she had a lot of student contact. That's one of the reasons she was attracted to the position at BCS. "I knew Bolton had an excellent reputation," Mrs. Clark said, "and that it was a small school that would offer the opportunity for a lot of student contact, which I value and wanted."

As the grades 8-12 guidance counselor, Mrs. Clark said she plans to give interest inventories to the younger students, assist the juniors in meeting graduation requirements and figuring out career and college choices, and help the seniors with the college application process. She also has created a guidance newsletter that was sent home. If parents are interested in having the guidance newsletter and other updated information from the Guidance Office emailed to them, please email Mrs. Clark at dc112@boltoncsd.org.

Having earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from Maria College in Albany, Mrs. Clark continued her education and received a bachelor's in psychology from Excelsior College in Albany and a master's in guidance and counseling from Sage Graduate School.

Mrs. Clark resides in Lake George with her husband and five children.



Mrs. Denise Clark is the new grades 8-12 guidance counselor.

Say Hello to the New Pupil Services Coordinator/Chief Information Officer.

After a total of 15 years working as a guidance counselor with 11 of those years as Bolton Central School's grades 8-12 guidance counselor, Mr. Steve Showers has taken on the role of coordinator for pupil services/chief information officer.

With Ted Caldwell's retirement this year, after 20 years as program coordinator for The Consortium* which transformed into coordinator for pupil services, along with an increase of data required by the state, Mr. Showers's role will combine those two positions. To ease with the transition, Mr. Caldwell will provide consultation services one day a week.

Mr. Showers explained that students will continue to participate in the field trips, such as the recent excursion aboard the Lake George Association's Floating Classroom on Lake George, and to experience programs brought into the school building to enhance learning.

The data warehousing portion of his position entails reporting student demographic information to the state including state assessment and Regents results. In addition, he will be providing monthly reports from Bolton's student management program, Power School.

"I'm looking forward to the transition," said Mr. Showers. "Mr. Caldwell had numerous contacts from being in the position so long. I'm excited about incorporating different contacts and ideas, adding my personal stamp to the program."



Mr. Steve Showers has taken on a different role as pupil services coordinator/chief information officer.

*The Consortium began as the Tri District Consortium, a WSWHE BOCES program that offered programs to Bolton, Minerva and Newcomb schools. However, over the past few years only Bolton and Minerva have been involved in the program. This year Minerva is not involved in the Consortium.

Reading Rocks

To get their school year off to a rocking start, pre-kindergartners to fifth graders were fully engaged in a back-to-school assembly that focused on reading.

For 45-minutes, students enjoyed original music by Brian Chevalier and Susan Hamlin from pop, rock and roll, rhythm

and blues, to hip-hop and acoustic style music. The highly participatory program's music and dialogue communicated the message that reading helps a child grow to his/her highest potential.



Susan Hamlin sings and Brian Chevalier plays guitar while young students participate in an original song focused on reading.

FALL 2009

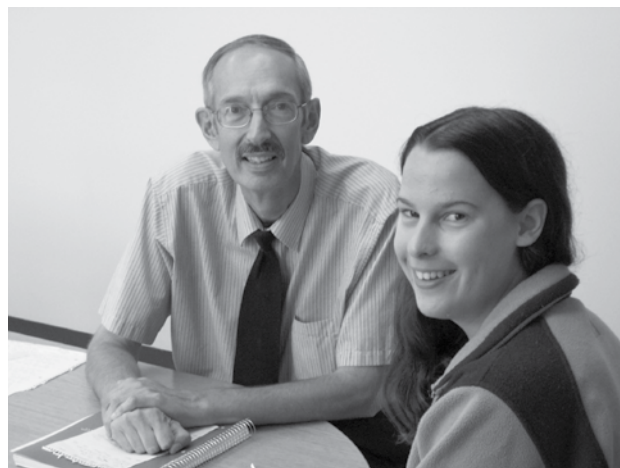
Eagle Eye

Bolton Students Featured in Weekly

Larry Farenell of *The Chronicle* interviewed Beth Fisher and Matt Peterson for Student-Athletes of the Week article.

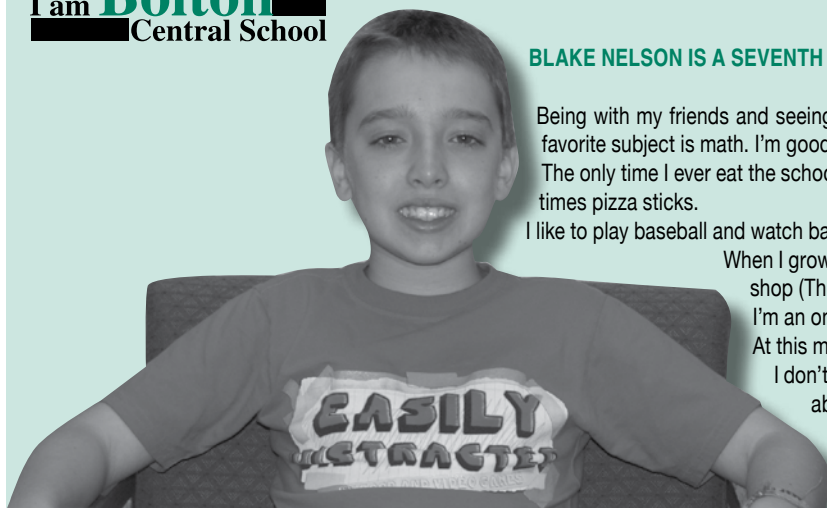
Beth and Matt were chosen as seniors for their involvement in a wide array of programs while being excellent students academically.

The article is scheduled to appear in *The Chronicle* on Oct. 15.



Larry Farenell of *The Chronicle* prepares to interview Beth Fisher for the Student-Athletes of the Week article, which will appear in the Oct. 15 issue.

I am **Bolton**
Central School



BLAKE NELSON IS A SEVENTH GRADER.

Being with my friends and seeing my favorite teachers is what I like best about school. My favorite subject is math. I'm good at math and it's easy for me.

The only time I ever eat the school lunch is when they serve tacos, grilled cheese and sometimes pizza sticks.

I like to play baseball and watch baseball and football. I'm a Yankees and Giants fan.

When I grow up I either want to create video games or work in my dad's shop (The Outdoorsman Sportshop in Diamond Point).

I'm an only child, but we have two cats and a dog.

At this moment, my favorite books are about World War II.

I don't watch much TV, I play X-Box 360 Call of Duty, World at War about WWII. Because of that game, I've become interested in social studies.

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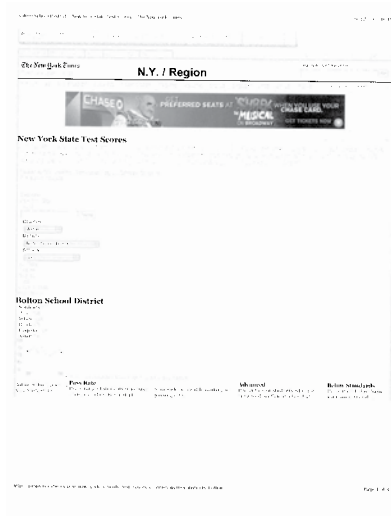
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June 2009 Regents Exams Results

COURSE	PERCENTAGE PASSED
MATH	
INTEGRATED ALGEBRA	96%
GEOMETRY	95%
MATH B	100%
SOCIAL STUDIES	
GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY	77%
US HISTORY & GOVERNMENT	86%
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	
SPANISH	85%
FRENCH	100%
ENGLISH	
COMPREHENSIVE ELA	79%
SCIENCE	
EARTH SCIENCE	93%
LIVING ENVIRONMENT (BIOLOGY)	95%
CHEMISTRY	85%
PHYSICS	100%

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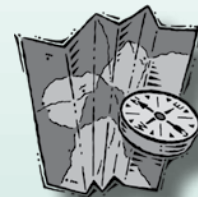
The New York Times



*The referenced article on New York State test scores appeared in the Monday, August 3, 2009, issue of *The New York Times*. To read more about Bolton Central School District or other districts, use this URL <<http://projects.nytimes.com/new-york-schools-test-scores?hp>>, choose Warren County, then Bolton School District.

On The Inside...

DATA FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES SHOWS BCS'S TRUE STANDING ...FRONT PAGE, PAGE 2 & BACK PAGE



TEACHERS ARE USING A MAP OF A DIFFERENT KIND ...PAGE 3

ADDITIONS TO THE BUILDING MAKE IT MORE SECURE AND ESTHETICALLY PLEASING ...PAGES 4-5



WHO'S NEW OR DOING SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR AT BCS ...PAGE 6

