



## The Amazing Race



We sent out more than 3,850 letters from students and teachers, inviting family, friends, and supporters of BMS to participate in this year's Race & Serve for Education! K-5 students ran laps in February and in April, PreK students participated in a bike ride and 6th-12th grade students spent a day in service throughout the community. We are grateful for the support of many folks who contribute to the growth and education of students through this successful fundraiser each year! Donations for Race continue to trickle in, but we are delighted to share that we've received more than \$72,000 in contributions this year!



### 59th ANNUAL Auction

May 24 & 25, 2024

#### Friday, May 24th

- Ham Ball Dinner 4:00-6:00 PM
- Children's Auction 6:00 PM
- Gift Certificate Auction 6:30 PM

#### Saturday, May 25th

- Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM
- Merchandise Auction 9:00 AM
- Special Feature Certificates 11:00 AM
- Outdoor Features 11:30 AM
- Food, Drinks & Baked Goods
- Handmade Quilts
- Kids Activities



For the latest listing of items and additional details, visit [auction24.cbo.io](https://auction24.cbo.io).



Mrs. Hearn traveled to Juniata Valley High School with 11 BMS middle school students for the Junior High County Chorus Festival with four other local schools. They practiced together as a mass choir for two days under the instruction of the music directors from the various schools and then presented a lovely concert which was accompanied by Mrs. Tara Spicher!



It's a Perfect day to learn about the letter 'P' in Preschool by Painting with Purple and Pink Paint and making Pancakes in our Pajamas!



# Events Recap



Preschool students would like to remind you: "It's a great day to read a good book!"



3rd grade students did a mining activity for Science class. The cookie represented the earth and the chocolate chips were the gemstones. Some students were able to get anywhere from 5 to 15 gems without harming the earth by using only two toothpicks to carefully remove the gems!



Happy Pi Day! Students enjoyed a variety of treats, fun facts, and jokes coordinated by Ms. Grove, our high school math teacher to celebrate 3.14!

## Living Museum



5th grade students recently completed an Embryology study which included successfully incubating eggs and watching baby chicks hatch in their classroom!



As a finale to our Open House, these twenty students from Kindergarten-5th grade presented an excellent Speech Showcase, reciting an interesting variety of poems, Bible passages, and speeches!



Special thanks to these talented ladies who invested hours of delicate stitching throughout January to help complete a few quilts that will be featured at this year's Annual Auction on May 25th. Whether it is a winter pastime or a passionate hobby, we appreciate your commitment to serving others in this uniquely tangible way!



Congratulations to these ladies who all placed in the top 10 chairs of their section at the District competition and advanced to Regional Choir at Somerset on March 6-8! Deanna Stoltzfus, Soprano I, received 5th chair; Ellie Boring, Alto I, 7th chair; and Alivia Shilling, Soprano II, 9th chair. They traveled to Somerset to participate in the PMEA Regional Choir competition. Congratulations to Deanna, who received 6th chair in Soprano I! We are so proud of these ladies and delight that they could be a part of this experience, rehearsing together with other top singers from across the region and presenting a lovely concert.





Pastor Appreciation Day was a special time to honor those who lead more than 35 local churches represented by our student body. We appreciate each pastor's dedication to caring for families, teaching the truth of God's word, and challenging us all to show Christ's love in everything we do.



Juggling in gym class with a very special guest instructor, Herb Zook!



Maintenance Appreciation Week culminated with personal cards, special gifts and treats for Dave & Tim and students helping with some of the daily tasks that are completed each day with such grace by these terrific guys! Thanks for the many ways you make our school so cool!



Culinary Arts students mastered Roasted Cornish Hens!



3rd graders were super excited when Mrs. Doggett shared with them that the pen pal letters arrived from New Jersey! They began writing back the next morning!



7th grade students recently completed an English assignment that included writing a 10-15 page story which incorporated at least 3 literary tools, 5 illustrations, and a moral that small children could relate to. They were then able to share their original children's stories with elementary students!

## Animal Museum

Third grade students presented an incredible Animal Museum after completing research on a variety of God's amazing creatures! Each student created a display that included habitat, food sources, predators, and unique features of their specific animal and prepared an oral presentation for visitors. Well done third grade!!





## PA EITC PROGRAM

*Funding Valuable Scholarships at BMS*



## DIRECT YOUR STATE TAXES TO REFLECT YOUR PRIORITIES

Participation in the Pennsylvania EITC program is possible by applying through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) OR by applying to a scholarship organization designated as a Special Purpose Entity (SPE). BMS currently works with Faith Builders, Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund (CPSF), and Children's Tuition Fund. Consider this creative opportunity to align your tax dollars with your priorities! Join others in directing your state tax funds to an SPE and increase BMS scholarship dollars to make Christian education affordable for more students. Consult with your tax advisor or contact Gwen Renno, [rennogk@bmsprek12.org](mailto:rennogk@bmsprek12.org), with any questions!

### \$ Give What is Already Spent

SPEs allow taxpayers to give money they already spend on taxes toward a need-based scholarship.

### \$ Control the Uncontrollable

SPEs allow taxpayers to control and designate where their tax money goes (students in need).

### \$ Choose Your Priorities

SPEs allow taxpayers to contribute to that which they prioritize and value (students vs. the State House).

### \$ Multiply Your Contribution

Giving to the school through an SPE multiplies one's contribution 10x. Instead of paying \$1,000 to the state and contributing \$100 to the school as a gift, you can pay \$100 to the state and give \$1,000 to the school as a tax credit!

#### THANK YOU to our current business partners:

Beller Campbell Realtors • Centre Herd Health Services  
Community State Bank • Custom Concrete Pumping • FOXPRO  
Hamilton Farms • Juniata Valley Bank • Kish Bank  
Kish Valley Construction • Kish Valley Electric • MCS Bank  
Penn State Construction • Sharp Shopper • ShowEase Inc  
Stone Valley Container • Zook's Masonry • Bridge Foundation

### 1 RESERVE YOUR CREDITS

Complete and submit to a scholarship organization a one-page, non-binding reservation form including the amount of your state tax liability you desire to contribute and the school you are designating (BMS).

### 2 CONTRIBUTE YOUR TAXES

When credits become available, the scholarship organization will ask you to make a contribution to the scholarship's Special Purpose Entity (SPE).

### 3 RECEIVE A 90% TAX CREDIT

In February, you will receive a K-1 Tax Form containing a 90% tax credit of the amount contributed to the scholarship organization. This credit is applied to your state taxes using PA Schedule OC.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Would I rather my state income taxes (money I already must pay) go to the Department of Revenue or to a child's Christian education?
- Can I calculate what my yearly, combined state income tax liability will be next year?
- Do I have the cash liquidity to make an upfront "tax payment" contribution to the SPE?

### Why does BMS offer financial aid in the first place?

The majority of families cannot afford the full cost of a private education, but we desire to make BMS an option for everyone! We offset tuition with several major fundraisers each year, but have also greatly expanded our Affordable Education program to reach more families and impact more students.

### Who can participate?

Practically anyone. Individuals, Partnerships, LLCs, C-Corporations and S-Corps can participate. There are also options for individuals who are retirees or work for non-profits.

### What if my child doesn't receive financial assistance?

Every child benefits from the better student programs and enhanced facilities that are a result of the school having more resources.

### If I receive financial aid, can I still participate?

Yes, you can be both a recipient of a tax credit scholarship as well as a participant! Students are eligible to receive a scholarship if their household's annual income is not greater than \$108,444 plus \$19,088 for each dependent member of the household.

### Does participating cost me something?

Yes. Because 90% is not 100%, it will cost you 10% of your state income tax liability. For example, your contribution of \$10,000 to an SPE will result in a 90% (\$9,000) tax credit for the following year, with 10% (\$1,000) still owed to the state this year. So your total cost would be \$11,000, with \$1,000 in tax payment to the state and \$10,000 impacting BMS families!

### Why does the State make this complex?

It is established this way by the state to protect our school's religious liberty and mission. At no point is the school receiving money from the state, rather from a scholarship organization like Faith Builders.



*"As parents of a BMS student, we see daily care, support, collaboration, and most importantly, patience for all students. We are very impressed that BMS teaches the word of the Bible in all subjects, while preparing them for everyday life and living in today's world. We have seen improvements in our child's education and spiritual growth, as well as our spiritual growth as parents. 2 Corinthians 9:8 says, 'God will generously provide all you need.' God has provided for our family, and we see the ways he has blessed our family since we sent our child to BMS."*

- Matt & Karen Yohn

Thank you to 14 Everence MyNeighbor cardholders who selected BMS to receive a percentage of their transaction amounts in 2023! Kyle Keen and Michael Whiteman from Everence stopped by to present last year's earned donations of more than \$4,700. To learn more about this easy way for individuals and businesses to financially support BMS, visit <https://www.bmsprek12.org/support/myneighbor-card.cfm>.

# Student Accolades

## Students of the Month

This award is given each month to a high school student who consistently demonstrates excellence through their integrity, initiative, academic effort, and involvement in school and community.



Congratulations to **Leah Reed, 9th grade, our January Student of the Month!** Leah is known for her good-natured personality, for the high academic standards she holds herself to, and the strong leadership she displays in the classroom, and on the soccer field and basketball court. Her diligence and strength of character set an example for her classmates and peers, and is truly appreciated by her teachers. She is a friend to all and her humility, unique gifts and Christian character make a positive impact on us every day!

Congratulations to **Olivia Eby, 12th grade, Student of the Month for February!** Olivia is known for her disciplined approach to academics, for her dependability in the classroom, for being an accomplished athlete and determined competitor on the varsity sports teams, and for playing key roles in numerous other important activities.

Though outwardly reserved, through her consistent actions, she quietly leads by example, has the respect of her peers and teachers, and is a role model and inspiration to younger students. But above all, beneath Olivia's modest, always-composed demeanor is an intentional, deeply introspective young lady who strives to live a life that honors God and serves others. She has a positive impact on everyone, and her humble, good-natured ways make our school a better place!



Congratulations to **Quinn Renno, 12th grade, Student of the Month for March!** Quinn is known for his even personality, his serious approach to academics, and the high standards to which he holds himself. His peers and teachers respect him, younger students look to him as a role model, mentor and tutor. Although known as a talented athlete, his biggest impact on the soccer and basketball teams involves the consistent display of composed leadership and hard work that has set the example for his teammates for years. Behind the scenes Quinn is known as someone always willing to help when help is needed, and he often plays important roles in making the school run smoothly. His reliability and strength of character are appreciated by all!

Congratulations to **Elaina Peachey, 10th grade, Student of the Month for April!** Elaina is known for her good-natured personality and for the high academic standards she holds herself to. Her steady presence, diligence, and strength of character set an example for her classmates and peers, while her well-developed sense of humor and witty perspectives lend a sense of cheerfulness to every situation she's a part of. She is an awesome basketball teammate, and a friend to all. Her humility, unique gifts and strong character make BMS a better place!



**To view a list of our Honor Roll students, visit [bmsprek12.org/academics](https://bmsprek12.org/academics).**



## Star Standout Students

BMS acknowledges middle school students who demonstrate excellence in various aspects of life. This program also recognizes students whom teachers see actively growing and improving in differing areas of their academic career. On a monthly basis, students from each grade are nominated and selected by teachers to be honored for the ways in which they reflect Christ and the mission of BMS.



Congratulations to our Standout Star Students for January! Emma Kauffman (8th grade), Hailey Zook (7th grade), and Ally Armstrong (6th grade).



Congratulations to our Standout Star Students for February! Thank you Katelyn Renno (8th grade), Bella Yoder (7th grade), and Adair Hoyt (6th grade).



Congratulations to Alex Reed, 6th grade, Eleanor Druckenmiller, 7th grade; and Logan Peachey, 8th grade - our Standout Star Students for March!



Congratulations to Gracie Burge, 6th grade, Alyssa Doggett, 7th grade; and Devin Yoder, 8th grade - our Standout Star Students for April!

## Character Counts

The Character Counts program at Belleville Mennonite School recognizes elementary students for outstanding, consistent displays of character in the classroom and throughout the students' daily interactions with others. Thank you, students, for your Christ-like kindness and helpfulness!



Congratulations to our Caring Character Counts recipients for February! Naysa Forshey, Kindergarten; Ellie Zook, 1st grade; Adley Zook, 2nd grade; Declan Renninger, 3rd grade; Monroe Hockenberry, 4th grade; and Addison Kauffman, 5th grade. Thank you for the ways you demonstrate kindness each day!



Congratulations to our Character Counts Award recipients for April! Students honored for their Trustworthiness are Fisher Maben, Kindergarten; Tucker Young 1st grade; Reid Pauchnik, 2nd grade; Reese Peachey, 3rd grade; Brooke Yoder, 4th grade; and Evan Swab, 5th grade. Thank you for your honesty, reliability, and loyalty!



Congratulations to our Character Counts award recipients for March! Mackenzie Byler, Kindergarten; Autumn Turner, 1st grade; Davis Young, 2nd grade; Jaxon Kanagy, 3rd grade; Jonas Weaver, 4th grade; and Addie Weaver, 5th grade. We appreciate how you display self-control, focus on your work, and make responsible choices each day!



# Athletics

## Boys and Girls Varsity Award Winners

### Boys Varsity Soccer



Left to right: Quinn Renno, Ethan Renno, Simon Druckenmiller, Colton Sunderland, Seth Herman.

### Girls Varsity Soccer



Left to right: Karina Renno, Chantal Weaver, Gracie Civitts, Angie Weaver, Carianne Vargas.

### Boys Varsity Basketball



Left to right: Quinn Renno, Evan Crosson, Paul Yoder.

### Girls Varsity Basketball



Left to right: Leah Reed, Lilly Yoder, Olivia Eby, Karina Renno.

## Senior Night



We've enjoyed watching our senior basketball players grow as athletes and leaders, both on and off the court. Thank you Chantal, Olivia, Quinn, and Evan for the ways you have challenged yourself and your teammates. May the LORD continue to strengthen your body, heart, and mind as you use your gifts for his honor and glory in the coming years! Left to right: Phil Weaver, Chantal Weaver, Lori Weaver, Heather Eby, Olivia Eby, JB Eby, Brian Renno, Quinn Renno, Gwen Renno, Evan Crosson, Alysha Crosson.



March 21st, we celebrated our varsity athletes and their families and recognized our Seniors with BMS blankets! Left to right: Chantal Weaver, Carianne Vargas, Olivia Eby, Landen Armstrong, Drew Miriello, Seth Herman, Quinn Renno, Evan Crosson, Matthew Barnhill, Colton Sunderland.

## Basketball FUNdraiser Games



Current coach Chase Peachey and former coach Elwood Byler.



We had a fantastic evening of fun basketball and fellowship! The gym was filled with past, present, and future athletes cheered on by family and friends. Thank you parents & alumni for your support of BMS Athletics!



Pauchnik v Pauchnik

## Pep Rally Fun!





**BMS Pre-K Counts**  
**Free Local preschool**  
**ENROLLING NOW!**

Full and Half Day Spots Available  
for 3 & 4 year olds  
To see if your family qualifies,  
call today!

**(717) 935-2184**



We still have openings in our PreK Counts class for the 2024-25 school year! Call or visit our website to learn more: <https://www.bmsprek12.org/academics/pre-k.cfm>.

## March Madness

We had over 70 of our younger hoopsters participate in our March Madness basketball program that culminated with a tournament on March 23rd.



## Enroll now for the 2024-2025 School year!

### Call today for a tour or additional information!

A tour of Belleville Mennonite School is a wonderful up-close and personal opportunity to learn about BMS and see what we offer. A tour is an important experience that allows prospective families to evaluate if BMS is the right place for their family and children. It features a walk-through of the elementary and high school/middle school buildings including a glimpse in the chapel, art room, libraries, gymnasium and cafeteria. If a family has a request to visit a particular classroom, we will make a stop there for you too. We are always willing to answer questions that a family might have about the education offered here. The tour is not a time for us to pressure families to enroll their children at BMS, but rather to inform families about our educational excellence, Bible-based teaching, Christian teachers and staff and the high ideals that are offered. Tours are approximately 30 minutes in length.



We are currently accepting applications for several open positions. Visit [www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org) to learn more!

## Read to Succeed



Our varsity basketball players spent some time in the elementary classrooms, reading to and answering questions from younger students as part of our Read to Succeed initiative which focuses on relationship building, encouraging young learners, and recognizing hard work and excellence in Language Arts! Congratulations to Mackenzie Byler and Fisher Maben, Kindergarten; Kamrie Varner and Lucas Spicher, 1st grade; Addie Hearn and Judah Groff, 2nd grade; Willow Yoder and Brantley Weaver, 3rd grade; Aura Hearn and Malachi Doggett, 4th grade; Aubrie Zook and Anderson Wert, 5th grade.

## Save *the* Date!

- › **Spring Concert**  
May 16, 2024, 1 PM and 6:30 PM
- › **Baccalaureate**  
May 23, 2024, Locust Grove Church
- › **BMS Annual Auction**  
May 24 and 25, 2024
- › **Commencement**  
May 29, 2024, 7 PM at BMS