

CONNECTIONS

NEWSPAPER



Mr Batavia Tradition Continues to Thive, Mrs. Robinson Shares Insight on Beloved School Event

Mr. Batavia 2026

Batavia, NY — Each year, students and community members eagerly anticipate one of the most entertaining and meaningful traditions at Batavia High School: the Mr. Batavia competition. More than just a show, the event has become a symbol of school spirit, creativity, and generosity. According to Miss Robinson, Mr. Batavia continues to leave a lasting impact, not only on those who participate but also on the wider community it supports.

At its core, Mr. Batavia is a fundraising event for local charitable organizations. This annual event has generated over \$50,000 since 2012. "It's amazing to see how something so entertaining can also make such a positive difference," Miss Robinson explained.

Preparation for Mr. Batavia requires dedication and independence from the students involved. Miss Robinson noted that participants are responsible for organizing much of their own performance.

The structure of the show is designed to highlight a variety of student talents and personalities. Participants must prepare for five distinct categories of competition: talent, lip-sync, swimsuit, formal wear, and question/answer. The event typically begins with a high-energy group dance, setting the tone for the evening and also includes a dance which highlights members of BHS administrators, faculty, and staff.

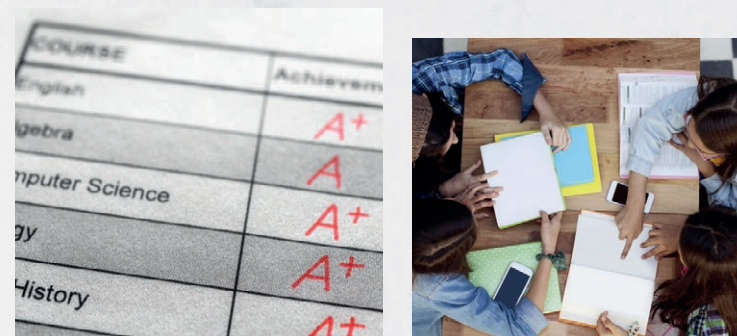
Ultimately, Mr. Batavia is more than just a competition—it is a celebration of student talent, collaboration, and community pride. It brings people together for a night of laughter and entertainment while supporting a meaningful cause. -KIDS' NAMES



Mr. Batavia 2026 Noah Richmond
 Ricky Palermo Foundation
 -Kassandra Kesler, Aleigha Frith
 and Chloe Coillton

“WHAT I NEED”

Batavia High School introduces WIN time to support student success



Batavia, NY — Batavia High School has introduced an innovative program aimed at strengthening student achievement and ensuring that every learner has access to meaningful academic support. The initiative, known as “WIN Time,” is becoming a central part of the school day and is already making a noticeable impact on students and staff alike.

Mrs. Przybysz, ELA teacher and WIN Coach at BHS, shared insight into the reasoning behind the program's creation. She stated that the district recognized a growing need to provide structured academic assistance in a way that would reach the widest possible range of students. “The school district wanted to find a way to support students academically in a way that they can guarantee it would reach a majority of the student body,” Przybysz explained.

As the program continues to develop, students and staff are seeing the benefits. WIN Time stands as a clear example of how educators can adapt to better serve their student body—ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed, one “win” at a time.

-Derik Kio, Tyler Ransom, Brennan Clemm, and Amiiya Santiago

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SPORTS:

TRACK & FIELD

Student Reporters go behind the scenes with Track Coaches

IN an effort to learn more about the dedication and hard work behind school athletics, student reporters recently sat down with track coaches to gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to succeed in track and field. Through thoughtful questions and detailed answers, the interviews revealed that the sport is about much more than just running—it requires commitment, preparation, and a strong mindset.

When asked about needed equipment for track, **Coach Kaitlyn Rease** stated “It really depends on what you do,” she said. “Sometimes you only need a good pair of sneakers, but for other events, like throwing or pole vaulting, you’ll need specialized equipment such as disks or poles.” This shows that if you are interested in track, there are diverse opportunities.

As for the cost, Ms. Rease noted the sport itself is free, making it accessible to many. However, she pointed out that athletes should still be prepared for some expenses. “Sneakers can vary from about \$50 to \$200,” she explained, emphasizing the importance of having proper footwear for both performance and safety.

Ms. Rease stressed the importance of practice developing athletic ability. “You have to practice so you can get better and more fit for the skill,” she said. She made it clear that improvement doesn’t happen overnight and requires consistent effort -track athletes typically practice for two to two and a half hours a day, five days a week. That’s what it takes to be successful. Rease knows this success as she ran track in high school. She enjoys being a part of the “team and environment, the atmosphere is supportive and encouraging.”



Coach Burk, who offered additional perspective on training and expectations. When asked what athletes do during practice, Burk explained that workouts are designed to build overall fitness and performance. “We practice strength, light training, and running workouts,” he said. This combination helps athletes improve endurance, speed, and physical strength.

When asked how fast athletes are expected to run, but Burk’s answer was surprising. Rather than focusing strictly on speed, he emphasized personal growth. “That’s the nice thing about track,” he explained. “It’s more about what you’re best at and trying your best.” Track and Field allows athletes of all skill levels to succeed by focusing on individual improvement rather than just competition.

Track training is not always about long-distance running, in practice the athletes run less than a mile. It is clear that the sport requires both physical and mental effort. However, it also offers rewards such as teamwork, confidence, and a sense of accomplishment.

Through their conversations with Coaches Rease and Burk, students discovered that track and field is not just a sport—it’s an experience that teaches discipline, perseverance, and the value of hard work.



-J. J. Caryl, Brennan Clemm, Derik Kio, and Chole Coillton

FOOTBALL



Student Reporters go behind the scenes with Coach Veltz

Batavia—**Football is more than just a game** at Batavia High School—it is a commitment that requires dedication, hard work, and teamwork. In a recent interview, Mr. Veltz gave students an inside look at what it truly takes to be part of the football program, from equipment and practice schedules to the life lessons learned on the field.

To begin, students asked about the equipment needed to participate in football. Mr. Veltz explained that players must be fully prepared with essential gear, including shoulder pads, helmets, cleats, pants, a football, and tackling dummies used during drills. Each piece of equipment plays an important role in both safety and performance, helping players practice effectively while reducing the risk of injury.

One question that often comes up for students interested in sports is the cost. Mr. Veltz made it clear that football is “free for players,” making it accessible to anyone who wants to join. This allows more students the opportunity to get involved, regardless of financial situation, and helps create a more inclusive team environment.

A major focus of the interview was the importance of practice. According to Mr. Veltz, practice is essential “in order to perfect your skills,” emphasizing the well-known idea that practice makes perfect. Players are expected to show up consistently and give full effort, as missing practice can have serious consequences. Mr. Veltz explained that if players don’t practice, “you won’t play,” reinforcing the idea that commitment and responsibility are key parts of being on the team.

According to Mr. Veltz, players practice “Around 10 hours a week” and meet “Five days a week”, showing the level of commitment required. Beyond physical skills, football teaches valuable life lessons. Mr. Veltz shared that the sport helps students develop “accountability and teamwork” qualities that are important both on and off the field.

Overall, the interview highlighted that football is more than just a game- It's a commitment that builds discipline, teamwork, and personal growth. For Students considering joining, Mr. Veltz insights make it clear that dedication and hard work are key to success on the field.



-J. J. Caryl, Brennan Clemm, Derik Kio, and Chole Coillton

ANASTASIA BHS MUSICAL

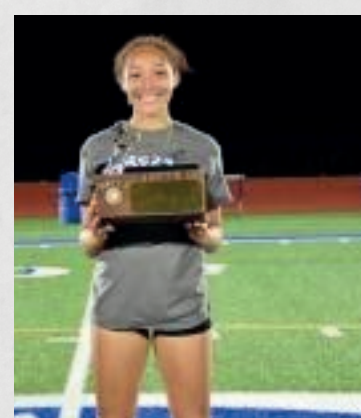
A BIG HIT WITH MANY STARS!

Batavia- Students were excited to find out more about this year's BHS musical Anastasia.

Mrs. Wood, the director of the musical, sat down with our students to answer the questions. One thing all the kids were curious about was how does a student get a lead in the play. Mrs. Wood described the audition process saying, "The students have to read lines from one of the characters, and sing a part of a song." They can choose which character they want to try out for but they don't always get the part they want. It is a process. When asked how long the rehearsals are Mrs. Wood, said it is a few hours most nights but the most significant practices comes the Sunday before show weekend. It's called "Tech Sunday and it runs from 1:00-8:00pm. The kids know they are out for a long day and they don't complain because they are all so dedicated. This year's show starred, junior, Gus Crawford and junior Kate Woodward. Many other leading roles from students in 9-12th grade. It takes a lot to make a great show and Mrs. Wood seems to do it all every year. She has been involved for 24 years with theater at BHS. The musical also involves a musical director, Mr. Dence, and an orchestra director, Mr. Murtaugh. There are so many people involved in this process and each one serves a very important role. This year is the first year that one of our students was chosen to compete in the 2026 NYC Bound Jimmy Awards. This is a great honor and Gus is well deserving! BRAVO!
-Aleigha Frith, Cassandra Kesler, Xania Hernandez, and Amiiya Santiago

Flag football and track athlete interviews Rising Stars

In a recent interview, student-athlete Violet Lopez shared insight into her experience playing flag football, a fast-paced sport similar to traditional football but without tackling. "Instead of tackling, we pull flags," she explained, noting that the smaller field and non-contact rules keep the game focused on speed and teamwork. Violet described how the quarterback leads plays while the team works together to score, emphasizing the importance of staying positive and supporting one another. With equipment like cleats, gloves, mouth guards, and belts, players stay prepared and safe on the field. Coached by McCracken and Sullivan, Violet says she was encouraged to join the team and quickly grew to love not only the game, but also "how close the team is and how much fun we have." We also asked student-athlete Karizma Wescott, a few questions about her track journey. Karizma reflected on her journey to the state track competition and what it took to reach that level. When asked what motivated her, Karizma shared, "I've been working toward this all season, and making it to states was one of my biggest goals." She explained that consistent practice and pushing herself during workouts helped her improve each meet. When discussing the experience at states, she said, "It was exciting but also challenging competing against such strong athletes." Karizma also credited her coaches and teammates for their support, noting that their encouragement kept her focused and confident. Looking ahead, she expressed determination to continue improving and building on this achievement.



Our Student Athletes,
Violet Lopez (Left) & Karizma Wescott (Right)



Gus Crawford and Kate Woodward
in Anastasia



Making a newspaper is a collaborative effort. The students worked diligently to come up with questions, interview interesting people about exciting things that are happening in our school and community. It was fun getting to know so many people. The students and I hope you enjoyed our first edition of CONNECTIONS
-ALLISON CHUA

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EVERYTHING ART

MR. SMITH: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND CITY HISTORIAN

Batavia Art Program inspires creativity and future careers

Batavia—Creativity is thriving in Batavia's art program, and students recently got an inside look during an interview with Mrs. Greenbaum. Through thoughtful questions, students learned about the many opportunities available in art, the dedication behind teaching it, and the lasting impact it can have on students' lives.

To begin, Mrs. Greenbaum was asked about the art shows that take place throughout the school year. She explained that students have the chance to participate in "the K-12 art show and Go Art." These events allow young artists from all grade levels to display their work and share their creativity with the community. The shows not only highlight student talent, but also give students a sense of pride and accomplishment after completing their projects.

In addition to classroom activities, students were curious about extracurricular opportunities, such as Art Club. Mrs. Greenbaum shared that Miss Guest runs Art Club every Tuesday and Thursday. The club provides a welcoming space where students can explore different materials, experiment with new ideas, and spend extra time working on their artwork outside of regular class hours. For many students, Art Club is a place to relax, express themselves, and connect with others who share similar interests.



Students also wanted to learn more about Mrs. Greenbaum's personal experiences as an artist. When asked about her favorite medium, she explained that she enjoys "oil painting, painting in general, and clay." Her love for these mediums reflects the variety of techniques students are exposed to in class. She also mentioned that her favorite crafts include drawing and painting, showing that even as a teacher, she continues to enjoy and value the creative process.

The discussion turned toward the future and how art can influence career paths. When asked if any of her former students had become professional artists, Mrs. Greenbaum explained that while not all students pursue careers in art, many continue to use their creativity in meaningful ways. She shared that Makayla Andolora is currently studying to become an art teacher, while Jack Bruggman is pursuing a career in graphic design. Additionally, a former student, Lilly Scaffeta, followed a unique artistic path and became a tattoo artist. These examples show that art can lead to a wide range of opportunities and careers.

Overall, the interview highlighted how Batavia's art program goes beyond just creating projects—it helps students build confidence, develop skills, and discover potential career paths. With supportive teachers, engaging activities, and opportunities like art shows and clubs, students are encouraged to express themselves and grow as artists. Mrs. Greenbaum's passion for art and teaching clearly plays a key role in inspiring the next generation of creative minds.

-Kianna Nesbitt, Hayley Webster-Dawson, and Amiiya Santiago

CALENDAR UPDATE

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY GETS AN EXTRA DAY!



Schools are closed
Friday, May 22,
2026-
Monday, May
25, 2026

Classes resume
5/26/26



BCSD Superintendent, Jason Smith, brings passion for the past to new role in Batavia.

A lifelong passion for history has guided Mr. Smith, our school superintendent, into his new role as the City of Batavia Historian, where he hopes to inspire others to appreciate the rich stories of the past.

Mr. Smith's interest in history began early in life. "Way back when I was a kid in fourth grade," he shared, recalling the moment his curiosity first took root. That early fascination grew into a lifelong pursuit, leading him to major in history in college and spend years immersing himself in documentaries and historical study.

Before stepping into his current position, Mr. Smith spent seven years in the classroom as an American history and Economics teacher. His experience as an educator continues to shape his goals in his new role.

"Teaching others about our history in batavia and showcasing that" is something he looks forward to most, he said. He also hinted at future ambitions, including the possibility of writing a book to further share his knowledge and passion.

Although Smith does not personally collect antiques, he credits his grandmother for sparking an appreciation for them. "My grandmother collected Antiques," He explained. "I do not have any antiques, but i would like to own some one day".

Smith's dedication to history extends beyond the classroom and his travels. He has visited a wide range of historic locations, both locally and across the country. Among them are the Batavia Cemetery and Richmond Memorial Library, as well as nationally recognized sites such as Mount Vernon, Monticello, Washington D.C, and civil war landmarks in various cities. He also explored the Hoover Dam and even visited the birth-place of President John F. Kennedy.

With a Strong background in education and a deep-rooted love for history, Mr. Smith is poised to make a meaningful impact in Batavia. Through teaching, storytelling, and community engagement, he aims to bring the past to life for future generations.

-Tyler Ransom, Kassandra Kesler, Koren Cook