
MEMO

To: Blue Ridge Board of Education
Mr. Ryan Peyton, Superintendent

From: Burton Huddleston, Principal, Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School

Date: 2/13/2026

RE: Principal Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 2 Girls Volleyball vs Fisher JH @ 5:00pm
- 2 Scholastic Bowl at Leroy @ 4:00pm
- 3 Girls Volleyball at Thomas Metcalf @ 5:00pm
- 3 Scholastic Bowl vs Champaign Next Generation @ 4:00pm
- 5 Girls Volleyball vs Leroy JH @ 5:00pm
- 6 Mid-quarter of 3rd Quarter
- 10 Girls Volleyball at St. Matthew School-Champaign @ 5:30pm
- 10 Scholastic Bowl vs Countryside @ 4:00pm
- 12 Girls Volleyball at Ridgeview JH @ 5:00pm
- 12 Scholastic Bowl at Jefferson @ 4:00pm
- 13 Teacher Institute Day-No School for Students
- 16 Girls Volleyball vs Tri-Valley MS @ 5:00pm
- 16 Presidents Day-No School
- 17 Girls Volleyball at Deland-Weldon @ 5:30pm
- 17 Scholastic Bowl at Franklin MS @ 4:00pm
- 19 Girls Volleyball vs Champaign Next Generation @ 5:30pm
- 21 Girls Volleyball 7th Grade Showcase at BRIJHS @ 9:00am
- 23 Girls Volleyball at Argenta-Oreana JH @ 5:30pm
- 23 Scholastic Bowl vs Fisher JH @ 4:00pm
- 24 Girls Volleyball at Heyworth JH @ 5:00pm
- 24 Scholastic Bowl at Ridgeview JH @ 4:00pm
- 27 Girls Volleyball 8th Grade Showcase at Tri-Valley MS @ TBA
- 28 Girls Volleyball 7th Grade Regionals at Milford @ TBA

March

- 3 Scholastic Bowl vs Mahomet-Seymour @ 4:00pm
- 5 Scholastic Bow. at Heyworth @ 4:00pm
- 7 Girls Volleyball 8th Grade Regional at St. Matthews-Champaign @ TBA
- 9 IAR testing begins at BRIJHS

- 12 Scholastic Bowl vs St. Matthews-Champaign @ 4:00pm
- 17 Scholastic Bowl at Leroy @ 4:00pm
- 20 Early Dismissal @ 2:20pm
- 23-27 Spring Break

Behavior

There were 18 behavior referrals written in the month of January. There were 37 referrals recorded in January of 2025. There was one out of school suspension in January.

Academics Awards Assembly

Following weather-related rescheduling, BRIJHS held the first of two Academic Awards Assemblies for the 2025-2026 school year on January 29 and 30. During this assembly, students in grades 4–6 were recognized for excellent attendance (95% or higher) and for meeting or exceeding standards on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) in mathematics and/or ELA. Students in grades 7–8 were recognized using the same criteria, with additional recognition for Honor Roll and High Honor Roll achievement. All recognized students received a Certificate of Excellence. A second Academic Awards Assembly is scheduled for May to recognize students for excellent attendance and progress toward growth goals on the i-Ready assessments established in the fall.

BRJH Volleyball Update

BRIJHS will host the SVC 7th Grade Volleyball Showcase on Saturday, February 21, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with additional matches scheduled throughout the morning. The event will feature eight teams competing in four seeded matchups. The SVC 8th Grade Volleyball Showcase will be hosted by Tri-Valley Middle School on Friday, February 27, and will also include eight participating teams. Postseason play will follow, with the 7th Grade Regional hosted by Milford on February 28 and the 8th Grade Regional hosted by St. Matthew's-Champaign on March 7.

IAR and ISA Testing

BRIJHS is scheduled to administer the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) beginning March 9. The assessment window includes five total assessments: three in mathematics and two in English Language Arts. All assessments are timed and administered digitally on Chromebooks. The Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) will be administered to students in grades 5 and 8 following Spring Break. The school looks forward to reviewing these results as a measure of student learning and growth following a full year of instruction at BRIJHS.

Prince Charmless

BRIJHS will present the spring theatrical production, *Prince Charmless*, a comedic performance featuring a lighthearted storyline centered on a well-meaning but hapless prince, his anxious parents, a cast of eccentric princesses, and an unexpected ogre. Auditions are scheduled for February 18 and 20 from 3:15–5:30 p.m. Following cast selection, rehearsals will begin on February 24 and will take place daily from 3:15–5:30 p.m. A mandatory parent meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 5:15 p.m. Performances are scheduled for April 23–26.

February Exemplary Knights

Staff Recognition: Judy Reynolds

Judy Reynolds continues to be a positive presence at Blue Ridge Intermediate and Junior High School. In her role in the kitchen, she works hard to build strong, respectful relationships with both students and staff, always taking time to greet students and create a welcoming environment during meals. Beyond her daily responsibilities, Judy also supports our school community by helping run the clock at junior high volleyball matches. Her consistent effort to connect with students and contribute wherever help is needed reflects her genuine care for our school and the students we serve.

4th Grade: Brynnen Soliday

Brynnen is a joy to have in class because she exemplifies all of the character traits of an exemplary knight. She demonstrates responsibility by working hard on her lessons and coming to school prepared for the day. Brynnen is always striving to learn more and enjoys sharing her knowledge with her classmates. Brynnen is also respectful, kind, caring, and always happy to be helpful in class.

5th Grade: Graysen Bentley

Graysen consistently shows kindness and is always willing to help classmates, which makes the classroom a more welcoming place. She is a dependable friend who supports others and approaches tasks with a positive attitude and strong work ethic. Her helpfulness and consistent effort set a great example for her peers.

6th Grade: Kendall Mitchem

Kendall brings a positive, bright energy (and always a smile) into the classroom each day. She is inquisitive and engaged in her learning, consistently asking questions to better understand material. She often takes the lead in small groups and is willing to help her classmates when needed. She continually meets expectations and gently reminds others around her to do the same. I love having her in class!

7th grade: Lily Stout

Lilly has proven her academic performance this year. She is responsible, organized, focused, and intrinsically motivated. Lilly participates in the classroom. She thinks deeply about social issues and how they impact her community. Lilly has participated in extra-curricular events and is well-respected by her peers.

8th grade: Aaron Covington

Aaron has really stepped up his academic performance this year. Aaron made it his goal to be on High Honor Roll in 8th grade, and he has made this happen! Aaron shows great intrinsic motivation to learn. Aaron is willing to ask questions, persevere when he doesn't understand something, and revise assignments. Aaron is unfailingly polite; he maintains good relationships with both peers and adults. Aaron displays school spirit and is an integral part of the teams he participates on and a fantastic supporter of his peers when he is cheering from the stands.