



2018 HOMECOMING COURT

# Blue Ridge CUSD 18 Superintendent's Monthly Update



OCTOBER 2018

## Central Illinois CEO Program News!

What is CEO? CICEO (Central Illinois Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) is based on the successful program in Effingham, Illinois. The communities served by Clinton, Blue Ridge, Maroa-Forsyth, and Warrensburg-Lathom school districts are working together to establish CICEO to serve students from their high schools. The plan is to begin the program in the fall of 2019.

The CICEO program is funded by business investors, and organized by the CICEO Board which is not part of any school board or school district. It is open to high school juniors and seniors from public and private high schools. Students are selected through a rigorous application process.

The CICEO class will meet 90 minutes each day and provide 2 high school credits. Area businesses are used as classrooms; they will not meet at a school. The class will visit dozens of area businesses each year and hosts 50-60 guest speakers each year.

CICEO emphasizes 21st century Learning skills. Students are given the opportunity to start their own business. They hold an annual

trade show to showcase student businesses. Students are given mentors from the local business community.

**CICEO Financial Information:** The initial startup costs of \$25,000 have been raised and the fee paid to the parent organization for CEO. Annual expenses for the program will be approximately \$35,000-50,000 per year, and will cover costs of the facilitator and related class activities. CICEO has created a fund within the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. The Foundation will serve as CICEO's fiscal agent. This allows donations to be tax exempt under 501(c) (3). Donation checks may be made out to Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, with CICEO noted in the memo line.

Businessmen and women can provide a site for students to visit, can be a guest speaker for the class, or can serve as a mentor to a CICEO student.

Any individual, organization, or business can contribute to the ongoing annual expense of the program with a commitment of up to \$1000 per year for 3 years.

CICEO now has its website up and running. Lots of great information is posted at <https://www.centralillinoisceo.com/>

If you would like to be a supporter of CICEO, please contact Mr. Lawrence at Blue Ridge High School.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/26 Report Cards Go Home
- 10/26 Picture Retakes
- 10/31 Schneider Halloween Parade, 9 am
- 11/2-4 BRHS Dinner Theater, 6 pm
- 11/7 Healthy Dessert Challenge, 6 pm
- 11/9 BRIJHS Drama Production, 7 pm
- 11/11 Veterans Day Activities
- 11/14 Board of Education Meeting, BRHS Library, 7 pm
- 11/15 Growing Together, Schneider Cafeteria, 5:30 pm
- 11/21-23 Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
- 12/19 Dismiss 2:20 pm, Board of Education Meeting, BRHS Library, 7 pm
- 12/20-1/1 Holidays - NO SCHOOL
- 1/2 Curriculum Day - NO SCHOOL
- 1/3 School Resumes



## Healthy Food Dessert Challenge – Nov.7

Are you hearing about design challenges recently? With technology changing our world at a fast pace, we often find ourselves trying to make better products, more economical designs, or faster processes. Well, Blue Ridge is no different! We want to design our Parent Academies with your needs in mind. Knowing that a child's learning experience can be greatly enriched when teachers and families work together as a team, we are building two Parent Academies where teachers and families can do just that, learn and play together!

Created as a complement for our after school K-8th grade 4H activities, we will have two evening events, with a meal available, that will include some fantastic challenges for teachers, parents, and students to complete together. For example, have you watched the television show Chopped? For our version, you may receive a basket of healthy ingredients, and be challenged to work with your child to create a dessert together! Yum!

Our first evening event, Healthy Food Dessert Challenge, will happen on Wednesday, November 7, at Schneider Elementary with dinner at 6pm and the activity at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendar now and be on the look-out for more information, including how to RSVP. Will you be **CHOPPED??**

## Partial List of Actions/Information from October 17, 2018 School Board Meeting

The Blue Ridge Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Following is a partial list of actions taken at the meeting.

- Hired the following individuals: Custodian John Yeagle, Jr. High Assistant Volleyball Coach Nyssa Madden, and BRHS Boys Basketball Volunteer Assistant Coach Michael Plunk
- Approved updates to the District Risk Management Plan and Emergency Operations Plan

### Sean Halcomb Recognized

The BR Board of Education recognized Sean Halcomb for his significant contributions to the Central Illinois CEO Program. Sean quickly saw the potential value of the CEO program to our students and to the economic development of our communities. He served on the initial steering committee, then joined the CEO board. Sean and Monsanto (now Bayer) have provided time and financial support for this valuable program. This is a continuation of Sean's long-term work with the district. He has served as a substitute teacher, and helped coordinate volunteers from Monsanto to help the district build playgrounds and with other projects. Sean will be relocating with his job, but Blue Ridge wanted to let him know his efforts have been greatly appreciated.



### April 2018 Board of Education Election

Three positions for the BR Board of Education are up for election in April 2019. For those interested in running for election, petitions will be due to the DeWitt County Clerk's office Dec. 10-17, 2018. The 2019 Candidate Guide is posted at <http://5il.co/55pw>.

### Quarterly Report - BR District Financial Update as of September 30, 2018

The summary of the District's financial information for the first quarter of the 2018-19 fiscal year is posted at <http://5il.co/5bqg>. The 2018-19 budget summary is included on the last page of the report

Revenue for all funds is at expected levels for this time of year, except for transportation reimbursement from the state. Illinois owes BR \$47,478 in special education funds from last fiscal year. Illinois owes BR \$122,390 vouchered payments from the current fiscal year, mostly from transportation reimbursements.

Overall expenditures are at 22% of budgeted figures, which is slightly below our target of 25% for the first quarter of the fiscal year. Transportation expenditures are at 32% due to the bus lease payments that were made in July. Operations and Maintenance are slightly above the 25% target which is typical. The summer facilities work is reflected in that number.

### Strategic Planning Goals - Quarterly Progress Report

The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is posted at <http://5il.co/5bqe>. The district's progress on each goal is noted far right column. Lots of great things are going on throughout the BR School District!

### New State School Report Card Format - Indicators of Student Success

The School Report Cards for 2017-18 will be released at the end of October, and will contain new information based on state goals established to meet the requirements of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA). Each school within the district will receive its own designation. The designations are based on the school's performance in specific categories, or indicators. Attached is a user-friendly summary of the ways student progress will be measured and brief descriptions of each indicator.

The Illinois State Board of Education put together three quick read summaries about the new report card. The documents are now available on the BR website at <http://5il.co/55p6> (quick overview of the new report card), <http://5il.co/55nk> (more detailed school report card information) and <http://5il.co/55nj> (explanation of school report card designations). Each document is well worth the few minutes it will take to look them over.

## Blue Ridge Job Openings

- High School Biology Teacher
- High School Special Education Teacher
- Part-time Individual Paraprofessional, BRIJHS
- Substitute bus drivers, teachers, and teaching assistants

Call 309-928-9141 if interested.

## News from Schneider School

- The Farmer City Fire Department will be visiting our campus October 19th to discuss fire safety. The department will meet with each classroom for thirty minutes to talk about fire safety and participate in the smoke house. This is a simulation tool that provides a safe, learning experience for our Pre-K-3rd students to learn about escape plans.
- Our annual Halloween Parade will take place October 31st at 9:00 a.m. Parents and community members are welcome to line the streets to show support for our students.
- **PBIS “Out of the Blue”** - We had our first PBIS “Out of the Blue” celebration in September. Students went to the high school football field to view a field performance by our high school band. High school students greeted Schneider students as they arrived and students enjoyed a great performance. Thank you to the band and BRHS for allowing this event to take place!
- **Spirit Fridays** - On Fridays this fall, high school student athletes have lined the sidewalk of Schneider Elementary to promote school spirit and excitement about being a Knight. Thank you to our PIE and HS Booster club for organizing and promoting this fun experience!



**Schneider Open House:** We had a great turnout for our Schneider Open House/Book Fair/Health and Safety Fair. Thank you to all the district staff and community organizations for making this a fun, family friendly event.



**Attendance:** We had 77 students during the month of September with perfect attendance.

**Behavior:** 94% of Schneider students had zero tickets during the month of September.

## News from Blue Ridge Intermediate & Junior High

- BRIJHS hosted a flu shot clinic for staff and students this year. Thank you to Nurse Stout for organizing and to Walgreen's in Monticello for providing this service.
- The Village of Mansfield is working on a Safe Walks to School Grant application. BRIJHS is serving as a community partner for this grant. We hosted a meeting this week that included Village Trustees Tom Williams and Lucas Gilbert, parents Kelly Brown, Desiree Crawford, and Amy Gilbert, and school representatives Katie Nichols, Meghan James, and Leisha Beckman. We will be sending student surveys home to help gather information for the grant. The goal is for approximately 13 sidewalks to be updated and installed for student safety.
- The fall play is The Hobbit. Rehearsals are well underway and the evening performance is Friday, November 9, at 7 p.m.
- BRIJHS is hosting the 4H STEAM Club on Thursdays. The first session is a Food Challenge. There will be a second session this semester on Coding.



**Congratulations and Kudos** to Amy Brokaw and Stephanie Hale for being awarded the “Read for Information Grant” of \$1,500 from the LBSS Endowment Fund. The grant will be used to purchase biographies for the 4th grade “*Who Was* biography project.” The unit will introduce students to key figures, events, and perspectives throughout history. Students will read a *Who Was* biography, take notes on their specific famous individual, and then create a Google Slide presentation to share with their class.

**Attendance:** 156 students had perfect attendance in the month of September. Treats for perfect attendance will be provided by the kitchen staff again this school year.

**Behavior:** There were 54 discipline referrals in September. Restorative Practices has been implemented in all classrooms.

### Extracurriculars:

- Boys' Basketball practice begins 10/15/2018.
- The Girls' Basketball season is well underway. BRIJHS is hosting 2A Regionals for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We are also hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Sectional.

## News from Blue Ridge High School

The Parent Advisory Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month beginning at 6 pm in the High School Commons.

Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Court: Freshman Attendants—Henry Mitchell and Carley Ester; Sophomore Attendants—Jaton Shaffer and Sydnee Evans; Junior Attendants—Brady Masengale and Meah Carter; Candidates for King—Luke Clancy, Like Nichols, and Gavin Raines; Candidates for Queen—Hannah Brackenhoff, Avery Fisher, and Polly Reynolds; and Homecoming King and Queen: Zach Cahoe and Jessie Wanserski. Thank you to Sara Wieber, the Members of Student Council, and all of the Chaperones who helped make Homecoming a huge success.

### Curriculum:

Academically Assisted Study Halls begin this week. These are for students who have failed more than 1 class at Progress Report Time. They will be given the opportunity to come to the Library during their Study Halls and receive Academic Assistance.

The PSAT was given to Juniors on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are beginning our "Return to Learn" Process the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>. "Return to Learn" handouts will be made available to all students who are absent. When a student returns from an absence, he or she needs to take the "Return to Learn" form to all of his or her teachers and record any missing assignments due to the absence. The teachers will sign off on this form and when the student returns the signed part of this form to the office; he or she will be eligible for a prize.

**Attendance:** There are 232 Students currently enrolled at Blue Ridge High School. The Average Daily Attendance from September 11, 2018 through October 10, 2018 was 216.6. That is 93.3%. We are working with the Regional Office of Education and the Truancy Officer to decrease the number of Chronic Absentees. Attendance will be recorded on all staff members' evaluations again this year.

**Behavior:** From September 12, 2018 through October 10, 2018 the High School has had 1 Out of School Suspension, 34 Disciplinary Infractions by 19 Students, 43 for the 2018-2019 School Year, 213 Students with No Disciplinary Infractions, 91.8% of the Student Body.

### Extracurriculars:

- Boys Golf Team won the Little Okaw Valley Championship, placed second in IHSA Regional and competed at the IHSA Sectional meet as a team.
- Volleyball Team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North Division of the Little Okaw Valley Conference Tournament.
- Soccer Team competed in the IHSA Regional Championship.

Athletes of the Month for September: Megan Schumacher in Cheerleading, Wayne Bowns in Football, Ashlyn Voyles and Jacob Mazingo in Golf, Brenden Flannell in Soccer, and Alexis Anglin in Volleyball.

**Blue Ridge Educational Foundation Donates Interactive Whiteboard to BRHS**

The Blue Ridge Educational Foundation (BREF) provides grants to teachers to enhance curricula throughout the school district. In September BREF purchased a new interactive whiteboard for Mrs. Lagle's high school math classes. Mrs. Lagle has been a power-user of smart board technology for many years, and she had worn out her old system. Thanks to BREF for stepping up to provide a new board!



*Congratulations to Dewey Gronau and Don Judd for being Inducted in to this year's Wall of Fame. They were Grand Marshals of the Homecoming Parade; and recognized at Half-Time of the Homecoming Football Game.*

