

School Directory

District 101 Offices

Rosalie Jones Administration Center
 335 W. Wilson St., Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8800 • bps101.net/

High School

Batavia High School
 1201 Main St., Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8600 • <http://bhs.bps101.net/>

Middle School

Rotolo Middle School of Batavia
 1501 South Raddant Rd.
 Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8700 • <http://rms.bps101.net/>

Elementary Schools

Alice Gustafson School
 905 Carlisle Rd. Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8000 • <http://ags.bps101.net/>

Grace McWayne School
 3501 Hapner Way, Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8100 • <http://gms.bps101.net/>

Early Childhood Center
 905 Carlisle Rd., Batavia IL 60510
 630-937-8900

H. C. Storm School
 305 North Van Nortwick St.
 Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8200 • <http://hcs.bps101.net/>

Hoover-Wood School
 1640 Wagner Rd., Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8300 • <http://hws.bps101.net/>

J. B. Nelson School
 Laurel & William Wood Ln.
 Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8400 • <http://jbn.bps101.net/>

Louise White School
 800 North Prairie St.
 Batavia, IL 60510
 630-937-8500 • <http://lws.bps101.net/>

Making the transition for the Class of 2016 Freshman



For many, the thought of their children entering high school is a daunting process. Batavia High School provides opportunities to make the transition as seamless as possible for both parents and students. In Dr. Hichens' letter to parents she states, "Beginning high school can present many challenges to both students and parents. The unfamiliar surroundings, different courses, and new opportunities can sometimes be overwhelming. However, the Batavia High School staff is committed to making this a smooth transition for everyone."

Past surveys of freshman indicate that they found the transition to be smoother than anticipated. The students said that there were many opportunities for getting the help that they needed. Maggie Skonie, a current BHS freshman, stated that "It was easier to fall into a routine than I thought it would be." Maggie also said, when asked about finding her way around at the beginning of the school year, "People were outside of their doors helping people. That was very helpful."

Current eighth grade students will begin the transition process in December and January. The high school hosts events to provide information and guidance to parents and students. On December 8th, parents of parochial students were invited to Batavia High School to attend an informational session. On January 24, all eighth grade parents are invited for an evening event that includes introductions to staff members, high school planning information, building orientation, and registration information.

Parents and students will complete course requests on the PowerSchool online registration system. Students can request their first and alternate choices for eight classes, five of which are required courses for all freshman. BHS provides all materials, directions, and course descriptions on the school website's (bhs.bps101.net) "Incoming Freshman" tab.

Batavia High School will continue to send updated information and reminders to parents via the Messenger system. All eighth grade parents are encouraged to sign up to receive BHS messages.

Rotolo eighth graders shine in orchestra competition

This letter was shared with The Board of Education, Mr. Steve Maciejewski and Dr. Jack Barshinger:

I wanted to share with you a bit about our field trip to the Orchestra clinic at Niles West High School.

Niles West in conjunction with the University of Illinois has been hosting this orchestra day for almost 20 years. When I taught in Elmhurst, I took my orchestra every year to participate. It is such a wonderful opportunity to have the kids play for the toughest audience they will ever play in front of—music educators, and college ones at that! It gives the kids a chance to hear other groups and know that there are tons of other kids their age out there at other schools doing the same thing they are! That is meaningful to a 13 year old.

I believe the students have literally learned how to do this orchestra thing through our preparation for this event...not for the candy or fun, but they realized for the first time that it is about your success and how good it feels to be proud of the hard work you put forth. In "training" for this, the 8th graders gained such maturity in their playing. True attention to details, phrasing and musical thoughts rather than just playing notes. They started asking real musical questions and really wanting to learn and do their best to sound as good as they could! They heard a completely, horribly, awful orchestra today, and they knew it (don't worry, they were polite)! For the first time, the kids realized what everything we do in class actually means. One student said on her own with a big smile on her face, "We really played well!" "We are really good, aren't we!" "That was fun!" Fun with no prizes involved, no candy, no games...just old fashion learning with the outcome of success and being proud of it!!

They were shown a side of professionalism that they did not know existed at their age. They acted with the utmost maturity and respect possible. They nailed their performance in my eyes, and just knowing how they have changed into different players and how they now view their performances, is progress enough for right now. Our students represented Rotolo Middle School and the community of Batavia as such mature, well mannered, INCREDIBLY well behaved, respectful citizens and young adults. There were times they had to really sit and just listen for direction or be respectful to others and they not only rose to the occasion, but went above and beyond what one would expect from this age. It was fast paced and they needed to be confident in their every move, and they were. They would have



made you so proud in everything they did yesterday.

This orchestra clinic is such a big deal to many districts. I happened to see many colleagues and friends, one who is the superintendent in a school district on the south side of Chicago. I was surprised to see him at this event. He said that one of his junior highs was performing and he wanted to come out and hear them play. A superintendent found this important enough to travel from the south side of Chicago up to Skokie to hear junior high kids play three pieces. I found that to epitomize the importance of what our kids took part in by attending this trip. What they gained from our excursion today is hopefully a positive, musical enlightenment that they never realized. A meaningful lesson in what learning really means. A reason to be doing something they have always loved, but never really knew what it was about. They let people know who they are in such a positive way that they will be remembered and talked about for a long time to come. I have run these circles many times before, and know what an honor that is for the kids to carry that legacy.

We received a video of the performance and two audio tapes with judges comments taking place as we played. The students then worked with a professor from DePaul University in a short clinic to share ideas on how they could improve.

It was truly a magnificent trip! I can not tell you how proud I was of the 8th grade orchestra in everything they accomplished and everything they did. I wanted to share this with you, as I know this is not a usual trip that the 8th grade takes. I appreciate you allowing them to attend this "extra" event. From doing this in the past, I just knew this was the group to take. I knew that they would allow me to teach them above what they thought they could do. I knew this group would be the one to take that risk of something new and run with it, not really knowing where they were headed, but trusting me to guide them. They were all that and more. Such a meaningful experience for them to have as a memory of their 8th grade year!



BHS student, Parapan American Athlete looks to 2012 London Paralympics

by Heather White

Year-round, athletes prepare and train for the Paralympics. Each of these athletes has a disability that they overcome in their own unique way. In a manner of speaking, athletes not only compete with each other, but with themselves, as they show the world what determination and hard work can do.

Junior Amy Chapman was born with no feet. Her legs ended a little ways after her knees. She now has prosthetic legs, with a fabric design she gets to pick out herself.

When she was younger, her family went to a pool in Arkansas. There she saw many different swimming teams.

"I thought, I'm gonna go try out and join the team," said junior Amy Chapman.

She was already participating in gymnastics, but according to Chapman, the program wasn't very good. She needed something else to do. The fact that her mom was a swimmer was a factor in her choice to join a swimming team as well.

Today, Chapman is on the 2011 United States Parapan team. They will participate in the 2011 Parapan American Games in November held in Mexico. The teams were selected

last April, according to Chapman. The team members attended a camp this past summer in Colorado. Team meetings occur throughout the year in various locations such as North Dakota, Texas, California, Minnesota, and Canada. Chapman hopes she will be able to do her best times at the Games.

"Hopefully I'll get a few medals," said Chapman.

Some of Chapman's best times include 1:35 for the 100 meter backstroke, 1:59 for the 100 meter breaststroke, 1:25 for freestyle, and 3:32 for the 200 individual medley. In the 200 individual medley, the participant swims 50 meters each of the backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and butterfly.

"I love going to all the meets," said Chapman. "You make so many different friends."

The selection for the Parapan team is complicated. Athletes gathered at the Spring Can-ams from Canada and the U.S. They are judged both by how they do there and their world rankings. Each athlete must meet their minimal class rankings. There are nine spots for the upper team, all girls. Additionally, there are 25 spots for both guys and girls on the Pan-

American team. Chapman feels anticipation yet prepared when she tries out for an event.

"Whatever happens happens," said Chapman.

Chapman said she was excited to be on the Pan-American team.

"The U.S. has one of the most competitive Paralympic Swimming teams," said Chapman.

Training is crucial for Chapman and other athletes. Chapman says that training is her biggest challenge. The time commitment is another big challenge. Chapman practices for two hours a day, six days a week. Training depends on the day, and the coach. On primary days the athletes practice their best stroke. I-M days, they will practice 50, 200s, 100s, "whatever the coach wants," as Chapman said. The goal is "to make weaknesses strong." Turns are especially important to practice.

"You do so many of them in practice," said Chapman about the turns.

Turns are sometimes called the fifth stroke. It is said that the race is either won or lost on the turn.

The time commitment is another big challenge. When asked how she balances school and swimming, Chapman laughs and says, "Very carefully." She said that she tries to do her homework before practice and use her time at school efficiently so that she doesn't have to do it when she gets home after practice at night.

Chapman says she looks up to the national team girls. She says they are very nice to the younger girls.

"It's interesting being one of them," said Chapman. "The younger kids look up to you."

Chapman hopes to make it to the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

Heather White is a Journalism 1 student at Batavia High School.

At the Centre... with Dominic Cattero



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Batavia Fine Arts Centre section of the magazine. Here you will find upcoming events scheduled at the Centre as well as the "Fine Art Centre Focus," which will be a brief article regarding a different Fine Arts Centre topic each issue. This time,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a Batavia native graduating from Batavia High School in 1999. I attended Illinois Wesleyan University, obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts, with an emphasis in acting and directing. Following graduation, I laid roots in Quincy, IL for eight years cultivating theatre and the arts within this region; first as Director of Student Theatre/Head of Education and then as the CEO and Managing Artistic Director of Quincy Community Theatre (QCT). While at QCT I was appointed and served a three year term with the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Not finding myself busy enough, I also held the title of adjunct professor of Theatre Arts and Acting with Hannibal-La-Grange University from 2008-2010. My passion for creativity and expression of one's self through the arts is undying. I am absolutely thrilled to find myself back in Batavia with the privilege of bringing all arts to life under one roof.



January 10—I Heart Art—High School invitational Closing Reception
Centre Gallery

January 19-21—Batavia High School Presents *Great Expectations*—Main Stage

January 31—Alice Gustafson Concert—Main Stage

February 10-12—Rising Star Theatreworks Presents—*The Wizard of Oz**
Main Stage

February 17-19, 25-26—Christian Youth Theatre Presents—
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat—Main Stage

In the Future...

March 30—April 1—International Dance Competition, LLC—
Chicago Regional 2012

*Indicates tickets available at BataviaFineArtsCentre.org
Box office phone number: 630-937-8930

Key Club makes key contributions

by Chelsie Dean and Marnie Heim

Key Club is a nationwide volunteer organization that focuses on doing community service projects and raising money for a variety of health causes, from Spastic Paralysis research to Neonatal Tetanus shots for pregnant mothers.

The most common question asked about the club is, "Why is it called Key Club?" Key is an acronym that stands for Kiwanis Educating Youth. Kiwanis is an international organization of volunteers who help in communities throughout the whole world. In elementary schools, the club is called K-Kids, in middle school the club is known as Builder's Club, the high school level is called Key Club, and at the college level it is known as Circle K.

Key Club at Batavia High School

has been around for decades. The current Key Club advisor is Mrs. Marnie Heim. The projects Key Club focuses on help the community and interact with the other levels such as the Kiwanis leaders and K-Kids at the elementary school level. Locally, they help out monthly at the Batavia Food Pantry, hold monthly Market Day fundraisers where the proceeds are used throughout the community and for leadership training for Key Club members, and they also organize Read and Lead at our local elementary schools where high school students are paired with elementary school students and they read together, building reading fluency and comprehension skills. Other projects include the 5K Histo Heroes walk, Holmstad Bingo,

blood drives, Feed My Starving Children, BATfest, and much more.

The biggest project of the year for Key Club is Mr. BHS, a mock male beauty pageant. This talent show is the annual fundraiser for the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation. "Mr. BHS is my favorite project because that day we spend the entire day rehearsing, the guys are hilarious, and I love that it's for a good cause," said Vice President Natalie Lamy, '12.

Key Club is always looking for new projects and ways to be involved with the community. If you have any projects where you think Key Club could help, please contact the club at Batavia High School at 630-937-8682.

Chelsie Dean and Marnie Heim are students at Batavia High School.

Bulldogs answer with a championship season

by Zack Schoettes

This fall the Batavia Bulldogs football team entered the season with a lot of question marks: a first year head coach in Denis Piron, an unproven and undersized and offensive line, and an inexperienced defense. From the question marks the Bulldogs rose to enjoy one of the most memorable seasons in the hundred plus year history of the program. Living up to the motto of "No Regrets" that the team adopted early in the summer the Bulldogs finished 12-1, with an undefeated regular season record, and the first conference title since 2006.

The season began with a 36-7 victory, the first of many for coach Piron against local rival Aurora (Marmion) behind an interception return for touchdown by Austin Higgins and two other key interceptions from Senior Jon Gray.

The Bulldogs would string

together two more wins to improve to 3-0.

Week four brought a key matchup against an unbeaten Bartlett team. Behind a ruckus Dog Pound and a charged up Bulldog Stadium the Dogs proved victorious. Sophomore running back Anthony Thielk broke a zero zero tie late in the first half with a 26 yard scamper up the middle. Late in the second half Thielk struck again, this time on a 99 yard kick return that turned out to be the dagger in the Bulldogs 35-13 victory over the Hawks.

After a homecoming victory over St. Charles East, the Bulldogs prepared for week six matchup against local rival and fellow unbeaten Geneva. The matchup was the Comcast Game of the Week and it did not disappoint.

On a sloppy Burgess Field in Geneva, the Bulldogs took a 17-14 lead into the half behind the arm of



Trophy of the Upstate 8 Conference Champions, the Bulldogs

All State Quarterback Noel Gaspari. In the second half, the Batavia running game took over behind big plays from power backs Dominic Guzaldo and Alec Lyons, with the change of pace being provided by speed back Alex Moore. Backed by strong defensive effort spearheaded by a defensive touchdown from Austin Lewis and 15 solo tackles from middle linebacker Sean Oroni, the Bulldogs prevailed 46-34 and put themselves in the driver's seat for the conference title.

The Bulldogs strung together three more regular season victories to cap off the regular season, finishing 9-0. For the first time in school history the Bulldogs prepared for the playoffs.

The Bulldogs entered the playoffs as the top seeded team in the 32 team 6A bracket. In the first round the Bulldogs played Nilles (Notre Dame). Early on the Dons of Notre Dame looked to pull the upset as they took a 28-7 lead into the half. In the second half the Bulldogs took over behind inspired play from a

Bulldogs cheer after the national anthem

pair of three-year varsity starters, Noel Gaspari, and Cole Gardner. Noel threw for four, second half touchdowns, three of them to Cole and the Bulldog defense locked down the Dons to secure a 35-28 victory and another celebration at Bulldog Stadium.

The Bulldogs then defeated Lake Forest High School 31-17 in Batavia to advance to the third round of the IHSA State Playoffs. The Bulldogs took to the road for their third round match-up. The opponent was Lakes (Community High School). Despite the two hour trek, Bulldog Nation turned out in force with three full student buses to support the unbeaten Dogs, and they were not disappointed.

On the fourth play from scrimmage Cole Gardner broke through and blocked a punt that Austin Lewis recovered in the end zone and the Bulldogs were rolling. They didn't look back. Behind a big game from Noel Gaspari, the Bulldogs rode lockdown defense and explosive offense to a 42-0 victory.

This victory brought the Bulldogs home for an unprecedented eighth home game. The opponent would be a tough Crystal Lake (Prairie Ridge) team coming off a victory over perennial powerhouse Nazareth. The Bulldogs fell short against the eventual state champions despite the career day from Noel Gaspari in which he completed 28 of 45 passes for 371 yards and 3 touchdowns despite gusty wind conditions.

The Bulldogs finished tied for the most wins in school history and rewrote the record book on both sides of the ball. Senior middle linebacker Sean Oroni broke the single season tackle record set in 1986 by now defensive coordinator



Matt Holm. All State quarterback Noel Gaspari broke almost all of the single season passing records, while the offense as a unit broke the record for points per game and first downs, a tribute to a well balanced attack. The defense set the record for most sacks in a season and set an all-time low for offense allowed per game.

The Bulldogs had stressed academic excellence all year and this was shown by their 11 academic all-state honorees. The Bulldogs

look forward to the 2012 campaign as they prepare to open up against Glenbard North. The Bulldogs bring back key starters on the offensive line, Adam Hunger, Sebastian Vermass, and Ben Link. On defense they return standouts Marquise Jenkins, Robbie Bowman, and two-way playing sophomore sensations Anthony Thielk and Michael Moffat.

Batavia High School

Senior Zack Schoettes is also known as #67 of the Bulldogs



Bulldogs entering the field



The seniors of the 2011 Battlin' Bulldogs

Mini Grants–2011

The BFEE awarded funding for Fall grants totaling \$7,194.44 The following grants were awarded:

1. Technology Supported Literacy: Using Audiobooks to Enhance Reading submitted by Kirsten Hett– J. B. Nelson School

4 MP3 players will be purchased with cases and a subscription to *audible.com*.

2. “Are You Choking Kid?” submitted by Laura Abraham and Debbie Clasen– Rotolo Middle School

Funding will provide for the purchase of two child choking manikins. The Foundation previously funded a project entitled “Are You Choking?” in 2010, and RMS is one of the few middle schools in Illinois to provide a comprehensive first aid class to include American Red Cross certification.

3. Balance Boards for the Classroom submitted by Kristy Giesen, Dee Mallie, Jody Stoneberg and Jeffrey Thomas– Rotolo Middle School

Balance Boards are a tool that teachers can use to help students to concentrate, listen, learn and enjoy the process. These boards are manipulated by the feet under desks and larger boards are in the room to be stood on while other boards allow students to sit in their seat while receiving sensory input.

4. Girls on the Run submitted by Stacy Nalley–H.C. Storm School

Funding will provide for the start-up costs for this experimental learning program for 3rd-5th grade girls. This program combines training for a 5K running event with an interactive curriculum targeting girls’ physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being.

5. I Listen submitted by Taylor Ryndak and Diane Kispert–H.C. Storm School

This proposal includes two MP3 players for two of the fourth grade teachers, two IPOD docking stations, six headphones and a one year subscription to *audible.com* that would allow teachers to download up to 24 audible books for the year.

6. AGS has the Write Stuff submitted by Tamra Ashby, Jennifer Mackey, Marcie Mefford and Kristy Vanderloon– Alice Gustafson School (partial funding for non-consumables)

This project provides funding for the creation of the AGS Publishing Center.

After students work very hard to write a book or long story, the piece would come back to them typed, set, and professionally bound with a dedication page and information about the author. This AGS Publishing Center would serve all students by allowing them the opportunity to have a published piece of writing by the end of the year.

7. Home and School Literacy Connection submitted by Jennifer Mackey and Elaine Dugan–Alice Gustafson School

To promote reading outside of school, it’s important to partner parents and children in engaging reading practices. Funding will promote parent involvement with their students Literacy reading by sending “We Both Read” books home to read nightly. Three sets of books will be shared among the teachers. All first graders and their parents will have access to these books. One side of the book has a more complicated page for the parent to read, and the reverse side has an age-appropriate page for the student to read.

8. Tablet Technology for Speech/Language Therapy submitted by Mary Ellen Adkins–Alice Gustafson School

Students with identified speech/language impairments will benefit from the purchase of the iPad 2. iPad 2 speech/language applications will be used with up to 50 students, not limited to use with only students with speech/language needs, but also with students identified with special education disabilities as their primary label. Purchases will also include a Smart Cover, and funds for iTunes purchases.

9. iPad2 for Speech Language Therapy submitted by Linda Presternon– Batavia High School

Funding will be given to purchase an Apple iPad2 for use by high school students who receive speech language therapy services at BHS. Purchases include an iPad 2 w/cover, and funding for App purchases on iTunes.

10. At-Risk Freshmen iPads—Screen Covers submitted by Brian Gamlin –Batavia High School

This grant request is an extension of the At-Risk Freshmen iPads grant

awarded by the Foundation in the spring of 2011. The iPads are currently being used by approximately 96 at-risk freshmen in both Core Algebra & Core Intermediate Algebra. Monies will be used to purchase covers from Sam’s Club.

11. At-Risk Freshmen iPads —HMH Fuse Algebra 1 App submitted by Brian Gamlin – Batavia High School

This grant request is an extension of the At-Risk Freshmen iPads grant that was awarded by the Foundation in the spring of 2011. Of all the Apps that were found and tried, Houghton Mifflin Publishing Co. has available a collection of outstanding Apps paired with their Algebra 1 textbook to create an iPad based curriculum. Funding will provide for the partial purchase of 24 licenses of this App. Since mini grant awards are \$700 or less, the additional monies will be made through the math departments supply budget.

12. Virtual Author Visit: Reaching Reluctant Readers submitted by Daniel Russo, Haley Nickolaou, and Tom Demos–Batavia High School

This grant will bring a young adult author, Paul Volponi, to the Batavia High School for a classroom visit using Skype video conferencing. BHS has not previously hosted a virtual author visit so this grant will provide an opportunity to pilot this format. This project will target approximately 60 freshman and sophomore students. Funding includes the author visit and classroom books for literature circles.

13. Grizzly Grippers—Fine Motor Grant Proposal submitted by Marcy Biage, Chad Clarey, Carol Kessler, Jill Maercker, Barbara Spence, and Debbie VonOehsen–McWayne School (for non-consumables)

The McWayne kindergarten and first grade teams will purchase fine motor resources to enhance fine motor development that is critical to ensure future success as students. These resources will also be available to special needs students at McWayne School at all grade levels. Funding covers only non-consumable items.

You are invited to make excellence happen!



Thanks to such a supportive community, the Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence had a fabulous year attracting funds. The spring talent show, **BPS 101’s Got Talent**, was a sellout, attracting over 600 spectators. The collaborative **Bulldogs Unleashed** project, that ignited Batavia, raised nearly \$25,000 for each of the three foundations involved in the project. The annual golf outing continues to be a successful and fun event for the Foundation. The money raised from these fundraisers and the contributions from donors add to the Foundation’s endowment, allowing us to award more grants for each of the two yearly grant cycles.

The staff and students of Batavia Public Schools are looking to the Foundation with increasing need. Last spring the Foundation received over \$100,000 in grant requests, awarding nearly \$40,000 of those requests. While the applicants that received financial

funding for their projects are grateful and are putting the funds to great use, BFEE wants to increase the endowment to help fund more great ideas and projects.

The mission is clear...“to enhance the educational programs in all the schools which comprise School District 101. By attracting private funds to supplement the regular educational revenues, the Foundation can provide support for the development of enrichment programs and services which make the critical difference between a very good education and an excellent education.” Make excellence happen by participating in the **Friends of the Foundation Annual Drive**.

Foundation Directors

- Joanne Spitz, *Chair*
- Heidi Molenhouse, *Vice Chair*
- Cathy Dremel, *Director of Finances*
- Dr. Jack Barshinger, *Ex Officio*
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- Carrie Sebold
- Chris Winkle
- Nancy Schmitz, *Administrator*



Receive a 10-pack of **Bulldogs Unleashed** note cards with your donation

Donation *Make excellence happen!*

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please help us go green by providing your email for future communication.

Friends of the Foundation Donation Amount:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Other Amount |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | \$_____ |

Please make checks payable to Batavia Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Online donations can be made at bataviafoundation.org.

Thank you for your generous donation to our annual drive.

The Foundation operates as a 501 (c) (3) so donations are tax deductible.