

BKW

BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BKW senior reaches the Ivy League

BKW senior Aggelos Lefkaditis was accepted to Dartmouth College in the fall, and will officially join the distinguished school's graduating Class of 2030.

Located in Hanover, New Hampshire, Dartmouth is one of eight prestigious schools in the Ivy League, which includes Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. This achievement is even more remarkable considering Dartmouth College has a six percent admission rate. This means that Aggelos is one of only six percent of applicants who received an acceptance letter.

"I was at indoor track and field practice when I received the admissions email from Dartmouth," shared Aggelos Lefkaditis. "Once I read the news, I can honestly say, I jumped for joy when I read that I was accepted."

Aggelos has been an active student throughout his high school career. He participated in baseball, soccer, indoor and outdoor track and field, and the E-sports program, and is a member of the National Honor Society. At Dartmouth, he will study neuroscience and seeks to one day become a brain surgeon to study cognitive ability, or the brain's capacity to think, learn, remember, reason, and solve problems.

Aggelos joins his brother, Stavros, as a BKW graduate who furthered his education in the Ivy League. Stavros attended the University of Pennsylvania from 2022 to 2025 and graduated early with a Bachelor's degree in finance.

Dartmouth College, founded in 1769, has an enrollment of 4,000 undergraduate students, and according to the 2026 edition of Best Colleges, it is ranked #13 in National Universities by U.S. News & World Report (tied) and #17 in Top Colleges by Forbes.



BKW TO INTRODUCE NEW WEBSITE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

This spring, the district will launch a new district website for families, faculty, and students to access news and important information related to our school district. The new site features additional highlights, such as a new pop-up notification system for school schedules, allowing our families to stay up-to-date and engaged with the latest news surrounding BKW.

"The new website is going to be a significant upgrade and will be the perfect entryway for families and potential families to experience an immediate connection

with the BKW brand and our culture," shared Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Bonnie Kane. "We have worked as a team to develop and accept feedback on what our community should feel when visiting our website."

The district collaborated with the Capital Region BOCES Engagement and Development Service to develop the new website. The process involved updated website coding, design, and development to create a unique perspective for web and mobile users.



As we approach the launch date, the district will share updates through ParentSquare to keep our school community informed and ready to utilize the new website. Visit www.bkwschools.org to stay in the BKW conversation.



Kirker is making an impact on and off the court

For the love of country and basketball.

Deciding upon the next steps after high school can be trying for any student and their respective families. Calculating their interests, students can look to enter the workforce as an entrepreneur or small business owner, enter the military to find their next niche, or commit to a two-year or four-year college to chase their interests at the next level of education.

For BKW senior Shane Kirker, he's doing a combination of things to chase his dreams. Currently, Kirker is committed to attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs next fall. He will also play basketball for the Division I program in the Mountain West Conference. With that commitment, he will be attending the academy for four years and will then immediately serve in an active-duty capacity for five years upon graduation. The commitment isn't lost on the young guard/forward of the BKW basketball team. He's ready to embrace the challenge.

"I'm eager for the opportunity to compete and learn at the Air Force Academy," shared Kirker. "There will obviously be a change, but I'm proud to have been selected by the Air Force Academy, and I'm looking forward to seeing how my skill sets transfer to Division I and to make my teammates better while going to school to serve my country."

Kirker is currently averaging 21 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 blocks per game for the Bulldogs and was recently named the #1 selection to the WNYT (NewsChannel 13) High School Boys Basketball All-Star Team for January 2026. At 6'7", he will be sure to take his talents to the Rocky Mountains to represent the "Bulldog Way" at the Division I level.



District launches BusRight app



Real-time mobile app to highlight transportation updates for district families

The district recently launched the BusRight app for the BKW parents/guardians. BusRight is a school bus management platform designed to improve student transportation safety and efficiency through real-time GPS tracking, optimized routing, and communication tools for the school community and district administrators.

The real-time mobile offering will allow families to stay up-to-date on their student(s) bus routes, including schedule changes, cancellations, and arrivals at home. Families and caregivers can monitor their student's location and view the bus route directly from the BKW campus to home.

How can we use it?

The process is easy, and it all begins with the touch of a button. To begin, BusRight will share an email with district families to register, and once registered, the BusRight app can be downloaded directly from either the Apple App Store or Google



Play. We encourage parents or caregivers to use the email currently on file with the district. The process is quick and easy and provides a real-time feature to enable the health and safety of our students while travelling within our district.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to BKW Transportation Supervisor Chris Odom at chris.odom@bkwschools.org or transportationoffice@bkwschools.org.



Fifth-grade statewide test scores set a new bar

From 2023 to 2025, statewide test scores indicate high ceiling growth for the district's fifth graders. Recent statewide testing data, shared by the New York State Board of Regents and New York State Education Department, show an increase in proficiency for math, science, and English language arts. The results are impressive and show the district positioned with neighboring districts in classroom learning.

"We are incredibly proud of our fifth-grade students and teachers for achieving these outstanding results," shared BKW Elementary Principal Annette Landry. "These outcomes reflect our students' dedication to learning and our teachers' ongoing commitment to engaging them and strengthening their skills each year."

For BKW, this was an important reflection of the implementation of resources, in-depth connections through teaching, and curriculum improvement over the course of the past several years. The Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD fifth graders recently tested proficiently in the following areas from 2023-25.



English Language Arts (ELA) Performance (2023-25)

For ELA, performance since 2023 has risen from 51.67 percent in 2023 to 80 percent in 2024. The 2025 testing results showed students becoming even more proficient with an overall fifth-grade average of 82 percent.

Math Performance (2023-25)

Statewide data continued to show the district's fifth-grade student performances increasing in mathematics. For 2023, proficiency for students was 64.41 percent, illustrating a slight improvement to 68.89 percent in 2024. However, a significant increase was made in 2025, pointing to an 81.58 percent proficiency rate.

Science Performance (2024-25)

For the 2024 school year, students held a 64.44 proficiency rating in science. In 2025, the number reached 85 percent proficiency. That's nearly a 25 percent improvement from the previous school year.

"As a district, we commit the resources and curriculum to ensure our students are prepared and enriched in our classrooms. Overall statewide test results continue to show strong gains by our students," said Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Bonnie Kane. "By sharing this data, we are continuing to connect the fundamentals of learning with the achievements of our students as they prepare for future growth."



"We are incredibly proud of our fifth-grade students and teachers for achieving these outstanding results. These outcomes reflect our students' dedication to learning and our teachers' ongoing commitment to engaging them and strengthening their skills each year."

– Annette Landry, BKW Elementary Principal



BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT NOTIFICATIONS

Class of 2025 donation honors Mr. Matthews

Recently, the Class of 2025 dedicated a bench in memory of former BKW Secondary School English teacher, Mr. Matthews. Matthews dedicated twenty-eight years to our district and was a beloved member of our school community. Matthews was a dedicated supporter of the district's cross-country and track and field programs. The Class of 2025 chose to utilize the last \$500 in their fundraising account to purchase the bench in memory of their beloved teacher.

The dedicated bench sits in a picturesque location behind the main campus, overlooking the track. The bench is a fitting tribute and will offer a place for anyone watching BKW student-athletes as they look to achieve success on the trails and in track and field, the only way they can. The Bulldog Way!

ParentSquare: Stay in touch with BKW

ParentSquare is the main communications system for the district to engage with our school community. Please monitor your mailbox for district communications and continue to keep updated on district and building news through ParentSquare. If you're unaware of the Parent Square platform and do not currently have an account, please visit our district website and click the ParentSquare icon under the "Connect" section. Stay connected and be a part of the Bulldog conversation! For additional information, visit www.bkwschools.org.



Stay connected!

At BKW, we're excited to showcase all the programs and services that allow our students to succeed in the classroom, on the stage or on the field! Stay up to date on the BKW conversation by visiting our Facebook and Instagram accounts and learn more about what's happening on our campus! 3-2-1, GO!



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