



**Brentwood
Borough
School
District**



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH

Another school year concluded and we celebrated many student achievements. We continue to strive for every student, to learn in every subject, in every classroom, every day to become creative problem-solvers, gain more technical literacy, choose to act with integrity, communicate and collaborate with peers and be self-aware, self-reliant and self-disciplined. These essential skills and the knowledge needed to survive in the 21st century, will ensure that our students are ready for college, career and life.

This past year, we also shared some difficult times as we faced a very real and complex societal issue, threats to our safety. Although school safety and security are currently being discussed through the news and social media platforms, as well as in living rooms and offices, it is not a new topic to school districts. Administrators, teachers, and staff address safety and security daily. Our number one priority is the safety and security of our students. Even with all this planning, tragedy still strikes. We witnessed this in our local community. Our students have lost loved ones unexpectedly or had their own lives changed drastically in an instant.

Through it all, the message of #brentwoodproud resonated. Our students, staff, teachers, administrators, and community members time and time again lifted each other up and asked, "How can we help?" In a world where kindness seems to be lost, I commend each one of you who have asked this question and then acted. You make our community a special place. For our community this is not a marketing tool to sell homes, but rather it is the way of life for us. That is what makes Brentwood so special!

To conclude, let me assure you that the safety and well-being of every student is our number one priority and we will continue our coordinated efforts to make sure our sites remain safe and secure. Students need to feel safe in their physical environment as well as in their social and emotional environment to be productive and confident. Our school will continue to ask the question, "How can we help?"

Brentwood students walk away with six DMAC awards and valuable experience

Ms. Sierra Powers, High School Student

As the auditorium at The Bible Chapel in Peters Township slowly starts to fill with students from different schools all over western Pennsylvania, you could feel the anticipation and tension of the eager students awaiting to hear the announcements of the Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) awards. The DMAC organization, through Robert Morris University (RMU), sponsors a school competition, every spring, to showcase and award high school students for their skills in digital media.

The twenty-fourth annual event hosted by DMAC welcomed over 400 students who attended the awards ceremony, awaiting to see if one of their entries out of the 200 other entries would win one of 85 plaques given out. Of these plaques, there are categories for newspaper writing, videography, photography, graphic design and broadcast. The awards are not only judged by surrounding area teachers, but also industry professionals and professors from RMU.

"Professionals and professors provide valuable feedback for each of the students who submit entries in each of the categories. It's nice for the kids to hear what they did well and what they need to improve on from someone other than myself," said Brentwood digital media teacher Jennifer Hughes.

The DMAC board members also give out a Founder's Award to deserving students from their perspective schools. The awards are designated to senior students who have dedicated and devoted much of their time and energy to their school's media program. Senior Destinee Kellner was the recipient of the Founder's Award for Brentwood High School.

"Destinee is a valuable member of my program. As team leader for the F1 in Schools team Interestellar, she was responsible for most of the digital media for the team," said Hughes.

"Over my high school years, I have worked so hard to improve my digital media skills. So, it is really rewarding to finally be recognized for all my hard work," said Destinee Kellner.

Brentwood came home with six plaques awarding them for their talents in media. Besides taking home a Founder's Award, Kellner also won an "Award of Excellence" for her feature package video on the VEX robot competition.

Senior Sierra Powers took home two awards also, one was an "Award of Excellence" for her feature photography also on the VEX robot competition and second was an award for "Best in Category" for her feature article on the name topic.

"I am very proud of my work on my feature article. Over the years my journalistic style has improved and it was great to see it rank as best among some of the biggest schools in western PA," said Powers.

Seniors Tanner Wells, Austin Veatch and Nathan Mingle were given an "Award of Excellence" for their collaborative efforts to make a documentary on the heroin epidemic in western Pennsylvania. Veatch and Mingle went on to win a second "Award of Excellence" for their instructional video on how to shoot a basketball, and Wells also received a second "Award of Excellence" for his news package on the changing cell phone policy at Brentwood.

"The whole process was a great experience. From recording the videos, to editing them, and then of course the DMAC ceremony.



Winning two Awards of Excellence was just the cherry on top of the whole experience. Even if I would not have won anything, I still would have been a part of a great event and honored to be there listening to the such successful speakers," said Wells.

Immediately following the awards ceremony, the DMAC board organizes the students to have two breakout sessions pertaining to media. Each session highlights a person(s) who have a successful career in media and communications. This year, the most popular breakout session was one highlighting the Pittsburgh celebrity, "Pittsburgh Dad." Curt Wootton who stars as Pittsburgh Dad and his director, Chris Preksta came to share their insights on the media industry with all the enthusiastic students.

Other sessions included photographer, Martha Rial. Rial has received a Pulitzer Prize for her work documenting the lives of Burundian and Rwandan survivors of the 1994 genocide.

Michael Killen owner of Animal Media came to speak to students and share his work with visual effects, documentaries, advertising, design, and bringing his sitcom, Downward Dog, to network television.

Lastly, Betsy Benson, publisher of Pittsburgh Magazine, was in attendance to share her story about publishing, writing and producing the magazine. Her career included feature photography and photo illustration, so she shared with the students her journey through print journalism.

Brentwood has been participating in the DMAC competition for about 12 years and Hughes says she is already gearing up for next year by coming up with innovative ideas and creative animations for the 2019 spring festival.

"As a DMAC board member, I am very active in the event, I help plan the teacher workshops we hold in the fall as well as help plan the spring student festival. I believe the competition is a great experience for students. They get to see how their work stack up again bigger schools and the get to learn from industry professionals," said Hughes.

Friendship Connection Program

Mrs. Hebestreit, German Teacher

Brentwood High School welcomed a visitor from Germany when Jamie McGrail, a 9th grader, participated in the Friendship Connection program. Friendship Connection is an exchange program for high school students from Germany and the U.S.A. On March 20, Annik Weisensee of Neuhof, Germany, came to Pittsburgh after being matched with Jamie through a series of questionnaires. Annik stayed with the McGrail family and shadowed Jamie in school. In their free time, they visited the Pittsburgh Zoo, Pitt's campus and even Niagara Falls. True to the program's name, a friendship connection was made. The girls both plan to meet again in 2019, when Jamie visits Germany with her family. This is the fourth time in six years that Brentwood High School has participated in the Friendship Connection program.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Capozzoli, Guidance Counselor

Kattie Jones, a 2014 Brentwood alumna, shared her success story in the Sculpture and Metals program at Edinboro University with Mr. Miller's art classes. Kattie discussed the different art majors Edinboro offers and how her experience in the art classes at Brentwood helped shape her decision to pursue art as a career.



SHASDA

Spring Conference

Mr. Olexa, High School Principal

Each year the South Hills Area School District Association (SHASDA) holds an annual conference where students are honored with the SHASDA Extra Effort Award. SHASDA has long recognized that there are students who come through our schools who face obstacles and challenges that not every student faces as they make their way through high school. Often these students are not recognized by the conventional honors, so SHASDA established this annual award to give credit to students who have worked hard to be successful in their respective schools. The philosophy for the award has remained the same. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated significant improvement in student performance and/or have overcome obstacles in attaining their present status. The criteria may include improvement in grades, achievement test scores, attendance and outstanding improvements in academics as well as the practical and fine arts. This year Brentwood High School was pleased to honor Derek Festa and Skyler Steck.



Derek Festa



Skyler Steck

Mr. Olexa, High School Principal

Each year the South Hills Area School District Association (SHASDA) holds a student forum where selected students are asked to represent their school on a topic and to share that information with South Hills area superintendents, board members and principals. The forum is designed to engage students from the area on many topics related to school improvement. SHASDA has long held the belief that the students are the best source of firsthand knowledge on how to make improvements to schools and to gain valuable insight.

This year there were twenty-three school districts represented by students, superintendents, board members and principals. The forum took place at Upper St. Clair High School. This year's theme was STEM and STEAM based initiatives that are happening at each of the schools present. This year the evening was held as a "gallery walk" where the superintendents, school board members, principals and students were free to walk to each other's presentations and share information about their schools and their programs. It was an enjoyable and enlightening evening with so many talented students in the area and the amazing work that is being done in our area schools.

Representing Brentwood High School were Michael Casey, Grant Davis, Morgan Dryburgh, Destinee Kellner and Ryan Schwarz along with their teacher sponsors Mrs. Jennifer Hughes and Mr. Beau Sedlar. This was the Interstellar M1 team that competed in the world championships in Malaysia in October. This team is one of the best representations of the many STEM/STEAM programs at Brentwood High School. The group was able to share their experiences and expertise with other South Hills schools.



College and Career Readiness

Mrs. Capozzoli, Guidance Counselor

Teens at Brentwood High School participated in a shadowing day at Steel Center. The students were permitted to attend classes and work alongside current Steel Center students. Each year, students are encouraged to attend for the day to engage them in learning more about a future career field.



Brentwood Band Program Seeking Donations

Mrs. Schneider, Music Teacher

The Brentwood Band is continuing their search for instrument donations! If you have an unused instrument at home, please consider donating it to be used by a student in need.

We are looking for flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, drum-sets, etc.

If interested in donating, please contact Mrs. Schneider at Brentwood High School!





Brentwood Borough School District

Brentwood Music Department Piloting Quaver Music Curriculum

Mrs. Schneider, Music Teacher

The Brentwood Music Department piloted the Quaver Music Curriculum. Quaver is an interactive, technology based music curriculum that uses Promethean/SMARTboard equipment, and can be accessed by tablet, computerlab, or at home! This new curriculum not only encourages students to explore music, but also demonstrates how music enhances all other subjects areas taught in elementary to middle school. Quaver has recently expanded its content to emphasize cross-curricular connections in math, science, history, literacy, geography, physical education, and English.

Students who have used this new curriculum have enjoyed creating skits to retell composer history, composing their own music, learning to play ukuleles, and making connections to history, science, geography and more! Ask your Brentwood student how they have used QuaverMusic in class!



Student Government

Mrs. O'Shea, Social Studies Teacher

Each year Senator Brewster leads a Student Government Day Seminar. The event was held at the Penn State Greater Allegheny campus located in McKeesport and consists of three sessions where students interact with individuals such as elected officials, staff, lobbyists, and members of the media. The first two sessions culminated in a mock Senate Session in the afternoon. A group of thirteen students were led by Mrs. O'Shea to the all-day event.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brentwood Middle School Students Introduced to a Pittsburgh Sports Legend

Mr. Radcliffe, Middle School Principal

Recently, the students at Brentwood Middle School were treated to a Pittsburgh CLO production of **"Arriba, Arriba: The Roberto Clemente Story."** This program is part of the CLO's "Gallery of Heroes" presentations designed to honor significant historical figures.

For one afternoon, the auditorium at Brentwood Middle/High School became the backdrop of the life of Roberto Clemente from a young, aspiring baseball player in his homeland of Puerto Rico, to a World Series champion for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and finally to his tragic death as a humanitarian attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake shattered Nicaragua.

The story depicted Clemente's challenge in leaving his family and adapting to a new culture upon his arrival in the United States. It also highlighted Clemente's trials in dealing with the successes and failures that all professional athletes must endure. These themes of following your dreams and overcoming adversity provided an excellent example that the students at Brentwood Middle School can apply to their own lives.

The program also led to a discussion of how Roberto Clemente's legacy is still honored in Pittsburgh today. The 21-foot wall in right field of PNC Park is a tribute to the #21 jersey worn by Clemente during his career with the Pirates.

Brentwood Middle School would like to thank both the Pittsburgh CLO for an amazing performance as well as the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation for the generous grant that funded the program.

“Stop the Bleed” Presentation at Brentwood Middle School

Mr. Radcliffe, Middle School Principal

Brentwood Middle School partnered with Allegheny Health Network and the Brentwood Borough EMS to bring a program called “Stop the Bleed” to the middle school students. “Stop the Bleed” is designed for children and adults to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

The assembly began with a presentation by Dr. Biswas, a trauma surgeon at Forbes Regional Hospital. Dr. Biswas shared the background of the “Stop the Bleed” program and how he became involved with the training. In addition to educating the students about different types of trauma that people may suffer, Dr. Biswas shared how bystanders can play an important role in helping to provide immediate assistance to someone who is injured. During his presentation, Dr. Biswas reminded the students that assuring their own safety and calling 911 for help are the first steps to take if confronted with

a situation involving trauma. He then proceeded to explain how to apply pressure, apply and pack a dressing, and apply a tourniquet in a bleeding emergency.

After Dr. Biswas’ presentation, the middle school students moved to the gymnasium where they used training dummies provided by the Allegheny Health Network to experience hands-on instruction on how to apply pressure to a wound and how to apply a tourniquet. In addition, members of the Brentwood EMS taught the students how to perform hands only CPR. All the students who participated received a “Stop the Bleed” certificate to recognize their involvement in the training.

Brentwood Middle School would like to thank Mr. Matt Mowry from Allegheny Health Network, Mr. John Balkovec from the Brentwood EMS, and Director of Brentwood School Police Mr. Joe Kozarian for all of their help and support in bringing this informative and important program to the middle school students and staff!



MOORE

English as a Second Language Field Trip to Coco

Mrs. Rodriguez, ESL and GATE teacher

Ms. Rodriguez’s English Language Learners at Moore Elementary School had a great day at Century Square Luxury Cinemas watching the Disney/Pixar Film Coco. Michael and the staff at the theatre commemorated the students’ visit with donated popcorn and soda and an official theatrical poster from the movie. The Disney Store at South Hills Village donated Coco picture frames as keepsakes to remember what was, for most of the students, their first trip to a movie theatre. The Moore School PTA made the trip possible by providing the bus.



Shakespeare Competition

Mrs. Rodriguez, ESL and GATE teacher

Students participating in the Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Competition added their own spunk to the Bard’s work by having rehearsal in pajamas. The jammies won’t make it to the stage at the O’Reilly Theatre on February 9th but the students and their hard work will!

Book Tasting

Mrs. Zietak, Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Zietak's students have a wonderful way to get the 'flavor' of a novel before they commit to reading it... a book tasting! Mrs. Zietak decorates her room like a little bistro and offers students a variety of novels to sample as they rotate around the room looking for a new book. The students have a hard time picking just one!



Science Bowl

Mrs. Rodriguez, ESL and GATE teacher

Brentwood elementary and middle school students examine mammal skulls and dinosaurs during the Science Bowl at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Brentwood students Ceci Foley, Kellie Brushi, Paige Mortimer, and Gabrielle Sedler won second place for the middle school division.



It is time for Recorders!

Miss Stratman, Music Teacher

Miss Stratman's third grade students are excited to be learning how to play the recorder and are already starting to play some wonderful tunes.

MOORE STUDENT SELECTED AS A LOCAL FINALIST in PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST

Mrs. Betler, Moore Elementary Principal

WQED announced the finalists of its 2018 PBS KIDS Writers Contest made possible locally by the EQT Foundation. Partnering with WQED on its Writers Contest this year was West Virginia Public Broadcasting (WVPB), and PBS 39 (WLVT) serving eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey, and WPSU in State College, serving central Pennsylvania. Twenty-six finalists were chosen from more than 1,000 stories received from throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, and Delaware. Connor Dickey, a third-grade student at Moore elementary was one of the 26 finalists! Congratulations, Connor!





Kindness Matters!

Mrs. Zietak, Fifth Grade Teacher
Mrs. Ziegler, Kindergarten Teacher



Mrs. Zietak's students discussed character traits and then applied those character traits to their classmates. The compliments were hung on hearts and displayed in the hallway. The hearts show us how special all of our students are.

Mrs. Ziegler's kindergarten class has also gotten into the kindness spirit! Kindergarten students learned about the importance of being kind to each other by making hearts that share the different ways you can be kind. For example, holding the door, playing with others, and being patient.

Read Across America

Mrs. Bonnie Betler, Moore Elementary Principal

Moore Elementary School students were excited to celebrate Read Across America Week. Sponsored by the National Education Association, schools nationwide emphasize the importance of reading both at home and in schools as a tribute to Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, a popular children's author who sought to make reading fun for all children.

At Moore, students focused on Seuss's *Oh! The Places You'll Go*, listening to the story in their classrooms and responding with a writing activity about what they would like to do in the future. All students were challenged to read for at least fifteen minutes a day at home during the week, and those that participated were entered into a drawing for a Barnes and Noble Gift Card, sponsored by the Moore School PTA. Additionally, the classrooms with the highest percentage of participating students in grades K-2 and 3-5 were awarded with a special classroom party, sponsored by the Brentwood Education Association. Nearly 70 percent of students participated in this challenge!

Students gathered for one final assembly to learn more about the life of Dr. Seuss and listen to a Book Talk video created by their peers, where they heard about many different books that they might be interested in reading. Overall, it was a fantastic celebration and reminder of the importance of being a life-long reader.

ELROY

Mrs. Casey, Librarian

Elroy's fifth graders have been doing STEAM design challenges during library time to learn more about the engineering process and teamwork. Students are given a variety of materials and told what the challenge is, then are faced with the task of designing and building a structure. Students designed marshmallow launchers from a cup and a balloon. In the second challenge, students were given straws, cups, paperclips and items and were challenged to use the items to make a structure with the goals of having the cups as high off the table as possible and as far away from each other as possible, while still being connected somehow. Lots of great structures are being created, and lots of great teamwork were displayed. Students then reflected on how to improve for the next round of challenges. "This kind of assignment allows them to think creatively, and will help them as they move into middle school, where more teamwork will be expected," said Megan Casey, their librarian.



College and Career Ready

Mrs. Duing, Fifth Grade Teacher

In Pennsylvania, The Career Education and Work Standards, are part of the State Board of Education's regulations of required education for all students K-12. The Career Education and Work Standards address four areas of knowledge:

- Career Awareness and Preparation
- Career Acquisition (Getting a Job)
- Career Retention and Advancement
- Entrepreneurship

As part of the required curriculum, Alicia Schmidt from Steel Center, visited the 5th graders at Elroy Elementary twice this

school year. On her first visit she had the students take an interest inventory. The interest inventory matched a student's individual interests and abilities with potential careers.

On Friday, April 27th, Mrs. Schmidt returned to Elroy to speak to the 5th graders again. This time she spoke to the students about entrepreneurship. The students completed several activities that had them identify traits that contributed to a successful entrepreneur. The students had a great time working together.

The best piece of advice that the students received that day is that you are never too young to be an entrepreneur. Young minds are often the most creative ones!



Brentwood Borough School District

ELROY

Ways Parents Can Encourage Empathy and Kindness

Mrs. Pagan, Elroy Elementary Principal

This past school year, Elroy Elementary school theme was Kindness. The teachers encouraged students to perform random acts of kindness and add a "Kindness Leaf" to our tree. Elaine Cox, M.D., medical director of infection prevention at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis posits, "Interestingly, children are hard-wired to be kind when they are born. As early as toddlerhood, they will show empathy." In elementary school, kids are able to show compassion to others and able to understand their own emotions. But often in middle school, that compassion and kindness may be harder to find.

The best way to encourage kindness and empathy is to start at home. Children need to think, speak and act with open minds. We can teach children the concept of always looking out for others and not expecting anything in return. Parents can teach their children to be kind by showing them how it is done. Pay attention to your own behavior while you are driving, in the grocery store, or in a crowd. What is the verbal language you are using? What is your body language saying? Finally, one additional thing we can do to promote kindness is to apologize when we are not kind. We lose our temper, screw up from time to time, or say things that are hurtful. By apologizing quickly and meaning it, is one way to teach our children to be kinder.

5 Ways to Raise Kids to be Kind:

1. Make caring for others a priority – being respectful even if you are hurt or angry.
2. Be a strong moral, role model, and mentor.
3. Help children manage destructive feelings.
4. Provide opportunities for kids to practice caring.
5. Expand the circle of concern beyond family and friends.

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see," Mark Twain.

Elroy Kindness Fundraising Coming to an End

Mrs. Smith, First Grade Teacher

The school year is winding down and so is our quest of spreading kindness to Shadydale Elementary School in Texas. Elroy started this journey with our school theme "Spreading Kindness like Confetti". Students were challenged to show kindness in school and kindness leaves were filled out and put on a tree in the hallway to share all the ways kindness was shown.

Along with our kindness tree, many fundraisers were held in order for us to raise money for Shadydale Elementary. Fundraising began in September with students wearing Shadydale colors to show we supported them in their recovering efforts from Hurricane Harvey. More events were held every month and some of the most memorable were; a Turkey Trot in November, Twin Day in February and an obstacle course in April. For every event held, students were asked to bring in a one-dollar donation, however many students went above and beyond and brought in five, ten and even twenty dollars. All in all, we raised a total of \$1,432.00.

The funds were used for an Attendance Incentive Program at Shadydale. Many students lost their homes and all their belongings in Hurricane Harvey, which in turn affected school attendance. Ms. Tina Daily, principal of Shadydale, said "Thank you so much for your consideration and thinking of us. We tell our scholars all the time that community extends far beyond their reach. We are blessed to be connected to your school!"

It has been a great year of showing kindness at Elroy Elementary School. Our hope is that students will continue their quest of showing kindness always and will help teach others to "Spread Kindness like Confetti". Thanks to all of our Elroy families for supporting our year of kindness events.



Brentwood Borough School District's Little Spartan Kinder Camp

Mrs. Klousnitzer, Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development

As our young learners transition to kindergarten, we want to focus on building their self-confidence and fostering their enthusiasm for learning. In preparation for those opening days of school, the Little Spartan Kinder Camp will provide our youngest learners time to familiarize themselves with their new school.

The Little Spartan Kinder Camp is a two week-long learning experience. Children will participate in typical kindergarten classroom activities/routines, tour the school buildings, and learn about their new classmates. This program is free and open to all incoming students who are registered for kindergarten at Elroy Elementary School or Moore Elementary School.

The summer camp will be offered July 30- August 10, 2018. The start time of the program is 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. each day. The program will be held at both elementary buildings.

Students must be registered for kindergarten to attend the summer camp. If you have not already registered for kindergarten, please download the registration packet from the district website at <http://www.bb-sd.com>. More information about the summer program will be distributed in early summer.

We are excited to meet Brentwood's graduation class of 2031 and begin their educational journey.



ATHLETICS

Mr. Rick Huffman, Athletic Director

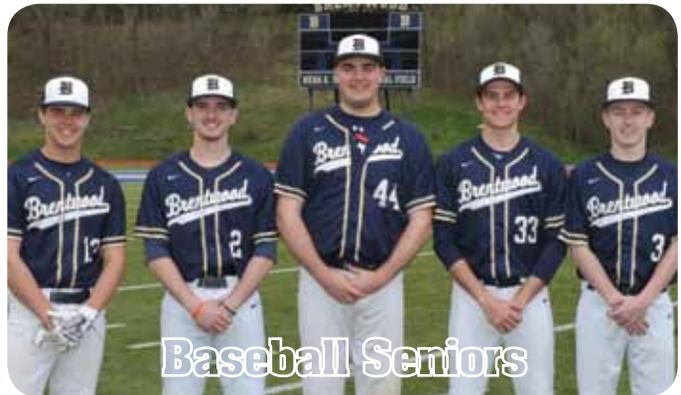
Photos courtesy of Mr. Jeff Healy

Each season we recognize our senior athletes. We will them all the best as they move on to a new chapter!



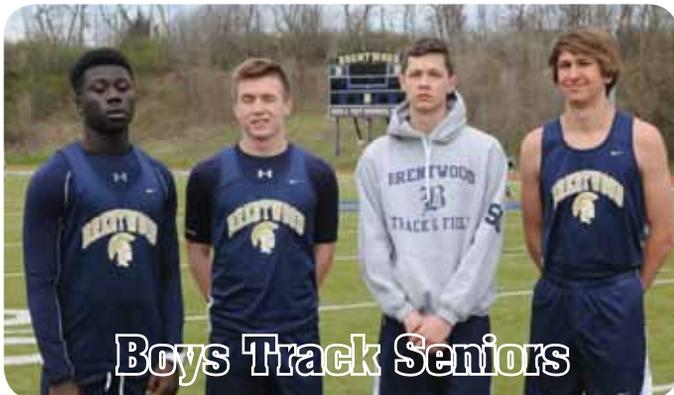
Softball Seniors

Tia Cerminara, Sierra Powers, Brittany Stewart, Taylor Kottler



Baseball Seniors

Kevin Brown, Brendan Donnelly, Stephanos Mavroides, Easton Klein, Austin Veatch



Boys Track Seniors

John Gomez, Evan Vickless, Nathan Mingle, Michael Casey



Girls Track Seniors

Destinee Kellner, Rachel Milcic, Marie Stofesky, Sarah Walas, Julia Walter, Alexis Brazil