

= Briarcliff High School =

Briarcliff High School (BHS) is a public secondary school in Briarcliff Manor , New York that serves students in grades 9 ? 12 . It is the only high school in the Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District , sharing its campus with Briarcliff Middle School . As of 2014 , the principal is Debora French and the assistant principal is Daniel Murphy .

Briarcliff is noted for outstanding student achievement , testing scores and accomplishments , including a highly regarded science research program , world language and performing arts programs , University in the High School and Advanced Placement courses , and graduation and college attendance rates . The school has an 11 : 1 student ? teacher ratio , and nearly every student has at least grade @-@ level proficiency in mathematics and English .

The student body primarily consists of graduates from Briarcliff Middle School . Additionally , students graduating from Pocantico Hills Central School have the option to attend high school either at Briarcliff High School , Pleasantville High School , or Sleepy Hollow High School . The majority , 75 percent in 2013 , attend Briarcliff High School . Students from Pocantico Hills as well as other districts pay a tuition fee to attend . In 2015 , Newsweek ranked the high school 31st @-@ best in the country . The school was founded in 1928 at the Grade School building adjacent to Law Memorial Park . In 1971 , the school moved to its current facility on the east border of the village .

= = History = =

From 1865 until 1918 , Briarcliff Manor served students up to the ninth grade . Before 1918 , Briarcliff students who wanted to proceed to high school would attend the nearby Ossining High School . After 1918 , Briarcliff introduced an advanced curriculum for high school students . In 1923 , four students were the first in a Briarcliff school to receive high school diplomas . In 1928 , with the entrance of additional high school students , an extension was added to the Spanish Renaissance @-@ style Grade School for use as Briarcliff High School . The building was located adjacent to the Walter W. Law Memorial Park . The enlarged school accepted students from Croton , Hawthorne , North White Plains , Valhalla , and as far as Granite Springs .

The high school newspaper , The Briarcliff Bulletin , was founded in 1948 . As Briarcliff 's student population expanded , the need for more school facilities became apparent . In 1950 , students from kindergarten to fifth grade were moved to the new Todd Elementary School . In spite of the newly empty space in the Grade School building , the high school population 's continued growth necessitated the construction of a new structure . Efforts were delayed until the 1960s , when the village government made plans to purchase 55 acres (22 ha) of the Choate estate . Pace University , however , purchased the entire estate , and it remains its Pleasantville campus . The Briarcliff Manor Board of Education took the matter to court and succeeded , and Pace sold 35 acres (14 ha) to the village , which bought eight additional acres .

The new site was completed in 1968 , and the current high school building opened in 1971 . In the 1980s , as school enrollment declined and costs increased , the Grade School building was leased to Pace University and the remaining students in that building (grades six through eight) occupied a portion of the new High School building . In 1988 , a plan for a larger village and school meeting and performance area was initiated . A new auditorium was completed in 1998 . After a bond vote in 2001 , the current Briarcliff Middle School was constructed in the early 2000s adjoining the high school .

In the summer and fall of 2011 , several renovations took place , affecting primarily the high school . All front @-@ facing windows of the high school were replaced with energy @-@ efficient windows , and a permanent @-@ storage building was constructed on the northeast side to store auditorium and maintenance supplies . In addition , many of the computers in the school were replaced with thin client computers . In 2013 , the school 's cardiovascular and weight lifting center was improved with more machines and equipment , increased space , new flat screen televisions , and other additions . In 2013 and 2014 , the school 's fields on the property were remediated due to the use of contaminated fill . The football field was completed with artificial turf , as well as the track and

artificial turf baseball field ; an artificial turf hockey field was to be completed by Labor Day . The lower soccer field will be reconstructed after the fall 2014 soccer season . Work on the softball field was finished in fall 2013 . A security plan is to be submitted to the New York State Education Department ; it includes plans to upgrade the main entrance doors and construct vestibules and greeter stations .

= = Enrollment = =

As of 2014 , the school had 587 students , including 81 from the Pocantico Hills Central School , comprising 13 % 8 percent of the student body . Students in the graduating class of 2013 had a 100 percent graduation rate and a 99 percent college placement rate . 99 percent of those students graduated with a Regents diploma , 50 percent with Advanced Designation with Honors , 21 percent with Advanced Designation , and 3 percent obtained Regents with Honors . 24 percent graduated with a standard Regents diploma and 1 percent with a local diploma .

= = Theater and music = =

Briarcliff High School hosts several theatrical and musical groups . School groups include the Fall Drama , the Spring Musical , Jazz Band , Pep Band , Camerata , Clifftones , Overtones , Chamber Orchestra , and Garage Orchestra . The high school prides itself on its arts curricula , and produces musicals and dramatic productions at the school auditorium , which was built in 1998 and seats 500 . In 2010 , it was renamed for former Superintendent Frances G. Wills . The auditorium has hosted other Briarcliff shows and events , including the Centennial Variety Show from April 26 ? 27 , 2002 , arranged by the nine member Briarcliff Manor Centennial Committee for the village 's centennial celebration . The school was the first US high school to perform the British musical *The Hired Man* , from March 7 ? 9 , 2014 .

The school is known for its annual musicals , which often sell out . The school also reaches out to professionals who volunteer their time ; the assistant director at the Studio Theater (also the son of Frances G. Wills) ran a workshop on proper casting and auditions for the students and arranged for *Children of Eden* creator Stephen Schwartz to visit the school during its 2002 production of his musical .

Briarcliff is often recognized at the annual awards ceremony at the Helen Hayes Youth Theatre in Nyack , ceremonies which are held in early June with awards in numerous categories , modeled after the Tony Award . Their 2002 performance of *Children of Eden* earned ten nominations and three awards , for overall production , actor in a lead role , and director . The school spent \$ 23 @ , @ 000 on the production to pay for royalties , stipends for teachers acting as choreographers , musical directors and rehearsal accompanists , and for external workers to help students improve the production 's lighting , sets and sound . For their 2003 production of *Footloose* , the school 's musical director Kathleen Donovan @-@ Warren rented multicolored stage lighting and hired an electric guitarist as one of three professional musicians who played along with the student orchestra . There was a tradition in the musicals for the superintendent to have a cameo in the show , up until around 1999 .

= = Sports = =

Besides intramural sports , Briarcliff High School has junior varsity and varsity teams in sixteen sports , playing under the name Briarcliff Bears . In 2010 , the soccer team became nationally ranked by ESPN as a top @-@ 50 national team .

= = Academics = =

Along with classrooms , a writing lab , and a library , the school has an open room called the Maresca , where students study surrounded by teacher 's offices . The school offers courses in five

languages : Spanish , Latin , French , Conversational Italian , and Mandarin Chinese . Through the district 's affiliation with the Board of Cooperative Educational Services , students have the option for vocational education at the Tech Center at Yorktown , a program in Yorktown Heights . Briarcliff High School 's electives include :

= = School ranking = =

Briarcliff High School is 31st out of 1 @, @ 259 schools in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report rankings for New York , and 212th out of about 21 @, @ 000 schools nationally . In the 2014 U.S. News & World Report , the school was 31st out of about 1 @, @ 100 schools in the rankings for New York , and 156th out of about 19 @, @ 400 schools nationally . In the 2013 report , the school was 31st out of about 1 @, @ 100 schools in New York , and 170th out of about 21 @, @ 000 schools nationally . Newsweek ranked the school 31st nationally in 2015 , 17th nationally in 2014 , 106th nationally , 20th in New York , and 28th in New England in 2013 , 96th nationally and 17th in New York in 2005 , and in 2000 , Newsweek ranked the school 42nd @-@ best in the country .

Briarcliff 's school district , the Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District , is rated as the fifth @-@ wealthiest school district in the United States and the third @-@ wealthiest in New York . Briarcliff High School students greatly exceed averages on New York State Assessment tests , with almost 100 % of Briarcliff students having recorded passing grades .

= = Alumni = =

Notable alumni of Briarcliff High School include Michael Azerrad , an author ; Clifford Carter , a musician ; John Hersey , a Pulitzer Prize @-@ winning writer and journalist who grew up in Briarcliff and attended the public schools ; Brice Marden , a minimalist painter who grew up in the village and is a 1965 graduate of Briarcliff High School ; Tom Ortenberg , the CEO of Open Road Films and the former president of Lionsgate Films ; and minor league baseball player Bobby Blevins , who grew up in the village and graduated from Briarcliff High School in 2003 .