

Ballston Spa

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

C E N T R A L S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

High School Principal
Kristi K. Jensen

(518) 884-7150 Ext. 2351
E-mail: kjensen@bscsd.org

May 2016

We just received great news! Ballston Spa High School has once again been named to the Washington Post's list of [*America's Most Challenging High Schools*](#). Jay Mathews, the Post's education columnist who has been ranking America's most challenging schools for 18 years, shared, "The list reveals many schools that have decided thinking and writing are as important as reading. With good teaching, they have found ways to convince even the most laid-back, average students of the necessity and importance of those subjects, too." As one of three area schools named to the list, this honor validates the work done here to provide access to Advanced Placement coursework to all. Congratulations to our great teachers, to students who challenge themselves by taking these rigorous courses, and to families for supporting their son's or daughter's decision.

In addition to large number of students who take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course work, we have many more students who want to begin their college coursework while still in high school. We have successfully added many more courses through Schenectady County Community College for the 2016/17 school year and will begin discussions regarding College and Career Pathways even earlier with students. We believe success in any of these pathways not only helps students become better readers, writers, and thinkers but increases the likelihood they will be successful and complete college or vocational programs in a timely manner.

In addition to these accomplishments, Spring Athletic teams are all meeting with success and making us proud as well. Congratulations are also in order for our Robotics team who made it to world competition over Spring break and to our Odyssey of the Mind team that will compete in World's in May. This level of involvement in activities such as these, in addition to diverse choice in academics, helps ensure our students are healthy, well-balanced, confident, involved citizens who are well prepared for life after high school.

Senior Awards are May 5th and Graduation is at SPAC on June 22nd. Please check our website for up-to-date information on events and activities during this busy part of the year.

Kristi Jensen,

Principal