



recipe for

Thanks to your continued support, our students received an exceptional education during FY23. Always mindful of your investment in your regional vocational-technical school system, we carry out our mission with care and consideration to cost. We enhance our vocational, academic, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community.

With a \$225,000 FY22 MA Skills Capital Grant received in FY22, our highly-popular Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration shop received numerous equipment upgrades that our students enjoyed in FY23. Building partnerships with MiltonCAT, PulteGroup, and others led to learning opportunities for our skilled students. We embraced the arts and

culture within our community with our Drama Club's production of "Murder's in the Heir," our Multicultural Festival, Paint Night: Kindness Matters event, and Spring Art Show. And we secured nearly \$3 million in grants that support your regional vocational-technical school.

We are proud to see our students balance athletics and extra-curricular activities, excel on MCAS exams, and earn trade certifications. Taking part in our Co-op program, they further their vocational-technical training alongside industry experts and gain hands-on experience to help launch their careers. While there is no single recipe for success at BVT, passion is one essential ingredient that ignites our school community and creates a happy, healthy, and positive learning environment for our students and staff.

We invite you to turn the page to discover how pastry artist Sarah Arnold found her true calling in our Culinary Arts program; and channeled her creativity into a passion for cakes that look beautiful and taste amazing by sharing photos, stories, and videos of her creations with friends and followers on Instagram, which led to incredible new connections and sweet experiences.

At BVT, we take pride in the passion and accomplishments of our students. We share their success as evidence of a positive return on your investment.

Muchael of Status

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick Superintendent-Director

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Sarah Arnold

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

If you flip open the 2018 yearbook, you will find this quote under Sarah Arnold's name, "Dessert makes everything better." It's a motto she takes to heart. Pastry artist Sarah Arnold designs exquisite custom wedding cakes that look beautiful and taste amazing. Learn how Sarah found her true calling in our Culinary Arts program; and channeled her creativity into a passion for cakes by sharing photos, stories, and videos of her creations with friends and followers on Instagram which has led to incredible new connections and sweet experiences.

"I always knew I wanted a creative career, but I needed to figure out what to pursue. My mother is an artist, and I've always loved drawing and painting. I loved the idea of going to school for cosmetology, so I decided to apply to BVT," said Sarah. "Little did I know that the kitchen

would intrigue me more after the exploratory process, making the Culinary Arts program my first choice."

Sarah participated in extracurricular activities earning many accolades in the SkillsUSA





Commercial Baking competition. As a junior, she won the gold medal at the district and state levels and placed 7th at nationals. As a senior, she won a gold medal at the district and state levels and a silver medal at nationals.

While in our Culinary Arts program, Sarah worked in the kitchen, dining room, and bake shop. She had a well-balanced understanding of the fundamentals. However, in the pastry industry, so much skill goes into the tempering of chocolate, the lamination of viennoiserie doughs, and the intricate temperatures for poured, pulled, and blown sugar. These techniques and training are part of the Johnson & Wales University (JWU) Baking & Pastry Arts program. She said, "While I could have easily worked at a bakery or restaurant after BVT, I wanted to work at a high-end resort or boutique wedding cake shop, so I knew JWU was my next step."

"After high school, I wanted to become a highly skilled pastry artist, designing wedding cakes like Ron Ben-Israel," said Sarah. "So, I decided to attend JWU to further the foundational skills I had learned at BVT and master

more advanced wedding cake design and gum-paste floral arrangements techniques to help elevate my work."

"BVT helped shape my career path and taught me the essential skills that gave me an advantage over my classmates," said Sarah. "In JWU's introductory classes that taught baking principles, knife cuts, and different cooking methods, I found the classes easier, so the chef gave me a few side projects. While the other students practiced julienne knife cuts, I learned how to pipe chocolate filigrees. BVT set me up for success, teaching me to be productive and efficient in my work."

Sarah graduated (summa cum laude) from JWU in December 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Baking & Pastry Arts.

"Lights, Camera, Action!

During an internship at a specialty cake shop, Sarah received a phone call from a casting associate who had seen her Instagram accoun and loved it. They invited her to apply for the Food Network's Holiday Wars, a pastry

tood network

competition hosted by Jeff Mauro with judges Aarti Sequeira and Shinmin Li.

They oversee groups

of ho-ho-holiday baking enthusiasts who face off for a chance at the very merry prize of \$25,000! Sarah had several rounds of interviews before the producers welcomed her as a contestant.

"I grew up watching the Food Network but never imagined I would one day be on it," said Sarah. "It was such a whirlwind. I was

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS | 5

unaware of how much preparation goes into an episode. I was allowed to pack one suitcase and had to decide which sugar tools to bring. Could I take a blowtorch on a flight? What specialty molds, spatulas, and bowls would be on set? Fortunately, a culinary team ensured their giant pantry was stocked with everything we needed."

Sarah flew to Park City, Utah, to film at their production studio for Episode 3: Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. In this final qualifying round, three teams battle it out with a down-onthe-farm theme with Thanksgiving-inspired creations. Sarah, on Team Red Velvet Vixens, alongside teammates Michelle Scurio, owner of Cake Monstah in Boston, and Sharon White, a bakery owner in Maryland, competed against the best cake and sugar artists from across the country.

"Filming an episode was a twelve-plus hour day," said Sarah. "The actual competition was a complete adrenaline rush. I'm used to an extended schedule due to my training and the SkillsUSA competitions. I used to be painfully shy. I opened up at BVT and became more comfortable having the chefs, other students,

and, eventually, SkillsUSA judges watch me work. I appreciate how those experiences prepared me for this on-camera pastry competition. Our producer requested that we speak directly to them when prompted to describe our work and ignore the camera. I was already comfortable sharing what I was doing and why because I learned and practiced the skill

"Teamwork was a big challenge, especially when working with different personalities. The experience was like asking three artists to work together on a painting. Creatively, there are bound to be different ideas, designs, and approaches," said Sarah. "Communication is crucial in knowing what components others plan to make so you can create your pieces to the proper scale and color. One person may think something is too easy, while another might think it's complicated. Someone has to be willing to adapt."

"The competition was challenging due to the higher elevation of Utah," said Sarah. "The higher the altitude, the lower the air pressure. So temperatures or bake times had to be

altered to come out correctly. I had to adapt and lower the temperature when working on my sugar art components."

Sugar art uses different techniques to manip-

ulate sugar into confectionery sculptures, like flowers and animals, which are decorative and edible. "My favorite part of our piece was the sugar mice made out of blown sugar," said Sarah. "It was a fun challenge making whimsical and playful mice. In the episode, I used thin strips of sugar pulled fast to form pointed noses with tapered ends, curly, irregularly shaped tails, and delicate, fragile whiskers. It was a fun TV moment showing what you can do with sugar."

"I learned so much

about collaborating

and navigating

disagreements,"

said Sarah.

"Someday, I want to have my own business and put my name behind my work. I would love to have a pastry shop that produces the highest quality cakes, cookies, chocolates, and pastries for the public,"

"I pushed myself far out of my comfort zone, but I'm happy I did. I'm confident in my abilities and ready for the next challenge!"

Dessert Makes Everything Better!

"My favorite thing to make is cakes. It's a blank canvas. I enjoy the possibilities that come with cake decorating, said Sarah. "I also enjoy sculpting with chocolate and sugar because it allows for more artistic ability and design."

Sarah is an Assistant Pastry Chef at the Weguassett Resort & Golf Club in Harwich, MA, where she handles all specialty cake orders for the five-star resort. She has created a wedding cake program offering impressive show-stopping cakes. "My education, training, and work experience have prepared me for this new role. I enjoy the precision and skill in creating high-end pieces and producing an incredible experience for our guests."

said Sarah. "For now, I love my job at the resort, and the management experience is invaluable."

If there's a simple recipe for success, Sarah would say, "work toward your goals, do what truly brings you joy, and practice, practice, practice!" She would also point out that her work five years ago looks nothing like it does today. "Don't be discouraged if you think you're not good at something. It just means you need to practice more," said Sarah. "Follow those who inspire you on Instagram and see what they're creating. Get inspired! And use that excitement to fuel your creativity."

Is your sweet tooth calling you? Check out Sarah's beautiful mouth-watering treats at www.instagram.com/baking with sarah.







New Equipment, New Opportunities

Our highly-popular Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC&R) shop received an impressive renovation. A \$225,000 FY22 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant allowed the District to keep pace with technological advancements by acquiring new equipment.

The District acquired and installed industry-grade equipment like air purification systems, boilers, furnaces, building automation workstations, and line sets. The numerous upgrades increased the vocational-technical training for our day students and adult learners. In FY23, we expanded our Moonlight Programs, offering a new Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration course to help increase the number of skilled workers entering the trades.

The shop renovation occurred over the 2022 summer break with the help of students, staff, retirees, and the Facilities department, which manages numerous preventative maintenance projects. It was an impressive undertaking:

- All furniture and equipment were removed.
- Shop ceiling, walls, and trim were cleaned and painted.

- Interior and exterior shop doors were replaced.
- Installation included a new epoxy floor, LED lighting, moveable wood workstations, a sink, student lockers, a heating/AC unit, and standard safety signage.

In-house resources were used to clean, paint, and install equipment and workstations. Vocational instructors helped with plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and painting projects. Additionally, HVAC&R Instructor Matthew LaJoie, had students Travis Cook and Robert Poirier work in the shop over the summer, as did Painting & Design Instructor Tim Buono, who worked with students Maddison Moore and Emma Fiore.

The District will make nearly a half-million dollars of enhancements parlaying the grant from the state with a \$200,000 match from its certified excess and deficiency fund with the added value of student project designers and laborers to renovate without financially impacting local tax dollars or municipal assessment requests.

If you're ready to take that next step toward a new and exciting career, one of our adult Moonlight Programs might be for you.

www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/moonlightprograms



Hands-On Skills

"It is nice to work on clean, new equipment," said Victoria Russo of Milford, a junior in our HVAC&R program. "But the reality is, we will not only be working on and installing brand-new systems. So having access to the older equipment for training and knowing how it works is helpful as we will encounter them when working in the field."

Victoria recently attended the Massachusetts Girls in Trades Conference and Career Fair. She said, "It was an excellent opportunity to meet other strong women with insight into the benefits of the trade union. I want to continue to advance my vocational training."

As a skilled young woman, Victoria is in a unique position to inspire young women to pursue their passion and find their confidence in the skilled trades. How amazing is that?!?!

Celebrating Our Seniors

Spring can be a bittersweet time for our seniors as they prepare to graduate and complete their high school careers



CLEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023

Senior Class Day This ceremony included Academic and Vocational Awards, Attendance Awards, Yearbook Dedication, Class Officer, and Commendation recognition for the Class of 2023.

Full Steam Ahead!

Our Cooperative Education Program (Co-op) held its 3rd annual Career Signing Day on May 12th. The ceremony celebrated our senior Co-op and career placement students who announced their career plans and signed a commitment letter to work with their employer after graduation. They've proven to their employers that they're ready to go, full steam ahead, directly from high school into high-skill, high-wage employment. www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/careersigningday2023

2023 Scholarship Night

The generous donation of scholarships and awards makes a difference in the lives of our graduates. At Scholarship Night on May 23rd, we thanked our donors for their generosity and continued partnership in support of our future graduates, and we distributed Community, Memorial, and Military awards. Check out the awarded scholarships that will help propel our graduates toward a bright future: www.valley tech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients2023

Few know the obstacles you have overcome to be where you are today. You, the Class of 2023, are part of our legacy and forever a part of our collective voyage. As you set your sights on your future goals, do not give up on your dreams, because real magic happens when you take a leap of faith and believe in yourself. We look forward to celebrating your continued success. Congratulations!

> - Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director

Marking a Milestone

We celebrated our graduates and said farewell as they left for their next great adventure. The Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony was held at The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Worcester on May 25th. To view the ceremony, visit: www.valleytech.k12. ma.us/classof2023.

CAREER & LIFE READY

- CLASS OF 2022 ———

CLASS OF 2021 ———



College is a continuation of learning. Many of our students simultaneously pursue a post-secondary education while working in their vocations.

GRADUATES

-CLASS OF 2023 —

POSTSECONDARY PATHS

POSTSECONDARY PATHS POSTSECONDARY PATHS







300

GRADUATES





20.20% (60 students) Workforce/ Apprenticeship Program



6.73% 70.37% (209 students) (20 students) 4 Year College/ 2 Year College Tech College Certificate Program



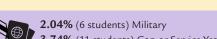
15.65% (46 students) Workforce/ Apprenticeship Program



73.47% (216 students) 4 Year College/ Tech College



Program





1.67% (5 students) Military 2.67% (8 students) Gap or Service Year



0% (0 students) Military 2.69% (8 students) Gap or Service Year



Massachusetts College of Art & Design

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Medway Oil & Propane, Inc.

3.74% (11 students) Gap or Service Year

Off to work they go, building credentials, pursuing industry licenses, certifications, and degrees.

Assumption University rmy National Guard Barrows Contracting Inc. Bryant University Centerline Mechanical LLC

Dean College Dileo Gas Inc. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Emmanuel College Frank I. Rounds Company G&C Plumbing & Heating

Grieco Flectric

Georgia Institute of Technology

New England Institute of Technology

MiltonCAT

TJ's Plumbing & Heating University of the Arts London Victory HVAC Wayne I. Griffin Electric Inc. Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

CAREER & LIFE READY | 11

Members of the Class of 2023 earned more than 320 scholarships and awards with a collective renewable value nearly exceeding 7 million.

A total of 268 juniors and sophomores participated in the fall PSAT/ NMSQT and early spring PSAT-10 exam administrations during the 2022-23 school year. The tests designed by the College Board are an early indicator of potential student success on the SATs and in the Advanced Placement program.

An Amazing Year of Achievements

Our students continually demonstrate mastery of rigorous academic studies and industry-validated vocational-technical competencies.

In May 2023, all Advanced Placement students took their AP College Board Exams in person. These traditional and difficult exams are designed for students to earn college credit for an AP class. Spring 2023, **373 AP course exams** were given to 345 students in English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, U.S. History, Biology, Chemistry, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Human Geography, Psychology, Physics 1, Physics C: Mechanics, and Spanish Language & Culture. Our English Literature & Composition students also participated in the College Board's pilot study by taking their exams online.

For the past 24 years, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams have played an important role in determining a student's readiness for career and college. Students are required to achieve a Competency Determination on these exams. It's a graduation requirement.

Positive outcomes...

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released the 2022 MCAS results on September 29, 2022, providing the state with its second overview of statewide learning since the start of the pandemic. The latest results were "mixed," said DESE, and state education officials said the learning loss due to the pandemic and its shift towards remote schooling for more than two years was still showing up in standardized test results.

However, as educators across the state reviewed their results, some districts, including ours, have shown improvement. The data reflected the scores of the Class of 2024, who took the MCAS exam as sophomores. It is worth noting that this class began their BVT careers remotely during the pandemic and, due to an altered testing schedule, had not taken an MCAS since the 7th grade.

The results were impressive despite the pandemic-related challenges. 79% of students in English Language Arts were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Mathematics, 75% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Science (Biology and Physics combined), 72% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. All were well above the reported state averages.

After examining the MCAS data and reflecting on the results, it was apparent to Mr. Evans that the positive outcomes were no accident. Instead, he credits the improvements to hard-working students and dedicated teachers. "We strive to do everything possible to keep our kids engaged and focused on learning. This was especially true during the pandemic," said Mr. Evans. "We put in the effort and worked with an all-hands-on-deck approach to make school happen, no matter what that looked like. We were quick to adapt to an unorthodox model during the pandemic because we have an unorthodox model operating within a longer school year."

Despite the pandemic-related challenges, the results were impressive. 79% of students in English Language Arts were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Mathematics, 75% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. In Science (Biology and Physics combined), 72% of students were in the Exceeding or Meeting Expectations category. All were well above the reported state averages.

BVT is proud to have an enviable history of high student growth and achievement well above the state averages.

Milton



Partnerships: A Win-Win!

With the recent shortage of people entering the construction industry, combined with the hiring challenges all companies are facing, building a professional association that can be mutually beneficial is a winwin. Partnerships can foster innovation, communication, and connection.

We are proud to have partnered with Milton CAT and its sister companies, SITECH Northeast, Milton Rents, and Tri-Point Construction Layout, which offers valuable industry insight through guest speakers, on-site demonstrations, mentorships, and co-op opportunities.

"Through our partnership with BVT, we are supporting our industry's future. An industry on which our country's infrastructure depends," Mark Biron, Milton CAT's Vice President of Service, explained. "We hope to help set the students up for success in their trade and show them, through first-hand experiences, how rewarding their careers can be."

With their headquarters in Milford, MA, Milton CAT offers accessible co-op opportunities. Recently, two of our students worked in their service and parts departments. They helped rebuild machine components such as hammer attachments and hydraulic

cylinders in service. Where as in parts, the students experienced the entire parts lifecycle, from maintaining inventory integrity to fulfilling customer orders.

"The partnership with Milton CAT has created new learning opportunities for our skilled students to delve deeper into their career options," said Superintendent-Director Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "While there are many paths to success, we are proud to see our students further their vocational-technical training alongside industry experts and gain experience that will help launch their careers."

This relationship has the potential to set a new threshold for cost-effective community collaboration with more on-campus events that support our students in their career pursuits. It's nice to have Milton CAT by our side, offering our students numerous career opportunities as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Generous Donation Supports Career Education

We are honored to have a partner like the PulteGroup, who is supporting vocationaltechnical education.

PulteGroup, Inc., one of America's largest homebuilders, has announced its New England division recently contributed \$10,000 to the Blackstone Valley Tech Educational Foundation, Inc. The donation will enhance our students' learning experiences in our Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, Construction Technology, Electrical, HVAC&R, and Plumbing programs.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is an important part of our culture at PulteGroup," said Brian Lupien, Vice President of Operations for PulteGroup's New England division. "At BVT, incredible work happens every day to prepare tomorrow's leaders for the many family-sustaining career possibilities in the homebuilding trades. We are proud to do our part to support

their efforts and help more students get a head start on their future."



"On behalf of our school community, I want to thank PulteGroup for their generous donation," said Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director. "Thanks to partners like Pulte-Group, we can provide our students with the highest quality vocational-technical education central to the careers of today and tomorrow."

Our Students Shine at SkillsUSA

The annual SkillsUSA competition series is a showcase for vocational technical education where students test their competency by competing with each other in hands-on technical exams designed and judged by industry leaders and experts. In 2023, our students proved their technical skills are among the best in the country by earning 173 medals at the district, state, and national levels.

NATIONAL VOTING DELEGATES

- Kallie Allen of Hopedale
- Ella Foster of Hopedale
- · Allison Garden of Millbury

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN

· Hunter Claflin of Douglas

STATE OFFICER

· Kallie Allen of Hopedale, Officer Candidate Elect

activities

Massachusetts District V Conference

37 Gold, 37 Silver, 30 Bronze

Massachusetts State Leadership & Skills Conference 25 Gold, 19 Silver, 18 Bronze

National Leadership & Skills Conference 1 GOLD

· Caitlin Brown, Health Occupations Professional Portfolio

3 SILVER

- Riley Driver, Industrial Motor Control
- Daniel Cardone and Natalia Vazquez, Web Design

BRONZE

- Lucien Stene iem and Jacob Giancola, Robotics & Automation Technology
- Emily Wildfeuer, Architectural Drafting

5TH PLACE

- Naomi Tsuc la, Commercial Baking
- Grant Purcell, Grace Mathieu, and Ava Mills, Career Pathways Showcase/ Industry & Engineering

7TH PLACE

- Skyler Robinson, Restaurant Service
- Carolyn Powers, Collision Damage Appraisal

All contestants who medaled or met a threshold contest score were awarded a Skill Point Certificate.

Drama Club Presents Standarder's In the Heir

Many were intrigued, hungry, and joined us for our Drama Club's production of "Murder's in the He on May 4th and 5th.

This interactive dinner mystery theatre by American playwright, Billy St. John is where you, the audience, must follow the clues to determine who did it. Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire is a suspec and almost every character in this hilarious mystery has the motive, means, and opportunity to commit the unseen crime.

Drama advisors Chelsea Swan and Alicia Winske directed the show, which featured many vocational department contributions. Culinary Arts students prepared and catered a delicious dinner for guests to enjoy while taking in the production's impressive set made by our Construction Technology students. Multimedia Communications created tickets and advertising materials, and many of the props were sourced from those shops and with the help of Health Services and Automotive Technology.

5 Years in a Row!

this top award.

For their exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that assist the school and community,

our Student Council has once again been recognized as a 2023 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council. It is the fifth consecutive year our Student Council has earned

To meet the National Council of Excellence Award requirements, a student council must meet various criteria, such as crafting a written constitution, conducting regular meetings, and adopting a democratic election process. Additionally, demonstrate successful sponsorship and participation in leadership development and activities that serve its community.

It has been an exceptional year for the Council, named a Gold Council by the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC), and Megan Potenti, earning the 2023 Henry Sullivan MASC Advisor of the Year Award.

ACTIVITIES & CLUBS | 17

Celebrating Excellence The accomplishments of our students and staff included numerous awards and recognitions in FY23.

Project Lead the Way **Distinguished School**

The nationally recognized nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way (PLTW) has named BVT a 2022-23 PLTW Distinguished School. It is the sixth consecutive year that we have earned this national recognition.



The FIRST Impact Award

Our Robotics Team, Team 61, The Intimidators, competed against the top robotics teams across New England and won the FIRST Impact Award (formerly the Chairman's Award). It is the most prestigious award at FIRST, it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the mission of FIRST. It was created to keep the central focus of FIRST Robotics Competition on the ultimate goal of transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encouraging more of today's youth to become science and technology leaders.

BVT Earns NEASC Accreditation!

NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity. The Committee on Technical and Career Institutions, at its June 25, 2023 meeting, reviewed the Decennial Accreditation Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and voted to

award the school continued accreditation in the New of Schools & Colleges.

MAVA/MVA Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year

Each year, this award is presented by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA) to one student who have made significant contributions to their local school district and the statewide vocational education system. Recipients must have excellent attendance, a minimum of a 3.5 GPA, and vocational-related work experience. In addition, the students must demonstrate leadership qualities, technical competence, involvement in the community, and extraa well-rounded and dedicated senior in our Engineering & Robotics program, earned the 2023 MAVA/MVA Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year award.



Community Investments

Our students participate in community projects each year, which provide a tangible return on investment for District residents and provide our students with invaluable hands-on, realworld experience. Whether it's reconstructing a playground, creating a sign for your business, or remodeling a public building or local landmark, we believe in giving back by using our vocational training and skills to enhance the communities that support our students. BVT's work on capital improvement projects throughout our 13-town District is a welcome source of financial relief for local budgets by utilizing in-house talent and resources. We're proud to provide additional savings to District residents by welcoming our stakeholders to enjoy discounted services in our student-run restaurant. salon, and design and print center.

A few examples of the FY23 community projects include:

Lions Club Dropbox

The eyeglass collection box for the Lions Club was a multi-shop project involving skilled students in our Drafting & Design Technology, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, and Paint ing & Design Technology working together to complete this project. Matthew Mooney of Douglas, a senior in Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing, used body filler and sanding techniques to repair dents to ensure a smooth surface was prepared before a paint was applied to the metal box.

A Badge of Honor

A team of our Multimedia Communications students worked on a logo redesign project for the Municipal Police Institute (MPI). Based in Grafton, MA, this non-profit organization provides cutting-edge training for Massachusetts law enforcement officers. Ultimately, the team at MPI chose the design created by Avery Herrick, a junior from Uxbridge. After a few iterations, the logo was ready. Avery also put the logo on t-shirt renderings to give MPI a more accurate idea of how it would look when used on clothing.

Eagle Scout Project

Our Painting & Design Technology students helped Nicholas Coppolino (Troop #1 Blackstone) complete his Eagle Scout project. The students applied a patriotic vinyl wrap to a collection box. The box is intended to collect worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled American flags. When a flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed, in a dignified way, preferably by burning. The flags collected in this box will be properly disposed of in a flag retirement ceremony.

If you have a tattered American flag that is no longer suiteable for display, swing by the Blackstone Town Hall and drop it in the collection box. From there it will be honored, burned, deposited into an outer burial container, and then buried with full honors during a flag retirement ceremony.



return on mvestment

Maximizing Our Budget, Reducing Costs & Enhancing Education

As a regional school district, we take many steps to create a mindful and sustainable operational budget that compliments local assessments. Our proposed annual budget for the fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) was advanced and unanimously approved by its 13-member town district. With the assistance of gifts, grants, private funding, and a minor increase in state aid, the District kept the budget to a 4.9% increase. To help offset the state-mandated escalation of our member town's minimum contributions (4.6% in FY23), the District applied \$225,000 of its available reserve funds to reduce the assessment impact on its municipal partners.

Our Excess & Deficiency (E&D) Funds are generated by maximizing federal, state, and local grant opportunities and donations through individual and business partnerships. The District realized cost savings through investments in utility efficiencies, identifying and securing rebates, sound purchasing practices, and providing technical services via on-campus trade specialists and students. Our Facilities Department, vocational instructors, and students in HVAC&R and Construction Technology programs often collaborate and use their training and skill to maintain our facility during the school year. These identified sources provide savings that directly contribute to E&D and reflect our commitment to fiscal austerity.

The FY23 operating budget of \$27,690,140 was funded primarily by \$9,877,063 in Chapter 70 & 71 State Aid and \$17,228,077 in Total Member Assessments. BVT is a fiscally responsible partner in seeing our District towns through fiscal management, austerity, and planning by presenting a consolidated annual request to operate within the dollars requested regardless of any unforeseen variables within anticipated revenue streams.

Budgeted Revenue Required to Support Operational Expenditures

Revenue Category	FY2021	% Incr	FY2022	% Incr	FY2023	% Incr
Member Town Assessments						
Minimum Contribution	\$12,576,061	5.59%	\$13,031, 695	3.62%	\$13,631,634	4.60%
Non Net School Spending Items*	\$1,676,735		\$1,698,994		\$2,020,867	
Member Credits/Charges **	\$1,045,617		\$1,278,241		\$1,167,276	
Debt Service	\$446,550		\$429,850		\$408,300	
Total Member Assessments	\$15,744,963	5.23%	\$16,438,780	4.41%	\$17,228,077	4.80%
State Aid						
Chapter 70 – Regional Aid	\$8,211,324		\$8,228,565		\$8,564,738	
Transportation Reimbursement	\$1,204,663		\$1,271,357		\$1,312,325	
Total State Aid	\$9,415,987	1.73%	\$9,499,922	0.89%	\$9,877,063	3.97%
Other Revenue Sources						
Miscellaneous Income	\$217,000		\$233,000		\$360,000	
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$225,000		\$225,000		\$225,000	
Total Other Revenue	\$442,000	4.25%	\$458,000	3.62%	\$585,000	27.73%
GRAND TOTALS	\$25,602,950	3.90%	\$26,396,702	3.10%	\$27,690,140	4.90%

^{*}Non NSS Items Include: Transportation (over state aid), Capital Equipment, and Retiree Medical.

Grant Program awards grants for the purchase and installation of equipment to support vocational and technical training. These equipment upgrades aim to expand career technical education and training programs that are aligned to regional economic and workforce development priorities for in-demand industries, providing students training for career opportunities in high-skill, high-demand industry sectors.

> James Poplasky, Skills Capital Grant Manager for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education

^{**}Additional assessments constitute contributions over and above the Massachusetts Department of Revenue established absolute minimum obligation (AMO) levels. The Commonwealth has acknowledged the AMO does not include all costs nor address actual inflationary expenses. Additional assessments are calculated under equalized per-student charges for all member communities.

Complementing Community Support

As part of our mission to transform education, we complement community support by seeking non-taxpayer resources and aggressively pursuing available public and private grants or donations to enhance learning and support programs and services for our students. In FY23, local assessments were complemented by nearly \$3 million in grants, private-sector support, and efficiencies.

We're proud to enhance our academic, vocational, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community. Thanks to the MA Skills Capital Grant program, BVT has received over \$4 million in grants from the Baker-Polito and the Healey-Driscoll Administrations. The District has historically used grants to complete numerous enhancements and upgrades without financially impacting our sending towns.

In FY23, the MA Skills Capital Grant program awarded BVT a \$1.25 million grant for new industry-grade equipment in our Construction Technology, Electrical, Electronics & Engineering Technology programs and a \$150,000 grant for equipment in our Health Services and Dental

Assisting program. The new equipment will allow for enhanced training.

Finding skilled talent for in-demand roles is among the greatest challenges impacting Massachusetts' economy. We need to harness the full potential of our community colleges, technical schools, apprenticeship programs and untapped talent to train the next generation of workers who will drive our economy, and we need to make sure those workers' rights are protected each step of the way.

> Lauren Jones to be Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

In addition to grants, \$133,523 in generous donations from business and industry partners were secured. For example, a \$60,000 donation from Milton CAT will allow the District to purchase a heavy equipment simulator for our

Construction Pathways. Our students can access advanced, in-depth scenarios necessary to enhance training and assist in the Hoisting Engineer licensure exam preparation. A \$10,000 donation from Pulte-Group, Inc., will enhance student learning in our Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication, HVAC&R, Construction Technology, Electrical, and Plumbing programs. Our student transportation vans, used for community projects and educational field trips, are maintained with the support of several local banks.

Thanks to these competitive grants, learning opportunities were made possible by:

- Bayer Fund supported the entry fees for our robotics team to participate in the FIRST® Robotics competitions, enhancing their skills in science and engineering.
- Blackstone Valley Education Foundation funded 3D Printers and graphing calculators used by our Engineering & Robotics students.
- Member Town Cultural Councils supported our Multicultural Festival and Paint Night: Kindness Matters event.

Grant	Amount
Competitive Grants	
Anonymous Donor (Machining, Welding, Plumbing Equip.)	\$400,000
Fuel Up to Play 60 (Picnic Tables & VITA Fitness Equip.)	\$4,000
Bayer Fund (FIRST Robotics Team 61 Competition Entry Fees)	\$3,000
Member Town Cultural Councils (Multicultural Festival)	\$3,000
MA Cultural Council (Multicultural Festival & Paint Night)	\$2,500
BVEF (Engineering – 3D Printer)	\$2,000
MA Dental Society Foundation (Project SMILE – Oral Hygiene Kits)	\$2,000
Member Town Cultural Councils (Paint Night)	\$1,400
BVEF (Engineering – Graphing Calculators)	\$1,000
Competitive Grants Subtotal	\$418,900
Federal Entitlement Grants	
Special Education 94-142 (IDEA)	\$335,577
Perkins	\$182,623
Title I	\$43,029
Title IIA	\$17,225
Title IV	\$10,000
Perkins Post-Secondary (PN Program)	\$4,138
Federal Entitlement Grants Subtotal	\$592,592

Grant	Amount
State Entitlement Grants	
MA Skills Capital Grant (Construction, Electrical, Electronics Equip.)	\$1,250,000
Dept. of Public Health (School Based Health Center/Milford Reg. Medical Center)	\$150,000
MA Skills Capital Grant (Health Services, Dental Assisting Equip.)	\$150,000
MA Life Sciences Center (Biotech Cell Culture Equip./ Professional Develop.)	\$73,268
Career Tech Ed. Perkins Program Improvement (Engineering Equip.)	\$39,610
Career Tech Ed. Equitable Access (Students w/Disabilities	\$21,200
MA State Funded Legislative Special Support (Student Wellness Center Equip.)	\$20,000
Career Tech Ed. Programs – Perkins Reserve (PN Program)	\$11,895
Grade 10 Math Acceleration Academy, Summer 2022 (Fed. COVID Relief Prog. – ESSER)	\$11,250
State Entitlement Grants Subtotal	\$1,727,223

FY23 GRAND TOTAL \$2,738,715

The District also secured substantial donations in the form of cash, tools, raw materials, and technology.

grants

Recognition of Retirement & Welcoming New Members*

With sincere appreciation, we thank Mr. David R. Bartlett and Mrs. Julie H. Mitchell for their years of service and dedication as District School Committee members. We offer warm wishes and congratulations as they conclude their term of office. On January 19, 2023, the School Committee appointed and welcomed two new members:

- James M. Mitchell of Sutton
- Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton

Our School Committee is comprised of 13 dedicated individuals, elected district-wide, with representation from each of our member towns. With many years of experience in fields ranging from business and industry to law and education, they provide invaluable expertise in overseeing operations and setting District policy.

Chair: Joseph M. Hall - Bellingham Vice Chair: Gerald M. Finn - Millville

Assistant Treasurer: Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. - Millbury

Secretary: Anthony M. Yitts - Grafton

Joseph A. Broderick - Blackstone Mark J. Potter - Douglas Mitchell A. Intinarelli - Hopedale

Edward D. Cray, III - Mendon Paul J. Braza - Milford Jeff T. Koopman - Northbridge Julie H. Mitchell - Sutton* David R. Bartlett - Upton* James H. Ebbeling - Uxbridge

Superintendent-Director: Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal: Anthony E. Steele, II

Business Manager: Lorna M. Mangano District Treasurer: Christopher C. Pilla

The success of our mission wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the residents and business partners of our District. Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, based in Upton, Massachusetts, proudly serves the towns of:

Bellingham	Grafton	Milford	Northbridge
Blackstone	Hopedale	Millbury	Sutton
Douglas	Mendon	Millville	Upton
			Uxbridge

Thanks to support from District towns, advisory committees, business partners, and local stakeholders, Blackstone Valley Tech offers expert training in the following vocational programs:

- Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication
- Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology
- Construction Technology
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assisting
- Drafting & Design Technology (2-year program for Juniors and Seniors only)

- Electrical
- Electronics & Engineering Technology
- Engineering & Robotics
- Health Services
- · Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Information Technology
- Multimedia Communications
- Painting & Design Technology
- Plumbing

We also offer Moonlight Programs for adult learners:

- Advanced Manufacturing Foundational Skills
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Practical Nursing (Post-Secondary)

Get Social with Us!



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www.instagram.com/bvt_highschool





Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568 508-529-7758 www.valleytech.k12.ma.us

