

THE **FBLA** EXPRESS



JANUARY 2025 | WINTER EDITION ❄️



Leading



Beyond



Limits

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller



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“People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day.” - Winnie the Pooh

A Note from the 2024-2025 State Officer Team!

Hello New York State FBLA Members and Advisers,

Happy Winter from the New York State Officer Team!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! We are thrilled to see the progress that NYS FBLA chapters have made this year and cannot wait to see everyone at the upcoming State Leadership Conference. In this issue of the Express, we proudly highlight the achievements and activities that have taken place so far in the 2024-2025 membership year.


NYS FBLA's goal is to help all members discover their full leadership potential through providing community service, networking, and competitive opportunities. Thanks to everyone's hard work, perseverance, and commitment to improving our world, we continue to make great strides in achieving our mission.

A heartfelt thank you to all NYS chapters for your unwavering dedication in inspiring the leaders of tomorrow. Your commitment to fostering leadership skills, encouraging personal growth, and motivating members to "Lead Beyond Limits" is shaping the future of business. Together, we are empowering the next generation of visionary leaders who will contribute to the betterment of society.

Good luck to all members competing at their Spring District Meetings! We know that you will do fantastic!

Sincerely,

Your 2024-2025 NYS FBLA State Officer Team

 "Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working." - Pablo Picasso



hello
WINTER



“I’d rather regret the things I’ve done than regret the things I haven’t done.” -Lucille Ball



“TOGETHER, WE CAN
SAVE MORE LIVES.”

By: Kayleigh Harney, Reporter

In July 2024 at State Officer Training, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital was voted as NYS FBLA’s State Charity for the 2024-2025 membership year. According to St. Jude’s website, their mission is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of their founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family’s ability to pay.

NYS FBLA is dedicated to supporting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and its incredible mission. There are several opportunities for our chapters to get involved and contribute to this cause, and we strongly encourage all chapters to take full advantage of these opportunities to make a meaningful impact.

First, chapters can consider making a direct financial donation after organizing a fundraiser. For example, chapters can raise funds by hosting events such as a car wash, bake sale, talent show, trivia night, etc. St. Jude even has resources on their website to help plan a fundraiser!



Second, chapters can also consider donating their time via volunteering at their local St. Jude location. Chapters should contact their regional St. Jude office to learn about ways to volunteer your time in their area.

Third, chapters can attend a fundraising event in their area. Find an event, livestream or virtual fundraiser near them, and help raise money for kids with cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Fourth, chapters can raise money for St. Jude via social media. Chapters should go to the website for more information.

There are many unique opportunities to support St. Jude, such as participating in St. Jude PLAY LIVE, a global video game charity event where you can fundraise by playing video games and creating content for the kids of St. Jude!

Overall, St. Jude is a well-established nonprofit with a wide variety of opportunities to help chapters to give in many different ways. When our chapters give to St. Jude, their donation can help save the lives of kids with cancer and other life-threatening diseases worldwide. So, NYS FBLA, let’s get started on making a far-reaching, positive impact!

“In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different.” - Coco Chanel





POW UPDATES!



In July 2024, the State Officer Team created 12 POW challenges to encourage our membership’s community involvement, career and technical education, membership recruitment, and leadership development. We would like to not only remind our membership of these exciting challenges but also encourage everyone to actively participate and take full advantage of the opportunities they present. Engaging in these challenges will help you develop valuable skills, push your boundaries, and contribute to your growth as a leader.

Please keep on the lookout for four POW reminder emails, each coming from a different POW Committee. These emails will provide detailed information about the challenges and offer an opportunity for you to reach out with any questions regarding the challenges.

These emails will also remind you that the deadline for all the challenges is February 15, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST. This includes all the challenges but the Early Bird challenge, which was already due.

In addition, those who are interested in competing for the Super Ribbon, which is an award given to members who complete all the POW Challenges, must submit all challenges by the due date.

Finally, the State Officer Team would like to congratulate all members who earned a spot on the POW Committee Council! These members have demonstrated exceptional merit and commendable dedication to FBLA. Council members, please be on the lookout for emails regarding meeting details and information. See you all soon! The NYS State Officer Team wishes everyone luck on their POW challenges, and cannot wait to review your submissions.

Congratulations to all our POW State Council Members!

Recruitment & Retention

- Lillian Zmuda - Mamaroneck
- Hannah You - Williamsville East
- Mariela Reyes Cabrera - William Floyd
- Komal Sandhur - Williamsville East
- Lillie Felder - Mamaroneck
- Gebriel Froehlich - Mamaroneck

Public Relations

- Ella Gross – Mamaroneck
- Arden Demasi – Mamaroneck
- Vera Farrell – Mamaroneck
- Maya Schein - Mamaroneck
- Luke Thayer – Commack
- Matthew Bakhsh - Floral Park

Career & College Readiness

- Maya Hammarley - Mamaroneck
- Caden Philip - Mamaroneck
- Charlie Carillo - Mamaroneck
- Zoey Zaumeyer - Mamaroneck
- Ebuka Emelumadu - Hendrick Hudson
- Ryan Umbarila - Longwood






Chapter Chat!

Local Updates + Question Prompt

What has your chapter done this Winter?



“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” - Henry David Thoreau



Learn how Tonawanda FBLA is representing NYS FBLA on the National Level!



Ten Tonawanda FBLA students traveled to Columbus, OH for the National Leadership Conference Nov. 8-9. We were NY state's only representation at this conference which consisted of approximately 1200 students from across the United States.

Students attended various workshops on several career and college topics. Other topics included The Business World, Financial Success, Empowerment, Dressing for Success, Time Management, and Networking. The keynote speaker, Alex Sheen, was especially moving and motivational with his program, "because I said I would." We brought home many ideas that we plan to include in our school and organization.

Besides the conference students were able to visit the Columbus Zoo, OtherWorld, and an International Market called North Market.

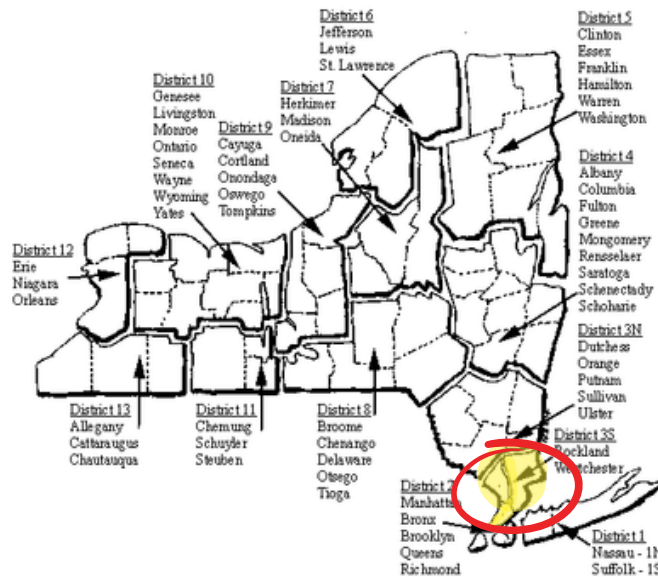


"We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them." - Albert Einstein

DISTRICT 3S FBLA REPORT



District 3S FBLA Gears Up for Spring District Meeting on February 7th, 2025!



We are very excited for the upcoming Spring District Meeting on February 7th, 2025! We will be hosting the chapters of District 3S and District 2 at Mamaroneck High School. FBLA members will be brought together for a fun evening with workshops, a keynote speaker, and more. Dinner will be served and members will get the chance to seek business connections while learning about officer positions and also partaking in several competition preliminaries.

This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow FBLA members of the district while learning more about the business world and more ways to get involved in FBLA. We can't wait to see you there!

“Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow.” - Mahatma Gandhi



Tri-Valley FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Tri-Valley FBLA Kicks Off the Year with Fundraising, Conferences, and Exciting Opportunities!



Tri-Valley FBLA has gotten off to a great start this school year. We started out with some fundraising in September and October. We sold Kringle Candles and we collected parking money at the annual tractor show. In November we attended the District 3N Fall District Meeting at Carmel High School. We had six of our members attend who participated in workshops, networked with other FBLA members in our district and even won the coin drop challenge! Just a week later we got on a plane and headed to the National Fall Leadership Conference in Columbus, OH. We participated in workshops, competitive events, and did some sightseeing! We had a fun night out at the FBLA social at Kemba Live where we had dinner and enjoyed some music and dancing. We checked out the North market for some food and also spent some time at the Easton Town Center for some retail therapy! To round out our time in Columbus we had an amazing private tour of the Columbus Blue Jackets arena where we got to see all of the behind the scenes action that goes into an NHL game! We are now gearing up for the Spring District Meeting in February and the State Leadership Conference in April. We have several members who are preparing to compete with hopes of making it to the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim later this year!



“When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return. You should give a good thought to the happiness that you can give out.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

MIDDLEBURGH FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Middleburgh FBLA Spreads Holiday Cheer and Explores Exciting Careers at Red Bulls Stadium!

Middleburgh's FBLA Chapter organized a Project Night Drive for Christmastime. We were able to collect a blanket, book, stuffed animal, and pjs plus other additional items for sixty less fortunate children in our county. We partnered with Community Maternity Services to do this and help make Christmas a little brighter for some children.



Middleburgh FBLA also went to High School Career Day at the Red Bulls Soccer Stadium in October. Students spent the morning exploring the stadium and listening to several presentations about all of the business related jobs available in the sports world. It was a great trip!



“When you change your thoughts,
remember to also change your world.”

—Norman Vincent Peale



RANDOLPH FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Randolph FBLA Spreads Holiday Cheer with the Arts for Hearts Challenge!

The Randolph FBLA middle and high school chapter recently fulfilled a key program of work requirement by bringing some holiday cheer to a local nursing home. As part of their community service initiative, the chapter members hand-delivered Thanksgiving cards to the residents. One of our talented members designed the thoughtful card, and all of our FBLA members took the time to sign it, adding a personal touch to each one.



The residents were delighted to receive these heartfelt cards, and their gratitude was truly moving. It was a rewarding experience for the students, as they were able to bring smiles to the faces of the elderly community members, many of whom may not have family visitors during the holidays. The event was not only a meaningful way to give back to the community, but it also allowed our FBLA members to connect with those in need, making the holiday season a little brighter for everyone involved. This experience highlighted the power of service and the joy that small acts of kindness can bring to others.



“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.” - Winston Churchill

GEORGE FISCHER FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



George Fischer Middle School Engages in Creative Community Projects!

The George Fischer Middle School FBLA club has had the privilege of teaming up with Carmel High School on a very successful Fall District Meeting which included many of our middle school members being introduced to some guest speakers who are experts in the field of business. They also got the opportunity to participate in business related competitive events. More recently GFMS FBLA has been working on several "Program of Work"



projects. One notable project they are working on is a work of art made from recyclable materials. Other projects they have been working on are "elevator speeches" and creating encouraging cards for veterans. Most recently, they attended a holiday party combined with GO, the boy's basketball and wrestling teams. The FBLA members were active is serving refreshments at the party. Several of our members are currently working hard for the Spring District Meeting competitions held at Carmel High School in February.



“The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same.” - Colin R. Davis





CLYMER FBLA CHAPTER REPORT

Clymer FBLA Celebrates Veterans and Makes a Lasting Impact with Community Service Projects!

The Clymer FBLA HS and ML chapters have been achieving our organization's goal of "fostering patriotism" by serving our local veterans. In May, we accompanied our local American Legion members to place flags on over 500 graves of our resting veterans who are buried within our school district among six local cemeteries. Throughout the summer and fall, we worked to gather names of active duty and newly retired military personnel who either live in the district or graduated from Clymer Central School to be inducted into our Clymer School Veteran's Honor Wall. For Veteran's Day, our members hosted local veterans to a homemade breakfast and

recognition program on November 9. Student members donated ingredients and prepared muffins, pancakes, bacon egg cups, hash browns, sausage and other tasty treats for our guests of honor. After the breakfast was enjoyed, our members recognized each veteran for their military service and presented them with medallions and a recognition slideshow that featured our local veterans during their time of service. Several members sang a patriotic song and then our members escorted our veteran guests from the breakfast downstairs and through the hallways that were lined with our entire UPK-12th grade students who waved flags, cheered and clapped to thank our guests of honor for their service to our country. There were several teary-eyed veterans who were very surprised and truly felt appreciated for their service.

Other community service projects this year have included sponsoring a holiday food drive for the local food pantry, collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, hosting two blood drives for the American Red Cross, and participating in a Trunk-or-Treat for the Clymer community on Halloween.



“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.” - Winston Churchill



JOHN JAY FBLA CHAPTER REPORT

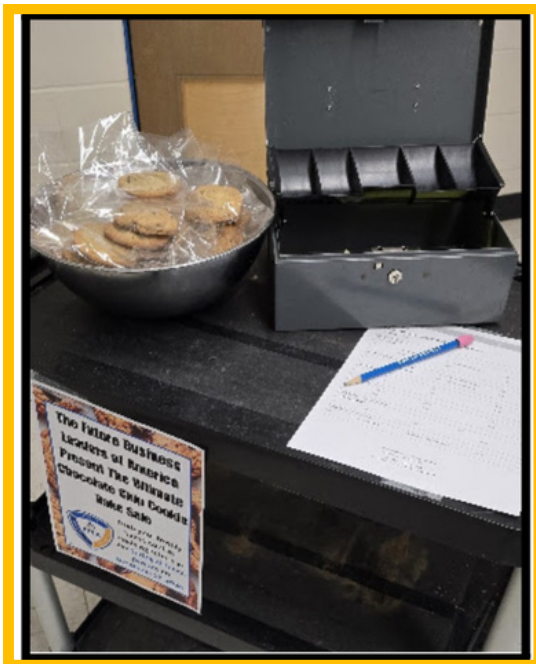


John Jay FBLA: A Fall Full of Impact and Exciting Winter Opportunities Ahead

As we wrap up a busy and impactful fall, the John Jay FBLA chapter continues to demonstrate the strength of its commitment to both community service and career readiness. Our students are more than just future business leaders—they're active participants in shaping the future of our school and local community. Here's a look at what we've been up to and what's on the horizon for the winter months:

Giving Back Through the Santa Letter Drive:

This fall, the John Jay FBLA chapter kicked off our annual Santa Letter Drive, delivering heartfelt letters to 37 local families right before Christmas. The joy brought to the children was priceless! A portion of the proceeds were donated to the March of Dimes, supporting their mission to improve the health of mothers and babies. Thank you to all our participating families for making this initiative a success!



Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookie Sales:

Our Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookie sales took a big step forward this fall, thanks to a unique collaboration between FBLA and our CTE Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) culinary course. By partnering with the culinary students, we were able to enhance our cookie production process, ensuring consistency and high quality. The FACS students baked and bagged our raw cookie materials, helping us deliver a product that was uniform in size, shape, and taste—making it even more irresistible to our customers! This partnership not only improved our sales but also highlighted the importance of cleanliness and sanitation routines in the kitchen, providing a hands-on learning experience for all involved. Stay tuned for more delicious sales in the future!

“If you are working on something that you really care about, you don’t have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.” - Steve Jobs





JOHN JAY FBLA CHAPTER REPORT

FBLA Awareness and Planning for Competitions:

This year, John Jay FBLA is actively increasing awareness of our club and its mission. Students have been hard at work developing the 2024-2025 Program of Work (POW), with big plans ahead for district and state competitions. We're excited for the opportunities to showcase our talents and compete on a larger scale, all while gaining invaluable skills for the future.

Winter Carnival: Fun, Games, and Community Support:

As we head into January and February, our chapter will once again be part of the annual Winter Carnival. FBLA members will be serving up popcorn, cotton candy, and running fun games to entertain local elementary and middle school families. This is a fantastic opportunity to show our school spirit while supporting lifelong learning in the wider community, alongside 60 other extracurricular clubs. We can't wait to see you there!

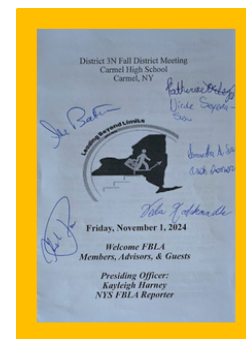


LifeSmarts Website & Middle School Course Selection:

Our FBLA students are also helping others prepare for their futures! Through the LifeSmarts website, students are engaging with online resources that cover topics like financial literacy and consumer rights. On January 23rd, FBLA members will assist with middle school course selection for students at Van Wyck Middle School during lunch periods. This ensures that our future high schoolers know their options and can make informed decisions about their business education pathways.

Fall District Meeting Recap & Spring District Meeting Ahead!

The John Jay FBLA chapter kicked off the year by attending the Fall District Meeting at Carmel High School. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to connect with peers, share ideas, and get inspired for the year ahead. We're already looking forward to the Spring District Meeting at the same location, where we'll dive deeper into competition prep and further strengthen our ties with other local FBLA chapters. The next few weeks are shaping up to be an exciting time!



“Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward.” - Vernon Sanders Law

JOHN JAY FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



As always, John Jay High School FBLA is proud to serve the Mid-Hudson Valley. We're constantly working to provide our members with experiences that enrich their leadership skills, foster community engagement, and promote personal growth. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to support our school and community!



Follow Us!

For the latest updates on events, fundraisers, and opportunities to get involved, be sure to follow the John Jay FBLA chapter on social media and visit our website.

Together, we are building tomorrow's leaders today!

For inquiries, or to learn more about how you can support John Jay FBLA, please contact Mike Batira (michael.batira@wcsdny.org) or Christopher Pollozzi (Christopher.pollozzi@wcsdny.org).



“To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live.” - Dorothy West



Broadalbin-Perth FBLA is Giving Back, Leading the Way, and Preparing for Future Success

Member Participation

Officers & Program of Work:

The members of the Broadalbin-Perth chapter, New York State District 4, have been able to give back to their community. Members have participated in group program of work challenges, among which was arts for hearts. Members went to Wilkinson Residential Health Care Facility in Amsterdam, NY, handing out cards, and flags to veterans present at the care facility, prior to Veterans Day.

The chapter members participated in their local officer elections, and during the Fall District Meeting (FDM), fellow chapter member Devon Oakden was elected District 4 public relations officer. Broadalbin-Perth elected FBLA officers include Devon Oakden as president, Alex Vogel and Hunter Pettit as Co-Vice presidents, Logan Haight as treasurer, and Jackson Winney as secretary. Members of Broadalbin-Perth FBLA have been able to raise awareness and involvement in their club through school events, and a yearly Christmas library window decorating competition.



Chapter Future Plan

Upcoming Month Involvement:

The FBLA members of Broadalbin-Perth plan to spend the next months after the Spring District Meeting (SDM), continuing to maintain community involvement, and develop their business experience in community service, and individual program of work.

Leading up to the State Leadership Conference (SLC), the chapter is going to study and practice, ensuring their victory to gain the ability to go to the National Leadership Conference (NLC).

The Broadalbin-Perth chapter members are looking forwards to participating in further FBLA events, and taking all of their ribbons to States!



“Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.” - Tony Robbins





APW FBLA Hosts Successful 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar for Students and Staff



APW (Altmar Parish Williamstown) FBLA hosted our 3rd annual Holiday bazaar. Staff donate gently used and new merchandise for students to shop for the holidays. Students were able to come down during assigned times as well as during study halls and afterschool to shop for their loved ones. Prices ranged from .25 cents to \$5.00 and free gift wrapping was offered.



“Anything can make me stop and look and wonder, and sometimes learn.” - Kurt Vonnegut

Hen Hud FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Hen Hud FBLA Kicks Off 2025 with Exciting Highlights and Big Plans Ahead!

Greetings FBLA,

I am Matt MacGilvray your Hen Hud FBLA Reporter wishing everyone a happy new year and congratulations on an excellent 2024. As we start 2025 strong, we just want to take a look back on all the exciting things that we've done in the first half of the school year.

These past few months, Hen Hud FBLA has been actively engaging themselves in unique and educational experiences. Recently, a group of our members had the incredible opportunity to tour MetLife Stadium, home of the New York Jets. This behind-the-scenes tour gave them a glimpse into the daily operations and management of a professional football team. The students were able to see firsthand how various departments work together to ensure the smooth running of game days & other events, provisioning them with valuable insights into the sports business industry.



In addition to visiting MetLife, Hen Hud FBLA hosted their 3rd annual flag football tournament, the "Turkey Bowl". The event was full of energy, with many students teaming up with their friends showing off their skills on the turf. This year, we raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and sent a donation \$180 to St. Jude's in Tennessee. The event has grown overtime & hopefully it continues to do so.



These activities highlight FBLA's commitment to providing its members with diverse & enriching experiences. By organizing educational tours & engaging events, FBLA helps students gain knowledge & build strong relationships. Hen Hud FBLA continues to show a sense of community and prepare our members for future leadership roles in the business world. For now, we have our eyes set on our Spring District Meeting & the SLC. Best of luck to everyone in the future.

"Either you run the day or the day runs you." - Jim Rohn





Lakeland FBLA Spreads Holiday Cheer and Builds Community with Gift Wrapping, Fundraising, and Creative Projects

1. JV Mall Gift Wrapping: Lakeland FBLA recently participated in their annual holiday community service event, offering complimentary gift-wrapping services at the Jefferson Valley Mall. This event not only spread festive cheer but also provided a meaningful way for the chapter to give back to their community. Chapter members fostered connections by wrapping gifts with care and engaging with shoppers and embodied the season's spirit.



2. Program of Work: The chapter has enthusiastically embraced various Program of Work challenges, allowing members to showcase their creativity and develop valuable business skills. During the holiday season, the chapter participated in 'Arts for Hearts,' a heartfelt initiative to create holiday cards for residents of nursing homes. With thoughtful illustrations and uplifting messages, Lakeland FBLA hopes these cards bring warmth, joy, and smiles to those who receive them, spreading holiday cheer and compassion throughout the community.



“He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior.” - Confucius

LAKELAND FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



3. Fundraising: Lakeland FBLA successfully conducted its first major fundraiser through SnapRaise, an email-based campaign, raising an impressive \$4,700. The funds will be instrumental in supporting chapter events, covering conference fees, and ensuring members can fully participate in opportunities that promote leadership, growth, and achievement.



4. Holiday Product Creation: In a Shark Tank-style event, chapter members split into teams to design an original holiday-themed invention. With only 20 minutes to brainstorm and refine their ideas, each group presented their product to a panel of judges, aiming to showcase its uniqueness and value. This engaging activity fostered teamwork, creativity, and persuasive communication skills, all while embracing the festive spirit.



“You can’t be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, overthinking it. You have to go down the chute.” - Tina Fey



Holland Patent FBLA Shines with Successful Events, Fundraisers, and Community Engagement

District 7's Holland Patent FBLA Chapter had quite a busy fall season! Over the past four months, they've organized fun, community-engaging events and worked hard to grow their chapter.

The Holland Patent FBLA runs the Knights' Corner Store out of a small room by the cafeteria each year. Despite its lack of size, FBLA members, including multiple officers, contributed to the improvement and maintenance of the store. Additionally, members and students are offered opportunities to manage the store during the class periods in which it is open. They gain leadership skills, experience with management, and entrepreneurship through their work. This year, an FBLA member completed our member discount chart, which allows students in FBLA to receive discounts on the items they purchase. The Knights' Corner Store generates a large annual profit thanks to its hard-working employees, FBLA members, and unconditional support from Holland Patent students and staff.

The HP FBLA held its first annual fall craft fair on September 21st to kick off the year. The event was planned during the previous school year and required constant communication with vendors and advertising for attendees. Holland Patent hosted over thirty vendors with a wide range of unique products at the event. Many of the vendors in attendance were locally or student-run. The craft fair also had a bake sale, Knights' Corner Store booth, and catering, courtesy of Little Jordino's. A basket raffle was held, including vendor-donated baskets. The event profited over \$1000.



“The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.” - David Hurley

HOLLAND PATENT FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



The second annual HP FBLA Haunted House was held on October 26th. This event required extensive planning. This was our largest volunteer event, with over 30 volunteers, and the Haunted House theme this year was “Twisted Circus.” Most of the event is funded by FBLA and any donated items we can gather. Most of the volunteers for this event were scare actors, who were costumed as circus performers including contortionists, magicians, ringmasters, and trapeze artists.



The premise of this event allowed crucial leadership skills to combine with creativity and a touch of acting. Non-scare actor volunteers included makeup artists, ticket salespeople, greeters, and gym monitors. In addition to the haunted house, games were held in the gym, and there was a bake sale. Attendance numbers greatly rewarded an exhausting day of decorating and preparing. The total profit of the event was around \$850.



“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” —Helen Keller

HOLLAND PATENT FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



The HP FBLA Induction Ceremony was held on December 5th. We inducted multiple new members and gained new officers for the group. This was a very special event that showed our members' dedication and determination to achieve great things. Our FBLA group is so proud to call these new inductees part of the FBLA force and can't wait to see what they will achieve in the future!



The HP FBLA showed their holiday spirit through a holiday movie night! They hosted this event on December 19th, at this event they had many attendants and jolly times. We had many members help run concessions, direct people, and set up the movie. A Lot of work went into setting up and selling food and drink throughout the movie, we couldn't be more grateful. We did make some profit from this event, the entry was free but we made around \$100 at concessions. So many people, little kid-adults, enjoyed this night. We plan on hosting this again many times because it was such a hit.

Overall, the Holland Patent FBLA collected \$8,580 from all of their hard work. They are looking forward to growing their income in the next few months, hopefully with continued support from their school, community, and local businesses!



“Get a good idea and stay with it. Dog it, and work at it until it’s done right.” —Walt Disney

CARMEL FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Carmel FBLA: Community Service, Preparation for SDM, and Growing the Future of FBLA

Over the winter Carmel High-School FBLA has been working on our Program of Work challenges, volunteering, and preparing for the SDM.

POW:

Carmel High School is hard at work with our POW challenges! Pictured is a roadside clean-up of Vink Drive near Carmel High School for the Trash-to-Treasure challenge!



Volunteering:

Carmel FBLA also volunteered at the local Holiday on the Lake Parade, where members assisted with the trolley and hayrides, all while enjoying the festive atmosphere, treats, and connecting with the community.

“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.” - Theodore Roosevelt



CARMEL FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Middle Level:

Carmel Central School District's middle school, George Fischer, has begun having their chapter work on POW, and participating in the SDM! Volunteers from the high-school chapter have been traveling to the middle school to help the chapter learn about FBLA, and prepare for their competitions.



SDM:

For the first time in years, Carmel is proudly hosting District 3N's SDM, and our members are fully dedicated to preparing and practicing for their performance events to ensure a successful and memorable gathering.

“Do not stop thinking of life as an adventure. You have no security unless you can live bravely, excitingly, imaginatively; unless you can choose a challenge instead of competence.” - Eleanor Roosevelt



SHARON SPRINGS FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Sharon Springs: Building Community, Leadership, and Success in 2024-2025

So far, the 2024-2025 year has been very productive for Sharon Springs FBLA. Between fundraising and preparing for competition, this year has kept all members busy. To start off the year, most of our members attended FDM. There, our members were able to participate in workshops and network with other members in our District. For our two State Officers, Yasmin Issa and Ava Jump, FDM was a huge success. Yasmin ran a Program of Work workshop and Ava planned FDM alongside their Board of Trustees member, Mr. Mueller. After FDM concluded we shifted our focus to community service and fundraising. Our chapter completed the Arts for Hearts POW, collaborating with our school's Student Council. To do this, we made Thanksgiving cards and delivered them to an assisted living facility in our community with flowers and baked goods. During the holiday season we were presented with several fundraising opportunities. These include our Pie and Cookie Dough sale where students fundraise individually, and the ALS Liz Handy Basket Raffle which contributes to our travel fund.



“If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.” - Dolly Parton

SHARON SPRINGS FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Currently our chapter's focus is on preparing for SDM and the State Leadership Conference. We plan on taking seven members to SDM and the rest to SLC. Ava Jump has been working with Mr. Mueller to plan it and make sure it runs smoothly. To support and thank our advisor, Mrs. Handy, for her hard work and dedication, our FBLA chapter collaborated with the Student Council to put together a gift basket. We presented this at a Girls Varsity Basketball game that was dedicated to her as both a teacher and an advisor. Mrs. Handy has dedicated herself to her school and FBLA for over 40 years and we wanted to show our appreciation. We are continuing to look for more ways to benefit our community and the members in it. Sharon Springs FBLA is excited for the coming months and are prepared to jump into competition!



“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” - Jane Goodall

JERICO FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Jericho FBLA's Path to Innovation and State Leadership

At Jericho High School, FBLA stands as an incredibly noteworthy club. With over 200 business-minded students vying to participate in competition, the club attracts countless new members annually. This year, under the leadership of our four presidents Ryan Landsberg, Bhavika Bhasin, Amneet Kaur, and Max Scharf, Jericho FBLA has spearheaded multiple initiatives to provide both new and existing members with the opportunity to distinguish themselves, and leave a lasting impression in order to be selected to participate in the 2025 FBLA State Leadership Conference.

One popular competition amongst new FBLA members has been the Jericho Shark Tank competition, set up and run primarily by FBLA President Ryan Landsberg. The competition began in November, with a preliminary round in which participants submitted one-minute elevator pitches. These pitches offered contestants the chance to demonstrate their innovative product or service ideas and persuade judges to “invest.” Judged by a panel consisting of FBLA advisors Mrs. Rogovitz, Mrs. Izzo, and Mr. Goldin, along with the four chapter presidents, the pitches were scored individually and averaged to determine the top four finalists.

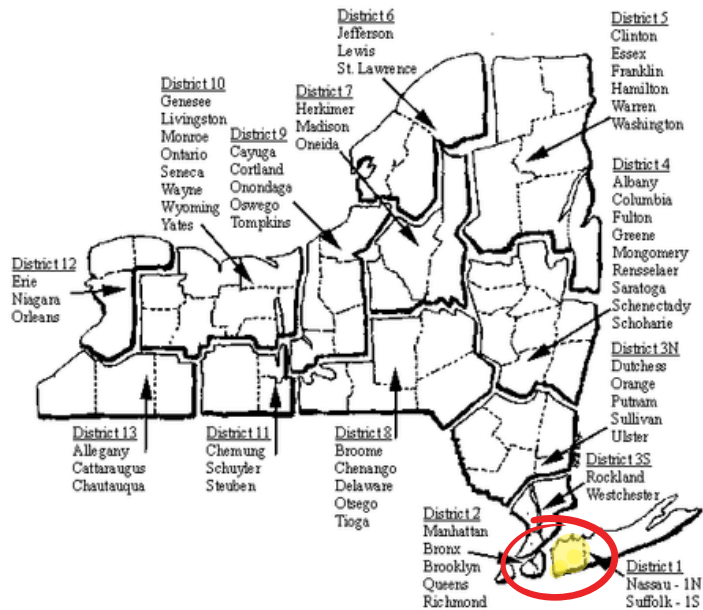


“The elevator to success is out of order. You’ll have to use the stairs, one step at a time.” - Joe Girard

JERICO FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



In December, the top four contestants—Eleanor Han, Aydin Cosgrave, Selina Wu, and Vihaan Agnihotri—were brought before a distinguished judging panel for the final round. This year’s panel consisted of FBLA President Ryan Landsberg, advisor Mrs. Rogovitz, Jericho’s Curriculum Associate of Business Dr. Sundberg, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Affairs Mr. Manuel. Each finalist presented their pitch live, demonstrating their innovation and communication skills. After careful consideration, Selina Wu was crowned the winner of this year’s Shark Tank competition for her outstanding presentation and creative pitch promoting her revolutionary reusable coffee filter.



By encouraging newer FBLA members to participate in the Shark Tank competition, many underclassmen have since been given the opportunity to establish themselves and find room for improvement, as they move forward to compete in new events at the State Leadership Conference in April. In fact, many of this year’s Jericho SLC participants have been selected based on their outstanding performance from the Shark Tank competition. Competitors were able to receive feedback from both FBLA advisors and presidents for their pitch ideas, content, and presentation skills. This allowed them to continue to improve their oratory skills, while sharpening their entrepreneurial mindsets.



“True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by discipline.” - Mortimer J. Adler

JERICO FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



On Friday Jan. 10, 8 Jericho FBLA students were selected to participate in the first round of elimination events at the 2025 FBLA Locals competition, held at Hofstra University. The event brought FBLA members from school districts across Nassau and Suffolk County, all vying for limited spots to qualify for the State Leadership Conference (SLC) in April. The same drive for excellence that shined through the Jericho Shark Tank competition carried over to the Locals Competition this year. From oral presentations and roleplay scenarios to specialized tests, the diverse array of events challenge students' quick-thinking abilities, public speaking skills, and procedural knowledge of the wide realm of business. This year, Jericho's 8 contestants all qualified for SLC, placing 1st and 2nd place in every event.



As the FBLA State Leadership Conference approaches, members have already started preparing for their events. Building upon previous experiences, Jericho FBLA's initiatives and competition opportunities have prepared both underclassmen and upperclassmen with the resources to succeed at the next level: SLC.



“He that can have patience can have what he will.” - Benjamin Franklin



Monroe-Woodbury FBLA: Winter Highlights, Holiday Fun, and Preparing for the Spring District Meeting

Fall District Meeting:

On Friday, November 1 from 3:00 - 8:00 pm, Monroe-Woodbury FBLA participated in FDM, the Fall District Meeting hosted by NYS State Reporter, Kayleigh Harney. The event was designed for the chapters of District 3N to network, participate in workshops, and prepare for the new FBLA year! Different announcements also featured this year including the results for our District officers as Monroe-Woodbury's own Sanjita Raja gets the nod as District Historian! Swathi Sathyamoorthy was also chosen to participate in the Battle of the Chapters. A game that tests chapter's knowledge of FBLA history. The event was a huge success and just the start of Monroe-Woodbury FBLA's 2024-2025 campaign.



MONROE WOODBURY FBLA CHAPTER REPORT



Winter Holiday Party:

On December 19th, 2024, our Monroe-Woodbury FBLA Hosted their very own festive holiday party! The event was held in the business classroom and held various foods, drinks including sodas, chips, cookies, fruit plates, and many more delicious treats! Numerous different events and activities were given to entertain the members as well! The members, hosted by presidents



Anya Malhotra and Pravin Jegan, participated in many FBLA related activities such as mock trials, Walmart A-Z quick think, and FBLA/Business what would you do? All related to the many business skills you can learn and obtain in FBLA, members can still learn in a fun and engaging way! A great way to celebrate and take a break as Monroe-Woodbury now sets to prepare for SDM competitions.

Spring District Meeting:

Monroe-Woodbury will be attending the 2025 Spring District Meeting on February 6th. In more recent meetings, members of our chapter have been focused on preparing for the various competitions that are offered at the event, including Public Speaking, Client Services, Business Law, Job Interview, and more. Both older members and the officer team have been helping newer members become familiar with competitive events, giving them tips on how to prepare effectively. We hope to continue prepping for SDM and wish everyone good luck on their competition!



“Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.” - Henry Ford





NYS **FBLA** HONOR SOCIETY

Why apply to the New York State Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society?

- An amazing opportunity to showcase your leadership skills
- An exceptional line on your resume
- An extra chord to wear at graduation!

Criteria to be considered for the New York State Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society include:

- Applicants must display traits of positive character, leadership, and service
- Applicants must be current active members in FBLA
- Applicants must have competed at the New York State Leadership Conference
- Applicants must have an overall average of at least 85%
- Applicants must demonstrate leadership potential through service as a chapter officer, committee leader, or other participation in chapter activities
- Applicants must demonstrate involvement in community service

The following items must be submitted on/or before February 15, 2025.

- A school transcript (may be official or unofficial)
- Student/Member application
- Adviser Recommendation Form



Recognizing Excellence in Leadership, Service, and Academics

The New York State Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society recognizes students who uphold academic excellence while displaying positive character, leadership, and service as a member of NYS FBLA. This year, applicants must apply by February 15, 2025.

Members must apply annually by submitting all required documentation for consideration for admission to the NYS FBLA Honor Society.

Members accepted into the FBLA Honor Society will be recognized at the State Leadership Conference in April.



“I never look back, darling. It distracts from the now.” - Edna Mode



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

THE BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (BAAS) ARE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN FBLA ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL WHILE DEMONSTRATING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES AS A LEADER! THESE COURSES HELP MEMBERS GROW AS INDIVIDUALS, GAIN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ORGANIZATION, AND GIVE THEM A COMPETITIVE EDGE IN THE BUSINESS WORLD. OVERALL, THE BAAS ARE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE!

What are the BAAs?

The BAAs have four levels for members to complete. This includes:

The Contributor Level, where members are introduced to FBLA and the ways they can make the most out of their experiences as an FBLA member through a fun interactive course.

The Leader Level, where members are introduced to the leadership concepts necessary to succeed as a community minded business leader in a global economy.

The Advocate Level: Understanding Ethics, where members can learn the fundamentals of ethical leadership based on the principles of Bill Daniels and the Daniels Fund Initiative.

The Capstone Project, where members get the opportunity to put what they have learned in school to the test and show off their skills to create lasting change.

Where are the BAAs on the National FBLA Website?

- Go to FBLA Connect
- Sign into your account
- Go to the More tab
- Hit Courses
- Then the BAA levels will pop up!

Why do the BAAs?

- An exceptional line on your resume
- An amazing opportunity to showcase your leadership skills
- College and Career advantages
- Recognition!



“I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been given a no, only to find that a better, brighter, bigger yes was right around the corner.” - Arlan Hamilton



fficer Outlook

A Closer Look at What it Means to be a Future Business Leader!



Look Who Submitted for this Issue!!



**Skye Fishman,
Parliamentarian**



**Yasmin Issa
Secretary**



**Summer Trevino
District 9 SVP**

Check it Out!!



“If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.” —Maria Edgeworth



By: Skye Fishman, Parliamentarian

Studying for Objective Tests:

So, it is coming to that time of year where NYS FBLA members are selecting and beginning to prepare for their competitive events. Many will soon be taking objective tests at their spring district meetings and eventually at the State Leadership Conference in Rochester.

Objective tests will typically (please see the posted 2024-2025 competitive event guidelines for details on your specific event) consist of 100 questions on your topic that you must complete in 50 minutes.

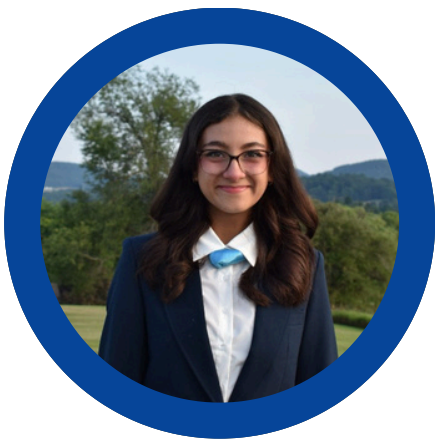
My advice to you is to treat this as you would a normal school test. Ultimately, you know what study methods work, and methods that do not work for yourself and every individual is different. I recommend creating a study plan incorporating the different techniques that you know work for you. Personally, I'd recommend taking several practice tests, making flashcards, and one niche thing that I find super helpful is actually teaching the topic to someone else. You will find when you teach a topic to a peer that it will greatly help you master that topic as well.

Please, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions relating to studying for your competitive event at my email, parliamentarian@nysfbla.org I would be happy to aid you in obtaining your goals!



“We can see through others only when we can see through ourselves.” —Bruce Lee





By: Summer Trevino, District 9 SVP

Saving Lives One Class at a Time:

The National Area Health Education Center (also known as AHEC) is an organization that strives to educate and train future healthcare workers. AHEC uses real-life situations to educate about the variety of needs within different socio-economic standpoints. This organization provides a scholars program for students interested in the healthcare field and develops community health education curriculums that are available for all students both online and in person. The training programs are developed through partnerships that meet various public health needs of rural and underserved populations.

Our school has had the privilege to experience some of these training programs as they have collaborated with our health classes over the past couple of days. A representative from AHEC came in to educate students on CPR, Narcan training and overdose, and Stop the Bleed. These programs are curated to make it more accessible for students to learn basic life-

saving procedures by putting them in real-life scenarios; for example, students were able to use Virtual Reality to simulate performing CPR on a patient and analyzing what needed to be done. This was a valuable experience along with Stop the Bleed and Narcan training because it is viably important to be educated on how to respond to an emergency situation.

The mission of FBLA is to inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. AHEC perfectly encapsulates this mission through its programs to give future healthcare workers a chance to explore the many multitudes of care through their training. AHEC successfully turns driven adolescents into qualified and professional workers in the medical field. FBLA members who are interested in the field or frequently take competitive events such as Healthcare Administration would be amazing candidates for this program.



“The best way out is always through.” -Robert Frost





By: Yasmin Issa, Secretary

Ready, Set, Succeed!

How to Create and Achieve your Goals in 2025

The start of the new year brings a plethora of opportunities for growth and self-improvement. While it's easy to set ambitious goals at the beginning of the year, as time progresses, most people abandon their resolutions, feeling overwhelmed with the stresses and anxieties of day-to-day life. However, goal setting is an important part of the path to success, because by establishing clear objectives, the more motivated you are to succeed. The first step to goal setting is to step outside of your comfort zone and take a leap of faith. After all, in the wise words of Earl Nightingale, "Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal or ideal." By utilizing this guide, there will be no limit to what you can achieve in 2025 and the years to come!

Focus on the Future

When creating an effective goal, focus on your future dreams and aspirations, and the reasons why you want to achieve them. The tangible steps you take every day to achieve your goal should reflect your passion and serve as reminder of the countless hours, hard work, and sacrifice that are necessary to succeed. Goals are more than just an achievement, but a continuous investment in your future, improving the prospects of your personal or professional pursuits. Utilize planners or vision boards to remind yourself why you want to achieve your goals in the first place and how it will benefit you in the long run. Envision your future and the things you want to be part of it, such as a dream college, job or home. Beyond the ability to improve yourself, achieving lofty goals displays positive character traits that both college admissions officers and employers consider in candidates.

Incorporate into your Daily Routine

A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Similarly, when creating a goal, it is important to incorporate it into your daily routine so that you can continue to make progress towards achieving it. It doesn't have to be a large task that you have to complete every day, but rather a small "habit" that requires 10-15 minutes of your time. Every amount of progress, regardless of how small it may be, is still progress, and will bring you one step closer to achieving your goal. If you were preparing for an FBLA competition, for example, make a schedule of the days leading up to the event, and allot a certain amount of time each day to practice. By incorporating it into your schedule, the harder it will be to procrastinate completing something that has become a habit and the more success you will see over time.

Continue Despite Failures

When faced with failure, it is natural to want to give up and stop pursuing something you no longer believe you have a chance of succeeding at. However, it is important to recognize that failure isn't final, it is simply a means of redirection to better, greater opportunities. Some of the greatest of our generation would not have achieved what they did without embracing failure and using it as a means to grow. Steve Jobs was fired by Apple's Board of Directors and Walt Disney was told he lacked creativity. However, this did not stop the two men from choosing to pursue their passions, with Jobs returning to Apple with a new management and launching revolutionary initiatives in the technology industry, while Disney found his way to Hollywood and creating classical films that skyrocketed in popularity. Inherently, this shows that achieving your goals does not only require method, but years of perseverance and dedication. The level of success you achieve will be directly impacted by the amount of effort you put in!

The next couple of months are sure to bring a wide variety of opportunities, with Spring District Meetings and the State Leadership Conference. In the meantime, make sure to keep setting goals and strive for success, NYS FBLA, as trying new things can bring about the greatest reward! As we embark on this new year together, do not hesitate to reach out to secretary@nysfbla.org with any questions or concerns!

**"Keep a little fire burning; however small,
however hidden." - Cormac McCarthy**



HOW DO YOU SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE FBLA EXPRESS?



1

OPEN UP YOUR EMAIL!

2

**ADDRESS EMAIL TO:
REPORTER@NYSFBLA.ORG**

3

**SUBJECT EMAIL:
ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

4

FILL OUT INFORMATION:

HELLO NYS FBLA REPORTER,
WE ARE THE (*INSERT SCHOOL NAME*) CHAPTER. HERE IS AN
ARTICLE SUBMISSION FOR THE NYS FBLA EXPRESS!! WE ARE
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING OUR SUBMISSION IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF THE FBLA EXPRESS. PLEASE CONFIRM
WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS EMAIL.

5

**WATCH AS YOUR ARTICLE IS
FEATURED IN THE FBLA EXPRESS!**



Submission Deadlines:

- **Spring Issue: February 28, 2025**

Upload to:
Kayleigh Harney
NYS FBLA State Reporter
reporter@nysfbla.org

GO NYS FBLA!!

