

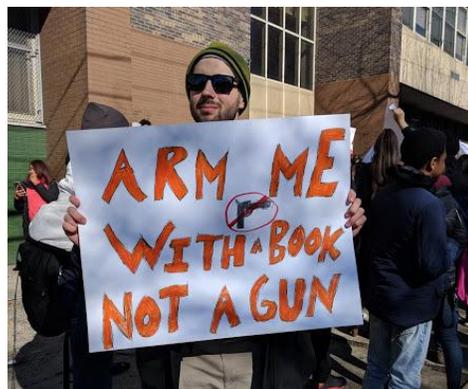
BARD EARLY COLLEGES

Thousands of Bard Early College Students Advocate to End Gun Violence



Students across the country organized a National School Walkout on March 14th to protest gun violence and the country's current gun laws. Hundreds of Bard Early College students organized walkouts at their respective campuses. A few photos and highlights from across the network:

Students at BHSEC Manhattan held 17 minutes of silence in honor of the seventeen people killed in Parkland, Florida. ABC News re-published an account of the walkout written by student **Darya Foroohar**, which you can read [here](#). Additionally, BHSEC Manhattan alum **Eve Peyer** wrote [an article on the walkout for VICE](#), where she is a staff writer.



At BHSEC Queens, students delivered speeches in front of the nearby Long Island City Courthouse before walking back to campus and staging a "die-in" ([video](#), via Rise & Resist) in the building's atrium. In [an interview](#) with *The Queens Tribune*, organizer **Anais Fallait** told reporters that "the goal [of the walkout] is to tell the government that this can't keep happening... The solution can't be just thoughts and prayers. This feels very urgent." Footage of the BHSEC Queens walkout was also featured in [The Washington Post](#) and [Euronews](#).

At BHSEC Cleveland, student organizers led chants and read poetry in below-freezing temperatures. They also compiled a small booklet with their own writing and statistics on gun violence, which was handed out to faculty and peers. In the words of student poet **Marian Altuhaimer**, "My peers and professor are no longer safe. The moment we put guns over greatness, the safety of our community is compromised, and futures are lost."

BHSEC Newark participated in the National School Walkout thanks to student leader **Sarai Jordan** (9th Grade). On the day of the event, students were offered the opportunity to walk out of the school or remain inside with volunteer staff to observe 17 minutes of silence. Many students said it was their first political action and that it was an empowering experience.

Early College in the News

BHSEC Newark Principal **Carla Stephens** wrote [a piece on the local importance of early college](#) published in *The 74*, an online source for education journalism.

The [New York Times](#) published an editorial by **Harold Levy**, the former chancellor of New York City schools, and Peg Tyre. The piece is a comment on the crises and possibilities in American education and cites the Bard's Microcolleges as powerful examples of a way forward. Levy was instrumental in the creation of the first BHSEC in 2001 and has continued to be a vocal advocate for this work.

The Times also published [a letter to the editor](#) written by Vice President for Early Colleges **Stephen Tremaine**. Responding to [David Leonhardt's piece](#) on low college completion rates among underrepresented students, Tremaine's letter presents early college as a proven model for closing the higher education gap.

BHSEC Newark got its **first bronze ranking** from [US World and News](#), securing a spot as one of the top high schools in the country.

Commencement 2018 across the Network

Commencement season is upon us! We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the Class of 2018.

On May 8th, the **Bard Early College New Orleans** (BECNO) community came together for a special ceremony honoring the graduating class and the program's 10-year anniversary. This non-traditional ceremony featured the works of BECNO student poets and focused on the Spring 2018 seminar theme, What Does it Mean to Be Human? In addition to incorporating original works from BECNO students, **Sunni Patterson**, a legendary spoken word artist and native New Orleanian, recited original poetry and spoke to Bard students about the power of voice and the importance of character.

Bard High School Early College Cleveland will hold its ceremony on June 5th at Severance Hall. The keynote speech will be delivered by Holland & Knight Partner and Bard alumnus and Trustee Charles Johnson. This is the commencement ceremony for the inaugural class of 9th grade students at the school who began the program the year of its founding, in 2014.

Bard High School Early College Baltimore will hold its ceremony on June 7th at the Baltimore Museum of Art. The keynote speech will be delivered by renowned artist and Baltimore native, Joyce J. Scott. Scott was named [a MacArthur Fellow in 2016](#) and is [known in particular](#) for her sculpture and jewelry.

A joint commencement ceremony for **Bard High School Early Colleges Manhattan, Queens, and Newark** will be held in New York City on June 19th. We are pleased to announce that this year's keynote speech will be delivered by First Lady of New Jersey, **Tammy Snyder Murphy**. A graduate of the University of Virginia, First Lady Murphy currently sits on the University's Board of Visitors. She also serves as Secretary and charter member of The Climate Reality Action Fund, an organization founded by former Vice-President Al Gore.

Bard Early College Student Accomplishments

Newark student art featured in the Newark museum: Student artists **Gaby Romero** (Year Two) and **Makayla Harte** (Year One) were chosen to be featured in the Newark Museum's annual Teen Arts exhibit this spring. Each received a special recognition from the museum at the opening reception earlier this month.



Manhattan students take home prizes at Model United Nations: The BHSEC Manhattan Model UN team sent a very small delegation to the conference at Cornell this month. Despite having far fewer students than many other schools, a third of the BHSEC delegation won awards, including **Stasya Rodionova** (verbal commendation on the Disarmament and Security committee), **Maya Rubin** (Best Delegate on the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Committee), **Livia Miller** (honorable mention as Susan B. Anthony on the Progressive Era's Workers' Assembly), and **Evan Farley** (Outstanding Delegate in the FEMA committee).

BHSEC Queens Year 2 student **Grayce Walker** received the prestigious [Princeton Prize in Race Relations](#). This award recognizes and rewards high school students who have had a significant positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities through their volunteer efforts.

Baltimore's chess team undefeated: The BHSEC Baltimore chess team completed an undefeated regular season, ultimately winning their league in the city's youth chess conference.



Newark students at Rutgers Olympiad: The Rutgers Oncology Olympiad is an academic competition focusing on cancer diagnosis, treatment, symptoms, genetics, and healthcare. The BHSEC Newark Olympiad team took home first place in the poster session, and came in the top five overall. Pictured here are team members **Dyshaun Roache** (11th), **Anjali Panchu** (10th), **Oluwafunmilola "Funmi" Fadipe** (11th), **Joshua Egwuonwu** (11th), and **Foyeke "Roheemah" Aremu** (11th).

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Baltimore student places first in Art Against Violence contest: BHSEC Baltimore 9th grader **Mia Mohammed** placed first in the citywide Art Against Violence contest, sponsored by the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center. Mia received a \$500 prize for her thoughtful response to violence in the community and careful attention to craft and detail. Mia's work, along with that of several other BHSEC Baltimore students, was [featured on ABC News](#).



Faculty Updates

Kesi Augustine (Manhattan) successfully defended her dissertation in English Literature at New York University.

Jennifer Eccher (Cleveland West) is presenting her choreography through Cleveland Public Theatre's DanceWorks Series from June 7-9th. Her company, [Marquez Dance Project](#), will showcase four original works.

Benjamin Griffel (Newark) was co-author on [a book chapter](#) on methods for synthesizing polymer nano-particles for targeted delivery of therapeutic molecules.

David A. Guba, Jr. (Baltimore) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation "Empire of Illusion: The Rise and Fall of Hashish in Nineteenth Century France" at Temple University this month. He has also published two articles this year.

Remi Harris (Queens) is curating an evening of dance on May 31st as part of the [Food for Thought](#) at Danspace project. Food for Thought is three-night series of performances selected by a different guest artist curator each night.

Kai Krenke (Queens) participated in the [NY Forum for Amazigh Film](#), a film festival that showcases "contemporary feature, documentary, and short films by and about the Amazigh people of North Africa and in the diaspora."

Brian Mateo, Assistant Dean of Civic Engagement and Special Assistant for Admission and Early College Outreach, received a [Robert J. Myers Fund](#) grant in collaboration with Asha Castleberry, professor of political studies at Fordham University and defense council associate at Truman National Security Project. Over the next year, they will research how populism has impacted ethics and leadership in the U.S. military and veterans communities. More info on their grant award is available [here](#).



BARD EARLY COLLEGES

The Bard Early Colleges offer high school-age students the opportunity to graduate with up to two years of college learning and an Associate in Arts degree from Bard College, tuition-free. Bard Early Colleges make college achievable and affordable for students for whom higher education could be an unrealized dream.

While Bard Early Colleges are free for students and their families, public funding does not support the resources needed for a successful early college experience. We rely on your generosity to make the Bard Early College education possible.

We hope you will consider lending your support.

Your gift will help provide student guidance and support, pay professor salaries, maintain small class sizes, and cover the costs of college textbooks, library resources, and science equipment.

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