



Brunswick High Newsletter December 2015

School Calendar

Date	Event
Wednesday, Dec 16	Interims Issued
Wednesday, Dec 23 – Friday, Jan 1	Schools Closed: Winter Break
Monday, Jan 18	Schools Closed
Thursday, Jan 21	End of Term 2 and First Semester
Friday, Jan 22	Schools Closed for Students
Monday, Jan 25	Second Semester and Term 3 Begin

Dates and times are subject to change

From the Desk of Principal Doll

Happy Holidays!

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through Term 2. We have so many great things happening: indoor percussion and guard, winter sports, Mock Trial Team and Academic Team. I hope you came to see BHS and our feeder students in A Christmas Carol. It was a beautiful show and all the students did a great job! Our Winter Band Concert is this week and the students have worked hard to prepare for their program. In addition, we have many students who are demonstrating the spirit of GIVING through their clubs and in their communities and in general, showing a great sense of caring for one another.

Our Continuous Strategic Improvement Plan includes the following goals that measures student achievement:

1) Have a 4 year cohort graduation rate of > 95%.

In 2013, our rate was 94.36%, in 2014-92.93%

2) Have a 4 year dropout rate < 3%

In 2013, our rate was 3.59% and in 2014-3.80%

We can achieve these goals! We encourage our students to take advantage of BELL and Railroader Connections. Our teachers want our students to be successful so they tutor and reach out to build positive relationships with them. Our counselors and Student Services Team are constantly developing and implementing plans with students and families for academic success. Again, I emphasize the importance of attending school every day and having the habit of coming to school.

Thank you for your patience as we work with you on our new traffic pattern. After 7:17, we will open up the lot and allow cars to come straight through the staff lot. We are out there to help you, keep the cars moving, and get the students in the building on time. It is working!

On behalf of the BHS staff, we wish everyone a safe holiday.

Sincerely,

Principal Doll

Guidance Office News

GENERAL INFORMATION

DISCLAIMER: *FCPS provides scholarship information as a resource only and does not endorse any sponsor of any particular scholarship program.*

Counselors are starting to meet with Juniors regarding a new web-based program called NAVIANCE.

Naviance is a web-based resource for staff, students, and parents that encourages and supports post high school career and college planning. **Family Connection** is the student's side of the system and is linked with Naviance Succeed, the counselor's system.

How can it be used?

- Career Planning: Learning Style Inventory, Interest Inventory, Personality Inventory, Resume Building
- College Planning: College Search, Application Process, College Major Exploration, Scholarship/Financial Aid Resources
- Success Planning: Personalized Goals and Tasks, Journal Entries, Student Planner, Shared Documents.

Go to the following website: <http://connection.naviance.com/brunswickhi>

- Username: Student ID #
- Password: Student ID#

Counselors will meet with every student, by the end of the year, to review graduation credits and a Naviance lesson. Parents have log in registration codes as well. If you do not have your registration code, please contact Jill Wilton in the school counseling office for your log in information. Counselors have held two parent information sessions on Naviance and will hold two more meetings this year.

February 26th at 1pm in the Media Center

April 8th at 8am in computer lab 206

Common Applications: Many colleges/universities allow students to apply with a "Common Application" (not all do – please check). If you are interested in using this application, you will need to apply on line at the following address: www.commonapp.org.

Selective Service: A reminder that under federal law, virtually all men must register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Students can register on-line at www.sss.gov

U.S. Service Academy: All the U.S. Service Academies (except the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) offer a free college education. Complete nomination packets are due by November 6. Applications for a nomination are available at www.cardin.senate.gov

Work Permits: There are new directions for minors (ages 14-17) wishing to get a work permit.

1) Complete the on-line application: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/childworkpermit/>. 2) Print the work permit. 3) Get the work permit signed by the minor (student), parent or legal guardian and employer (work permits are only valid when signed by all parties)

During the 2014 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 467 that modified the requirements that must be met before a minor work permit can be issued. The change requires the minor's parent or guardian to certify that the age on the minor work permit is correct rather than producing proof of age to an issuing

officer. This change allows the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to grant applicants the ability to download and print a work permit directly from the application website. The new system began July 29. Minors are no longer required to obtain their work permit from an issuing officer.

Financial Aid: Every college offers a variety of financial aid – awards may be scholarships (either need-based or merit), Grants, Loans and Work Study Jobs. Colleges will not make financial aid awards until students are first admitted to college. Therefore, students should apply for admission and check with the financial aid office, as well as the department of your subject matter for financial aid opportunities. All students and their parents can fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) any time after January 1 of their senior year and submit the application online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Also, check with each college and fill out any college financial aid applications that are required.

PSAT RESULTS: Electronic scores for PSAT/NMSQT will be available on January 7 for students. Paper reports will be delivered to schools by January 29. Once paper score reports are received at BHS, Counselors will give out during lunch shifts

Course Registration for the 2016-2017 School Year: From January 25th-27th, Railroader Connections teachers will be showing a video Powerpoint presentation to all students regarding the registration process for next year. This Powerpoint presentation will also be on the BHS website for parents and students to view. Registration forms are due back to school by Friday, February 5th with a parent signature. After viewing the online presentation, if you still have questions regarding the presentation, graduation requirements, special programs etc. please contact your student's school counselor.

A-K Mrs. Tuckey terri.tuckey@fcps.org 240-236-8553
L-Z Mrs. Starmer rhonda.starmer@fcps.org 240-236-8552

Rising 9th Grade Registration Presentation: On Wednesday, January 27th, BHS School Counselors will discuss graduation requirements and the registration process for rising 9th grade students. The presentation will be held in the BHS auditorium and will begin at 7pm. **School Counselors will go to Brunswick Middle School for a presentation on the registration process on Friday, January 29th.** (Snow date is February 2nd).

JUNIORS and Parents of Juniors: Mark your calendars!! On Wednesday, March 9th BHS will hold a College Night. There will be representatives at BHS to discuss the SAT exam and SAT prep, Financial Aid (and how to pay for college) as well as representatives from colleges like Frostburg State University, Salisbury University, Hood College, Towson and more.

SENIORS: Please check Naviance for Scholarship opportunities. College Fairs & Open Houses: Go to bhs.edu, Counseling Center Quick Links

Community Foundation Scholarships: The application for the Community Foundation Scholarships will be released on March 15th. The deadline to apply will be February 15th. Apply at: www.cfredco.org

Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors: Please be on the lookout for great summer opportunities. Check out our website for internship opportunities, summer jobs and volunteer information.

SAT/ACT Information:

School Counselors have been meeting with juniors and will continue to meet with juniors until February. Four-year college bound juniors are encouraged to take at least two college admissions tests (SAT or ACT) before the summer.

**** Be aware that the Redesigned SAT will be administered starting in March. The Kahn Academy is a great**

tool to use for SAT prep. There are also great prep courses. See your counselor for details.

** ACT prep books are available in the counseling office.

The following are also good for college prep tests:

satpractice.org

www.actstudent.org/testprep

www.princetonreview.com

www.Number2.com

College Exam Preparation Service: The Frederick County Virtual School (FCVS) will provide access to a comprehensive online College Exam Preparation (CEP) website for a nominal fee. This service can be accessed by current FCPSA high School Students. FCVS staff will provide assistance for technical issues. Go to: <https://education.fcps.org/flex/cep>.

SAT/ACT – Testing dates and registration deadlines can be found at www.sat.org/register and www.actstudent.org.

The redesigned SAT will be offered starting in March 2016. Please visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvz61GD0ej0> for information.

Practice for the redesigned SAT's visit <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.

English Department News

“What do employers expect from me?”

The following tips are an extension of the Senior Interviews, information inspired by a poster published by the Indiana Vocational Technical School entitled, “What Do Employers Expect from Me?” The English 12 class focused on these concepts of “employability” and wrote a composition that reflected their own work experiences.

Common courtesy includes the workforce coming to work, on time, every day. Once employees arrive, they need to make smart decisions by following directions, concentrating on their work, and caring about the quality of their work. Valuable skills employers look for are the ability to read, write, and calculate well; to recognize problems and find solutions; and to be honest and dependable. Good working employees should take the lead and finish the job, to the best of their ability, when they are supposed to because deadlines are extremely important in the professional environment. Communication is key in the work environment, so people need to get along with others – especially customers. Business owners want their businesses to look presentable, including their workers; so staff members should dress properly and practice good grooming. Being cooperative is another valuable skill for employees to have, but first and foremost employers what workers with a positive attitude.

Math Department News

Last year, students in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 field tested the new PARCC assessments. Scores for these assessments were distributed with report cards in November. Achieving scores of Level 4 or Level 5 indicates readiness for college and is intended to help students avoid the need to take additional coursework before taking credit-bearing courses beyond high school. In total, 237 BHS students completed the Algebra 1 PARCC assessment with 35.4% scoring a Level 4 or 5 (all FCPS high schools averaged 34.3%). BHS also tested 59 Algebra 2 students with 52.6% scoring a Level 4 or 5 – the highest in Frederick County! (FCPS high schools averaged 32.5% at a Level 4 or 5.) Already this semester, Algebra 1 (18 Week) and Algebra 2 classes have completed the PARCC Performance Based Assessments (PBA). PARCC End of Year Assessments (EOY) are

scheduled for January 5 & 6 for first semester classes. Algebra 1 yearlong classes will complete the PARCC assessments during the spring testing windows. For more information please visit www.parcconline.org.

From the Yearbook

The 2016 yearbook staff is working hard to get things completed by the end of the semester. We are still looking for family members who graduated from BHS to include their past yearbook student photos alongside current students. If you attended BHS over the past 50 years, have a child or grandchild currently attending, and would like to be considered, please email your name and years attended along with the name of the student to donna.tucker@fcps.org. You can also pre order a yearbook on line. Simply go to: www.yearbookordercenter.com and enter our job #5848. As always, any questions please contact Mrs. Tucker at 240-236-8656 or donna.tucker@fcps.org

Art Department News

Registration will soon be here for next year. As you and your child are planning out classes keep in mind the arts! Not only are the art classes a chance for creative expression they also teach creative problem solving skills as students are encouraged to think “outside the box!”

From the World of World Languages

The World Language Department has many "superstars"! This month we would like to recognize our Shining Superstar, Devante Sewell. Devante always tries his hardest and pays great attention to detail; a very important skill in Latin. Our Rising Superstar is Spanish student Tori Smith! Tori has put in extra effort this semester to strengthen her Spanish skills and become a stand out student in the class, proving a little extra work goes a long way!

Study Tip from the Special Education Department

Improve Your Study Mindset

Too many students look at studying as a necessary task, not an opportunity to learn. That’s fine, but researchers have found that how you approach something matters almost as much as what you do. Being in the right mindset is important in order to study smarter. Below we offer four ways to improve your study mindset.

Ways to help improve your study mindset:

- Think positively when you study, and remind yourself of your skills and abilities.
- Avoid catastrophic thinking. Instead of thinking, “I’ll never have enough time to study for this exam,” look at it like, “It may be a little late to study as much as I’d like, but since I’m doing it now, I’ll get most of it done.”
- Avoid absolute thinking. Instead of thinking “I am always going to fail tests,” the more objective view is, “I didn’t do so well that time, what can I do to improve next time?”
- Avoid comparing yourself with others, because you usually just end up feeling bad about yourself.

Adapted from The 10 Highly Effective Study Habits, by John M. Grohol, Psy.D.

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