

FOCUS

BHHS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!

“Curiosity, Community, and Character!”

“FOCUS” THE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FOCUS is the high school newsletter which is published twice monthly on the first and fifteenth of each full month of school. Only one edition appears during months with major school holidays. The first edition of the month includes articles of interest, important announcements about academic and extracurricular activities, a guidance bulletin, and a monthly calendar that can be removed and saved. The second edition of the month provides a calendar update and important announcements. We urge parents to review the article titles each month and read relevant sections so that you remain informed about high school life and activities.

The current edition of the FOCUS newsletter can always be found using the Navigation Menu on the high school homepage or by clicking the following link: <https://www.byramhills.org/focus>. We will be sending an email reminder when each new edition is posted. If you wish to receive a printed copy, please contact the principal's secretary, Ms. Lisa Fanelli, at extension 273-9200 x4910.

DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

To prepare for our return, the District has adopted guidelines from the Department of Health (DOH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to keep our schools safe. The plan can be accessed on the District Homepage or by clicking this [link](#).

STUDENT/PARENT PORTAL

The Student/Parent Portal is an important communication tool for our students and their families. The portal can be accessed by going to the Byram Hills Central School District homepage located at www.byramhills.org. Select “Schools” and then Byram Hills High School. The portal tab is located at the top-right portion of the webpage. The portal can be accessed outside of normal school hours.

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE DISTRICT HOMEPAGE

One way Byram Hills High School is supporting our district’s sustainability goals is by reducing the amount of paper we produce. The FOCUS, Community Handbook, College Planning Guides, Course Selection Booklet, District Code of Conduct, and many other important documents are now available through the district’s homepage, www.byramhills.org. Please visit the high school homepage often for valuable news and information.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Orientation for New Students to the District:

All students who are new to the district are welcome to attend the orientation on Monday, August 24th at 10 AM. Students should meet their counselors in the College and Career Center. New sophomore, junior, and senior students will be given an orientation from the Assistant Principals, Guidance Counselors, current students, and our Social Worker.

Additional Orientation for New 9th Graders:

Freshmen orientation will take place on Tuesday, September 1st (A-K) during Small Group Instruction time at 7:45 AM with their mentor class and on Wednesday, September 2nd (L-Z) during mentor class. Also note that the counseling staff will contact new 9th graders between August 20th and August 25th with schedules and mentor class assignments.

WIFI AND BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE POLICY

With the successful integration of WIFI access and Chromebooks into BHHS, the Board of Education developed a *Bring Your Own Device* policy for students and faculty. The district policy (#5695), which spells out rules and procedures for proper WiFi usage in the school building, is listed as an appendix to our "Community Handbook" on page 74 and can be found on the high school's homepage. Students will be welcome to bring their personal electronic devices to be used in the classroom and the common areas; however, the district is not responsible for lost or stolen devices. Please advise your children to put their name on their devices as many of them look similar. We will review the details of the policy and implications for students during the first few days of school. With the implementation of remote learning, students will be provided with a Chromebook that they can take with them between home and school. Please read the attached [Byram Hills 1:1 Chromebook Agreement 2020-2021](#) carefully about the change in protocol with respect to Chromebooks in the district. Whether or not families exercise this option, [this form](#) must be completed by August 25th.

FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER 2020-2021

ARAMARK will continue to be our food service provider for the school year. ARAMARK is committed to the District's goal of providing healthy, nutritious, and appealing meals to our school community. Meal prices will remain at \$3.00 for lunch and 50 cents for milk for all students. If you have any questions, our Food Service director, Melinda Hamilton, R.D., can be reached at 914-273-4250, Ext. 3970.

2020 – 2021 FREE AND REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

The Byram Hills School District participates in the National School Lunch Program, which enables families to obtain free meals or meals at a reduced cost if certain income criteria are met. The details from the New York State Education Department associated with the program and an application can be viewed and printed from our district website www.byramhills.org. Application forms can also be obtained from the main offices of each school building and from the district office. Completed application forms should be mailed to the attention of Ms. Susan Palamarczuk, District Treasurer, Byram Hills Central School District, 10 Tripp Lane, Armonk, NY 10504.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night for parents of children whose last names begin with the letters A - M will be held on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:30 PM. Back to School Night for parents of students whose last names begin with L - Z will be on Wednesday, September 23rd, at 6:30 PM. Additional information about the virtual sessions will be sent at a later date.

SAT AND ACT FOR SENIORS

This year only, Byram Hills High School will be offering seniors the opportunity to take the ACT on October 6th and the SAT on October 14th during the school day. Those seniors who would like to sign up for either of the exams should complete this [form](#) as soon as possible. Information about the registration packets for other administrations of the exams can be picked up in the Guidance Office or you can register online at

www.collegeboard.com or at www.actstudent.org. The testing dates and deadlines for all other administrations of the exams can be found on the District Calendar as well. All of the other administrations of the exams will be done at other testing centers.

HOMECOMING/SPIRIT WEEK 2020: September 29th through October 3rd

We are still hopeful that we will be able to run a full Spirit Week this year. It will run from Tuesday, September 29th through Saturday, October 3rd this year. Our Athletic Department will continue to update student athletes regarding the timeline for resuming the normal athletic schedule. A complete schedule of Spirit Week events will be sent out prior to September 29th.

PRINCIPAL’S COFFEES

One of our most successful communication structures is the informal gathering of parents and the principal, called “Principal’s Coffee.” The purpose is to provide an opportunity to meet and foster parent-school communication. Your child is the beneficiary of these meetings as we work together to improve academic, social, and emotional growth for all students. Each Principal’s Coffee will be recorded and emailed to all parents through the Media Center. .

The following dates have been set for the “Coffees” which will usually be held in the Library Computer Lab. This year, they will be held virtually through Google Meet or Zoom. The first two Principal’s Coffee meetings in August are for the parents of incoming Freshmen and will be held in the high school’s Library. An additional Principal’s Coffee meeting has been scheduled to discuss our Return-to-School Plan with Dr. Lamia. Coffees are also noted in the district calendar and the monthly FOCUS calendar:

PARENTS OF INCOMING FRESHMEN:

THURSDAY	AUGUST 20, 2020	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
MONDAY	AUGUST 24, 2020	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

ALL PARENTS:

THURSDAY	AUGUST 20, 2020	-	11:00 AM-12 NOON
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 22, 2020	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 20, 2020	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 17, 2020	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	JANUARY 12, 2021	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MARCH 16, 2021	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	APRIL 20, 2021	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MAY 18, 2021	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT AND DRESS CODE

Our revised district-wide Code of Conduct was adopted by the Board of Education on May 29, 2012 following a collaborative process involving all members of our school community. The Code of Conduct is available on the district website, as are all Board of Education policies, under the Board of Education link. As the new school year approaches, parents are urged to partner with the school in promoting a distraction free learning environment. Please review the dress code in PART III of the Community Handbook before sending

your student to school. Students found to be in violation of the dress code will be required to have their parents bring appropriate clothing to school. Please make sure to check the policy for changes related to remote learning, social distancing, and the wearing of face masks.

ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION BY MILITARY RECRUITERS

School districts are required by law to make available to military recruiters the names, addresses, and phone numbers of high school students. The law also stipulates that schools may withhold such information if parents so request. If you would like your child's information withheld from military recruiters, please write a brief note to Mr. Walsh. This can be sent via email to cwalsh@byramhills.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

The Board of Education policies are available online at www.byramhills.org by selecting the link to policies on the Board of Education pull down menu.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This district's attendance policy requires that a student be present for 85% of class meetings in order to receive credit for a course. Ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders will lose credit for a full credit course upon 28 absences and for a half credit course upon 14 absences. Seniors will lose credit for a full credit course at 24 absences, and for a first semester half credit course at 14 absences. Due to the short second semester for seniors, the students lose credit for a second semester half credit course, as well as PE, at 12 absences. **Both excused and unexcused absences count toward the policy.** Students who have long term absences for serious documented medical conditions are eligible for home instruction. It is important to note that when students miss more than 10 minutes of a class, they are counted as absent for the purpose of this policy. The full Board of Education policy can be reviewed in Appendix A of the Community Handbook. It is important to note that attendance through remote instruction counts towards the attendance policy.

PERSONAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Unfortunately, we regret that every year a few of our students suffer the theft of personal valuables, including headphones, cell phones, jewelry, cameras, wallets and even clothing items. In almost every case, these items are taken out of unlocked lockers or are left unattended in book bags in the halls or gym locker rooms. Please review with your high school student the need to secure valuables at all times. Students should report to school with their own lock for their lockers. Locker assignments will be completed on August 27th and posted to the portal. Students who place a lock on a locker that is not assigned to them will have it clipped this year. Due to the need to maintain appropriate distances, students must use the lockers that are assigned to them.

CHEATING/ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT BHHS

We continue to seek ways to address the problem of cheating, an issue that has grown here in recent years according to both faculty and students. One issue of particular concern is the number of students who "sign in" late or "sign out" early with parental permission to avoid a quiz, test or presentation, thereby gaining an academic advantage. We seek the support of parents to help us eliminate this concern. We urge you to read the school rules about cheating in the Community Handbook, PART III, Code of Conduct.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - LOCKS REQUIRED

During the start of the school year, students will not be changing out for Physical Education. We ask that students wear athletic footwear on the days when they are scheduled to have Physical Education. At the time when it is appropriate, all physical education students and athletes participating on sports teams must

supply their own combination lock. Only a combination type lock is acceptable for this purpose. All students will be assigned a gym locker when it is appropriate.

UPDATED BELL SCHEDULE

We are implementing a new updated master schedule this year to support as many contingencies as possible. The schedule will be consistent whether students are in the building or learning remotely. To view the schedule, please click the following [link](#).

HYBRID ROTATION

To support the implementation of our blended learning plan. Students will be split up alphabetically and scheduled during different days of the week. Students whose last names end in the letters A-K will be scheduled to be in the building on Mondays and Tuesdays. Students whose last names end in the letters L-Z will be scheduled to be in the building on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be scheduled on a rotation that will give the greatest balance to classes. You can view the hybrid rotation schedule by clicking on the following [link](#).

CLOSED CAMPUS OR NOT?

District policy and school rules provide for a "closed campus" at BHHS. The reasons for this policy are important: maintaining an emphasis on academics and course work, the lack of nearby shops and services, preventing unnecessary driving to keep our students safe, and discouraging students from returning late for classes. As a result, the administration will exercise its right to keep students in school for the duration of their scheduled day, except in the case of an emergency, a doctor's appointment, or a similar need. Leaving for work, transporting siblings, picking up forgotten homework, attending to chores at home, and other such excuses will not be accepted. All excuses must be personally approved by an administrator. The secretaries have been instructed to refer these matters to the administration.

While these measures will seem obvious to most, they will be inconvenient to others. Nevertheless, we ask that you cooperate and communicate your support to your own child, if necessary. These efforts will create a more positive environment in school and allow us to better assure you that every student is safe and secure throughout the school day.

Seniors will be allowed to drive their siblings home during the afternoon Independent eLearning or Small Group Instruction period provided that parents have completed the form for attendance.

PARKING PRIVILEGES

The rules about student parking may be found in the Community Handbook, (PART III, vi, Code of Conduct). All students are reminded that parking is a privilege restricted solely to seniors. Juniors are not permitted to park in the student lot under any circumstances during the school day. Juniors can earn parking privileges when seniors leave for internships on May 3rd, 2021. **Exceptions will not be considered for any reason. Parking applications can be accessed through the "Senior Parking Registration" link on the right hand side of the Byram Hills High School homepage. It can also be completed on the first day of school through Ms. Bogren in the Assistant Principal's Office. Be aware that students must bring in a copy of their driver's license along with the form, signed by a parent, in order to receive a parking permit.** Parking passes given to current seniors during their junior year are no longer valid.

GREEN TIPS

The paper version of the "Summer Mailing" used to require more than 20,000 sheets of paper!

THE **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR** will be sent through an email blast during the week of August 24th.