

# FOCUS

BHHS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 33, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

*WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 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 school counseling 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 blast containing the FOCUS each time a 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**

The District has continued to adopt 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](#). The District will continue to update the plan as new and updated information becomes available.

## **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](http://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.

## **NEW AM DROP OFF/PM PICK UP PATTERN**

Over the summer, our traffic lanes were widened to allow for an easier flow of traffic through the campus. Tripp Lane now has three lanes as it approaches the campus and the front circle has been widened to make it easier for the buses to maneuver. The morning drop off and afternoon pick up location will still be in the Athletic Circle. Parents who are dropping off students in the morning should enter directly into the Athletic Circle. Parents who are picking up students in the afternoon should line up through the parking lot. Please remember to always follow the directions of our personnel as they are directing traffic on campus.

## **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](http://www.byramhills.org). Please visit the high school homepage often for valuable news and updated 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 23rd at 10 AM. Students will meet their counselors in the College and Career Center. New students will be given an orientation from the Assistant Principals, School Counselors, current students, and our Social Worker.

### 9th Grade Tours:

Two new 9th grade building tours have been scheduled this year for any 9th grader interested in getting more familiar with the campus prior to school opening on September 1st. The first tour will take place on August 19th at 11 am. The tour will begin in the high school cafeteria. The second tour will take place on Monday, August 23rd and will also take place at 11 am in the high school cafeteria.

### Additional Orientation for New 9<sup>th</sup> Graders:

Freshmen orientation will take place on Wednesday, September 1st within their mentor class. All 9th grade students will be met by their senior mentors as they enter the building on September 1st beginning at 7:45 am. All 9th graders should arrive at school by 7:45 am on the first day in order to meet for an extended time with their mentor class.

## **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. 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 24th.

## **FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER 2021-2022**

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, Bryan Bischof, can be reached at 914-273-4250, Ext. 3970. Aramark has created a system that will allow students to pre order sandwiches. The form will accept responses starting at 1:30 PM on the day before the order to 9 AM on the day of the order. The sandwiches will be packaged and ready to be picked up in Bobcat Hall each day. The form can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Byram Hills High School Daily Lunch Ordering Form](#)

## **2021 – 2022 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](http://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 will be on Thursday, September 23rd, at 6:30 PM for all parents. This is a change from what is listed on the District calendar. Back to School Night will be done virtually this year. We will send out more detailed information about attending the synchronous sessions prior to September 23rd.

## SAT AND ACT EXAM DATES

SAT and ACT examination dates can be found on the district calendar and online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Please be sure to check the testing websites often as they are updated with relevant information regarding testing protocols due to COVID-19. At this time, we do not plan to administer the exams on campus but we will continue to monitor our students' ability to access them. Please reach out to your child's counselor if you have any questions about either of these exams.

## HOMECOMING/SPIRIT WEEK 2021: September 27th through October 3rd

We are looking for a return to a full Spirit Week this year. It will run from Monday, September 27th through Sunday, October 3rd this year. A complete schedule of Spirit Week events will be sent out prior to September 27th. We are excited to partner with the BHEF for a Movie Night to cap off the week on **Sunday, October 3rd** here on the high school turf.

## 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. The first two Principal's Coffee meetings in August are for the parents of incoming Freshmen and will now be held in the high school theater. 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 19, 2021	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
MONDAY	AUGUST 23, 2021	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

### ALL PARENTS:

THURSDAY	AUGUST 10, 2021	-	10:00 AM-11:00 AM
TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 21, 2021	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 26, 2021	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 16, 2021	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	JANUARY 11, 2022	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MARCH 15, 2022	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	APRIL 26, 2022	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MAY 17, 2022	-	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.

## **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 send a brief email to Mr. Walsh at [cwalsh@byramhills.org](mailto:cwalsh@byramhills.org).

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES**

The Board of Education policies are available online at [www.byramhills.org](http://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 20 absences and for a half credit course upon 10 absences. For Physical Education, students in grades nine through eleven will lose credit on the 12th absence. Seniors will lose credit for a full credit course at 17 absences, and for a first semester half credit course at 10 absences. Due to the short second semester for seniors, they will lose credit for a second semester half credit course at 8 absences and PE at 10 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 13 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 (if necessary) 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 assigned and shared on August 16th 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 continues to challenge our ability to achieve the mission of the district. 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

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.

## UPDATED BELL SCHEDULE

Over the last four years, the faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders in the community have conducted a study of the high school's master schedule. This year, we are introducing our new schedule which aligns more closely with our values as a learning community. This new schedule features morning office hours, extended class periods, a universal lunch period, fewer class meeting times each day, and an eight day rotating cycle. Thank you to all of the stakeholders who were involved in this transformative work over the last four years. The Master Schedule Steering Committee and the Challenge Success Steering Committee will continue to meet throughout the year to study the implementation of our new schedule. To view the schedule, please click the following [link](#). The schedule can also be found on the district calendar.

## 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.

## 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 2nd, 2022. **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 BHHS water fountains have refilled the equivalent of 41,890 water bottles over the last three years! Reusable water bottles are a terrific way to reduce our ecological footprint at BHHS.**

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# September 2021 - Focus

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1-1</b>  <b>First Day of School for Students</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>3-3</b>  Registration Deadline for 10/2 SAT	<b>4</b>  Regular Athletic Schedule
5	<b>6</b>  Regular Athletic Schedule Labor Day Schools & Offices Closed	<b>7</b>  No Athletic Games or Practices Rosh Hashanah Schools & Offices Closed	<b>8</b>  No Athletic Games-Practices after 5 pm Rosh Hashanah Schools Closed/ Offices Open	<b>9-4</b>  BHEF Kindergarten Back-to-School Night 7:30 pm	<b>10-5</b>	<b>11</b>  ACT Test
12	<b>13-6</b>	<b>14-7</b>  Back- to- School Night 6:30 pm (A-M) PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am	<b>15-8</b>  School Counseling Discussion Group 9 am  No Athletic Games-Practices End at 5 pm	<b>16</b>  No Athletic Games or Practices Yom Kippur Schools & Offices Closed	<b>17-1</b>  Registration Deadline for 10/23 ACT	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  Jamie's Run for Love @ Wampus Brook Park 10 am BHPA Fall Carnival/Cider and Donut Festival to Follow	<b>20-2</b>  Underclassmen Yearbook Photos Gr. 9 Parents Mtg. with School Counseling 7 pm	<b>21-3</b>  Principal's Coffee 9 am Senior Portraits Board of Ed. Mtg. 7:30 pm	<b>22-4</b>  Senior Portraits  BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm	<b>23-5</b>  Back- to- School Night 6:30 pm (N-Z)	<b>24-6</b>	<b>25</b>  Armonk Outdoor Art Show 10 am - 5 pm
<b>26</b>  Armonk Outdoor Art Show 10 am - 5 pm	<b>27-7</b>  BHHS Spirit Week Traveling Pep Rally 7:30 am	<b>28-8</b>  PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am Homecoming Game 7 pm	<b>29-1</b>  Homecoming Game 7 pm	<b>30-2</b>  Homecoming Game 7 pm		