

FOCUS

BHHS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

WELCOME TO THE 2019-2020 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.

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 10th, 11th and 12th Graders:

Please come to the Guidance Office (Room 212) on Monday, August 26th at 10:00 AM for orientation. New sophomore, junior, and senior students will receive their schedules at that time.

Orientation for New 9th Graders:

Freshmen orientation will take place on Tuesday, September 3rd, during an extended first period mentor class. Also note that the guidance staff will contact new 9th graders between August 22nd and August 27th 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.

FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER 2019-2020

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.

2019 – 2020 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 Thursday, September 12th, at 6:30 PM. Back to School Night for parents of students whose last names begin with N - Z will be on Wednesday, September 18th, at 6:30 PM. As in the past, parents with multiple students in the high school are welcome to attend both sessions.

SAT AND ACT DEADLINE FOR SENIORS

The registration deadline for the first SAT Reasoning and Subject Test is September 6th. The test will be administered on October 5th. Registration packets can be picked up in the Guidance Office or you can register online at (www.collegeboard.com). The registration deadline for the October 26th ACT test is September 20th. The first ACT test will be administered on September 8th. (www.actstudent.org).

HOMECOMING/SPIRIT WEEK 2019: October 2nd through October 5th

Spirit Week will be held from Wednesday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 5th this year. Homecoming will take place on Saturday, October 5th. This year, four of our varsity athletic teams will play one game under the lights on our turf field starting on Wednesday of Spirit Week. A complete schedule of Spirit Week events will be sent out prior to September 27th.

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 can be viewed through the Bobcat TV website as well.

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 be held in the high school's Library. Coffees are also noted in the district calendar and the monthly FOCUS calendar:

PARENTS OF INCOMING FRESHMEN:

THURSDAY	AUGUST 22, 2019	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
MONDAY	AUGUST 26, 2019	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

ALL PARENTS:

TUESDAY	SEPTEMBER 24, 2019	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 22, 2019	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 19, 2019	-	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	JANUARY 14, 2020	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MARCH 17, 2020	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	APRIL 21, 2020	-	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
TUESDAY	MAY 19, 2020	-	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.

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.

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 can be found on student schedules. Students who place a lock on a locker that is not assigned to them stand the chance of having it clipped by school personnel.

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.

PE - 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.

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 4th, 2020. **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” required more than 20,000 sheets of paper!

PLEASE SEE THE SEPTEMBER CALENDAR AND FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.