

BHS Bucks Principal's Update

December 2021



Dear BHS students and families,

As the end of our first semester comes to a close, we are fortunate and extremely grateful that we have been able to learn in our classrooms and see the smiles that appear on the faces of students every single day. With that being said, I'm hoping to continue to see smiles in the coming weeks as students fervently complete their assignments and submit evidence of learning to teachers in order to earn credit for the semester. Any student that fails a class may have a change in their second semester schedule to accommodate the loss of credit to be redeemed. In most cases, this means the loss of an elective class. Changes in schedules and grades will be reflected in PowerSchool the first week back from break. Students have been working diligently to make sure that they end the semester successfully and complete assignments. I have confidence that many students will end the semester on a high note.

Grab a hot cocoa and enjoy this long newsletter as we showcase our students and teachers and all the great things we are doing at Buchanan High School. I hope you have a wonderful winter break and enjoy time spent with family and friends during the holidays. We will see you in the new year starting off our second semester! As always, it's a great time to be a Buck!

Mrs. DeMaio

We are here for our community

The holidays are stressful enough in normal times, let alone in pandemic times. BHS is here to support you in all of your needs. If you need food, clothing, or shelter (or know someone who does), please

reach out to us. We have an amazing community of people who consistently provides for those in need. At the very least, we can put you in contact with resources that can be of service.



Coping for the Holidays

The holidays can be a stressful time for many people. It is important that we take care of ourselves and recognize when we need to breathe and let some things go. Here are some reminders to help us make it through the holiday season.

COPING FOR THE Holidays

Acknowledge Your Feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones for other reasons, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season.

Learn to Say No. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Friends and colleagues will understand if you can't participate in every project or activity. If it's not possible to say no when your boss asks you to work overtime, try to remove something else from your agenda to make up for the lost time.

Reach Out. If you're feeling stress during the holidays, it also may help to talk to a friend or family member about your concerns. Try reaching out with a text, a call or a video chat.

Be Realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if your adult children or other relatives can't come to your home, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos.

Set Aside Differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.

Take A Breather. Make some time for yourself. Find an activity you enjoy. Take a break by yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind.



Post Office Letters to Santa

Please visit the United States Post Office website for Operation Santa if you know of a child who would like to write to Santa for a Christmas wish or if you would like to help fulfill a Christmas wish. Hurry though - the deadline to write a letter is December 10th. You can find all the information at this link:

<https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com/getinvolved/>

USPS
**OPERATION
Santa**

**Santa needs
our help!**



SUBJECT: Help Santa help the kids who need him most

Ho, ho, hello!

For more than 100 years, USPS Operation Santa® has helped bring joy to thousands of kids across the country.

This year, the United States Postal Service® wants to deliver the magic of Santa to even more deserving children.

To participate, visit USPSOperationSanta.com/getinvolved/letterwriting

There you will find more information and a letter writing kit. Then, help kids write their own letters, attach a stamp, include a return address on the envelope, and mail it to this exact address:

Santa
123 Elf Road
North Pole, 88888

All letters should be postmarked by December 10, though the sooner your letter is received, the more likely it is to be fulfilled.

Let's make this holiday the most magical yet for the kids.

Thank you,
BHS Staff

Assessment Update

The College Board has released our fall scores. Although our students took this test after a normal summer slide, we compounded this regularly occurring gap with COVID closures the past couple of years. We are happy that our students did show growth, but are working to improve the overall success rate of students to meet benchmarks. Our goal is always to have our students show growth AND meet the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks. The attached tables show you College Readiness Benchmarks as well as the growth from last spring and fall to this fall. We track cohort growth from year to year to see how our students have improved and grown in their learning. The numbers in red are decreased score results from the previous year, the green are increased scores from the prior year. The asteriks (*) signifies a college and career readiness benchmark was met.

College Readiness Benchmarks*	TOTAL	EBRW	MATH
PSAT8	820	390	430
PSAT9	860	410	450
PSAT10	910	430	480
PSAT/NMSQT	970	460	510
SAT	1010	480	530

Class of 2026						2021 Fall 8th grade PSAT 8	(+/-)	2022 Spring 8th grade PSAT 8	(+/-)
TOTAL						820*			
EBRW						419*			
MATH						401			
Fall Benchmarks						31% met both, 30% met none, 68% met EBRW, 33% met Math			
Spring Benchmarks									
Class of 2025	2020 Fall 8th Grade PSAT 8/9	(+/-)	2021 Spring 8th Grade PSAT 8/9	(+/-)		2021 Fall 9th grade PSAT 9	(+/-)	2022 Spring 9th grade PSAT 9	(+/-)
TOTAL						843	19		
EBRW	<i>UNTESTED</i>		422*			442*	20		
MATH			402			401	1		
Fall Benchmarks						25% met both, 34% met none, 65% met EBRW, 26% met Math			
Spring Benchmarks	32% met both, 30% met none, 66% met EBRW, 36% met Math								
Class of 2024	2020 Fall 9th Grade PSAT 8/9	(+/-)	2021 Spring 9th Grade PSAT 8/9	(+/-)		2021 Fall 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	(+/-)	2022 Spring 10th grade PSAT 10	(+/-)
TOTAL	831	26	869*	38		897	28		
EBRW	433*	25	442*	9		464*	22		
MATH	398	1	427	29		433	6		
Fall Benchmarks	23% met both, 43% met none, 56% met EBRW, 24% met Math					21% met both, 35% met none, 62% met EBRW, 24% met Math			
Spring Benchmarks	39% met both, 33% met none, 64% met EBRW, 42% met Math								
Class of 2023	2020 Fall 10th Grade PSAT/NMSQT	(+/-)	2021 Spring 10th Grade PSAT 10	(+/-)		2021 Fall 11th grade PSAT /NMSQT	(+/-)	2022 Spring 11th grade SAT	(+/-)
TOTAL	907	30	921*	14		932	11		
EBRW	465*	10	472*	7		476*	4		
MATH	442	20	449	7		456	7		
Fall Benchmarks	25% met both, 33% met none, 66% met EBRW, 27% met Math					24% met both, 41% met none, 55% met EBRW, 27% met Math			
Spring Benchmarks	28% met both, 34% met none, 65% met EBRW, 29% met Math								
Class of 2022	2020 Fall 11th Grade PSAT/NMSQT	(+/-)	2021 Spring 11th Grade SAT	(+/-)					
TOTAL	954	67	975	21					
EBRW	489*	41	497*	8					
MATH	465	25	478	13					
Fall Benchmarks	32% met both, 37% met none, 63% met EBRW, 32% met Math								
Spring Benchmarks	27% met both, 44 % met none, 56% met EBRW, 27% met Math								

Standards Based Mindset

Myth 4: Students Will Be Unprepared for the Real World

As the argument goes, all of the second chances, the "lack of accountability" and the disregard for timelines leave students unprepared to navigate the realities of life in the "real world". Some would argue that if we, as adults, ignore deadlines we would eventually be fired. While that may be true in some cases, the idea that deadlines don't matter in standards-based grading is a myth. The concern among teachers and parents about real-world preparation is very real however. The truth is that we should all be concerned. School is not a place to make students experience an early version of adulthood, but we would be remiss if we didn't pay attention to the potential impact our practices have on a student's ability to succeed after graduation. The limitation of the real-world argument is that students cannot learn every life lesson before they graduate from high school. As well, if we proclaim the importance of these life lessons, habits, and characteristics, then we need to be purposeful about teaching them rather than waiting for arbitrary missteps by students to provide an opportunity. If these skills are so critical to the success of our students after graduation, then leaving it to chance is not an option and we should be teaching and assessing proficiency in those skills the way we teach and assess our curriculum.

The most productive growth environments in the workforce are supportive, strength-based, and often personalized. They are the ones where employees see constructive feedback as a source of empowerment rather than criticism. Sure, not all work environments are ideal, but we need to paint a more accurate picture of what the real world looks like and not use scare tactics to ensure compliance. In fact, most of the real-world is standards based. Whether it's a driving test, the bar exam, a pilot's license, employee performance reviews, or any other number of personal or professional credentials for employment, they are also often grounded in the same principles as standards-based grading; either a person meets the standard or doesn't.

To become successful adults, students need to learn how to manage their time, be respectful, maximize their efforts toward a task, and be dependable members of a team. We believe that the best preparation for success tomorrow is success and confidence today. Scaring students about the future is counterproductive. Many high school students are currently employed part time. Some of those students whose assignments are always late are the same employees who never miss a shift at their job. Some of our students are already in the "real world" and are actually quite successful. It's one thing to raise authentic concerns over the long-term implications of any change in practice; it's quite another to raise anxieties to irrational levels through fear about what students might experience in the future.

No one wants students unprepared for life after high school, nor does anyone want students to be irresponsible. The intent of more sound grading practices is to create a culture of learning that yields accurate information about student proficiency. In a standards-based school, students are held accountable, responsibility is important, and deadlines matter. Those behaviors are simply not impacted in the grading of learning. Although every new implementation has its wrinkles to iron out, we are working to ensure that **student grades reflect learning**.

Senior Information

2021-2022 Yearbook Information

Senior pictures for the yearbook need to be submitted to rphilip@buchananschools.com by February 14th, 2022.

Senior Shirt Information

Senior shirts are expected to arrive before Winter break. If all goes well and the supply chain works as it should, Mrs. Hess will pass out shirts when they arrive. Seniors should look for information in the near future about how to pick up their orders. As always, please direct your attention to the senior website which contains all the information needed for senior year. You can find it a www.seniors.buchananschools.com.

Buchanan Community Schools Says Goodbye to Mrs. Lentz

Thank you Sue Lentz for your dedication and service to the staff, students, and families of Buchanan Community Schools. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



Students at Work and at Play!

Student Mural Spruces Up Classroom

Ava Graham and Laura Sweeney have been working on this mural in Mr. Froelich and Mrs. Warmbein's room for the last 4 weeks! These ladies are sharing their talents by making inviting and creative spaces for our students learn and grow.



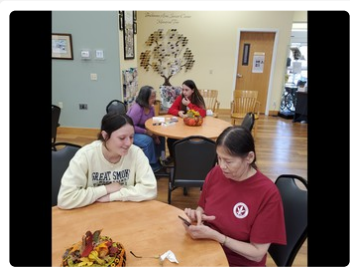
Art Students Spread Holiday Cheer

A few art students did a great job on the Honor Credit Union windows downtown. They completed the windows in time for the Saturday Christmas event downtown. What a talented group of kiddos! Thank you Morgan Koenigshof, Alexis Ludwig, and Paige Spitz for sharing your talents and spreading holiday cheer! And thank you to Honor Credit Union for the \$150 donation to the program!



Cyber Seniors - Mr. Philip

Cyber Seniors was founded in 2015 as a non-profit organization that allows High School students to provide senior citizens with tech-training. Our CTE students in our BMA and Graphic Design programs visit the Buchanan Senior Center a few times throughout the year to be digital mentors to our local senior citizens. This program has been a really positive experience over the last few years. Students and seniors really enjoy the conversation and the challenges that they are able work through together. It's a lot of fun and I'm glad that we are able to start doing it again.



BHS Students Saving Lives One Drop at a Time

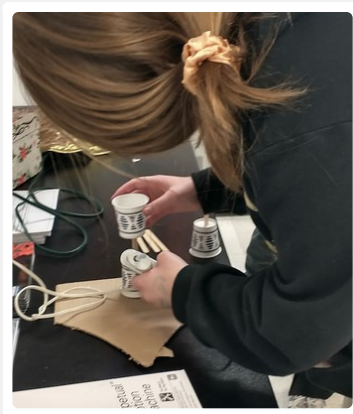
BHS was happy to once again host our bi-annual blood drive on November 8th. Students and staff were able to donate 43 units of blood. Each unit of blood can save the lives of up to 3 people; a total of 129 people could potentially benefit from the drive. The blood collected will go to help recipients suffering from cancer, trauma, blood disorders, surgery, pregnancy complications, or several other medical emergencies. Thank you to Mrs. Holok and BHS student council for organizing such an important event to help save lives.

National Honor Society - Mrs. Neal

This semester, NHS members partnered with the Buchanan Area Senior Center to rake leaves for local seniors. Members also participated in Project Re-Leaf in October planting trees throughout the community. During ICE, NHS members met to craft holiday cards for people in care facilities. We partnered with the Mail-A-Smile program. Members will be maintaining the Little Free Pantry at the Church of Nazarene throughout the month of December and will be working the Fernwood Botanical Lights on Sunday, December 19th.



Students in 8th grade earth science are working on creating windmills in class. They researched designs and worked through challenges to create a windmill that would transfer enough energy to lift a small object with the wind power. Students have been learning about renewable energy sources and some of their advantages and disadvantages. This activity gave them a practical problem to solve as well as a chance to work collaboratively with their classmates.

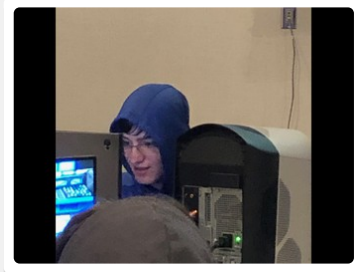


BHS Esports Team Takes Home the Trophy... AGAIN!

Our BHS Esports team took home the championship trophy this past week at Lake Michigan College. Berrien RESA hosted the Southwest Michigan High School Esports League Fall Championships for area high school teams. They swept the competition without losing a single game! They went up against Michigan Lutheran in the semifinals and won 3-0, then went on to take out Fennville in the final match, winning 4-0.

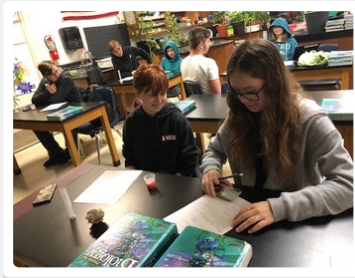
Cleary University awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to the 1st and 2nd place Rocket League teams. Our BHS team was awarded \$12,000. Esports is an up-and-coming activity that is getting attention at the national and international levels. Students can go on to play for college teams and may also be eligible for up to \$18.5 million in scholarships. The skills used in Esports lend themselves to a variety of careers in the gaming industry such as computer and packaging engineering, graphic design, marketing, software development and communication.


Congratulations to coach Pearson and his team (Will Goodrich, Aaron Walters, & Kaleb Lingle) for bringing home the Immortals trophy. And thanks to Bricen Rudlaff for the amazing pictures capturing the event!



Biology Gets a Look at Real DNA

Mr. Cribley's Biology classes were able to extract real DNA from strawberries to help students build a knowledge base to refer to when they learn about the functions of DNA.





All Donations support RAM

Food & Toy Drive Nov 1-Dec 15

**Donate non-perishable food items or
NEW toys**

Each item donated gives you a chance to win a
gift card! Sponsored by the BHS Lunch Ladies



ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOMETHING?

BHS Bucks Clothes Closet

BHS has a special place that is open to all students who may be in need of clothing, coats, shoes, or hygiene items. Everything in it is free!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

- December 6 - Winter Band Concert at 7:00 pm
- December 14 & 15 - Buchanan High School Play Performances
- December 16 - Half Day Exams 1-3, Dismissal at 11:00am
- December 17 - Half Day Exams 4-6, Dismissal at 11:00am, End of First Semester
- December 20 - 31 - Winter Break
- January 3 - Second Semester Begins
- January 17 - NO SCHOOL
- February 2 - Half Day (Hours 1-6) Dismissal at 11:00am
- February 18 - NO SCHOOL
- February 21 - NO SCHOOL (President's Day)
- March 16 - NHS Induction & Academic Letter Awards
- March 17 - Half Day (Hours 1-6) Dismissal at 11:00am, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 18 - NO SCHOOL
- March 21 - 25 - Spring Break
- April 6 - Half Day (Hours 1-6) Dismissal at 11:00am
- April 15 - Half Day (Hours 1-6) Dismissal at 11:00am
- May 4 - Half Day (Hours 1-6) Dismissal at 11:00am

- May 30 - NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)
- June 7 - Half Day Exams 1-3, Dismissal at 11:00am
- June 8 - Half Day Exams 4-6 Dismissal at 11:00am



Buchanan High School

 Facebook

 @BHS_Bucks

High School: 695-8403

(option #2) Stacey DeMaio, Principal

Abby Cantu, Administrative Assistant

(option #1) Brian Pruett, Assistant Principal

Anna Smith, Administrative Assistant

Miranda Capron, Attendance & At-Risk Interventionist

Donna Southwell, Academic Interventionist


(option #4) Student Services


Brandon Flowers, Counselor

Sue Lentz, Administrative Assistant

(option #3) Mark Frey, CTE Director

(option #5) Karin Falkenstein, Special Education Director

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