



# **BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 13, 2015**

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

One of the goals in the Bedford High School Improvement Plan is to examine our curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of a multicultural and global education, which falls in line with our social and civic expectations. As we examine our curriculum and expand opportunities for students garner a greater global understanding outside of the classroom as well. This has included an expansion of our global travel program. This year we will have student trips to Cuba, South Africa and Costa Rica. Additionally, this year we will be looking to share with you a longer term plan for trips to help interested families to budget for upcoming trips.

In the spirit of this goal I thought I would share with you a few ways we are trying to provide a global education for students in BHS and abroad as well as some announcements regarding global education.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE CLUBS**

### **French Club**

This year the French club is focusing our meetings around learning about different French speaking cultures. We are doing a passport to the francophone world series where we will do a trivia game, a food item and a cultural activity from different francophone countries/regions of the world. On November 30th (we will be doing Québec on that day and are planning the next two to be Haiti and Algeria)

### **Spanish Club**

This year at the Spanish Club, the club members are bringing the Spanish language to the Bedford community. We started the program "Cuentos para niños" at the Bedford Children's library. The club members are going to the Bedford Public library on a monthly basis to read books in Spanish, sing songs and put on finger puppet plays to the Bedford children. Our first session was on October 2nd and all the students participated in different activities with the children and their parents, using the Spanish language.

Please join us at the next Principal's Roundtable on  
November 20, 2015 at 8am here at Bedford High School

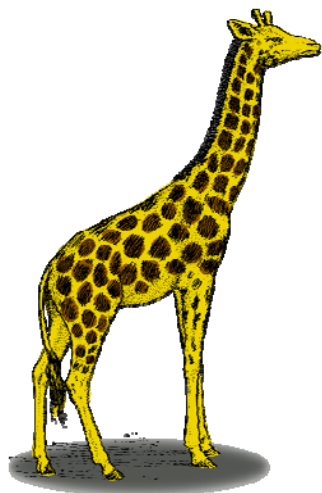
## **Continuing Spanish Club**

Other activities we do at the Spanish Club is to celebrate holidays, such as El Día de los muertos in Mexico, cook a variety of recipes, and make art projects from Spanish speaking countries.

## **Latin Club**

In Latin 2, students are exploring the physical world of the ancient Romans right now, by building scale models of famous ancient Roman buildings. This interdisciplinary project requires them to apply mathematical reasoning in order to understand ancient archaeological data and re-create the stunning architecture of the eternal city. After building their physical models, students will also be making websites about their buildings, so that the whole class can participate in a virtual tour of ancient Rome. At the same time, the Latin club has been re-creating other aspects of Roman material culture on a smaller and more informal scale, from some ancient

Roman-style mosaics, which the members constructed out of graham crackers, frosting, and skittles, to the fabulous garments at the club's annual toga-making competition.



## **South Africa Trip**

This July we are taking an exciting trip to South Africa. Over the course of 11 days we will visit Johannesburg, the Kruger National Park area, and Cape Town. Use the link below to see a detailed itinerary, find out costs, and to read third-party reviews of the trip.

[http://www.eftours.com/tour-website/1669034TR?utm\\_source=link&utm\\_medium=RC&utm\\_campaign=sharetrip](http://www.eftours.com/tour-website/1669034TR?utm_source=link&utm_medium=RC&utm_campaign=sharetrip)

## **Help support the BHS Travel Scholarship**

For this year's trips we awarded \$5200 in scholarships to three students with our Travel Scholarship. We are very proud of the work the Ms. Cia Gisone has done in raising money for the travel scholarship. We would also like to make these trips a reality for more students. Last year a scholarship award winner announced as she returned from Belize, "This trip changed my life". As some of you consider your end of year donations, please consider donating money to the BHS travel scholarship to help more students have life changing experiences. You may do so by writing a check to the BHS travel scholarship and sending it to the Student Office.



### **Visitors from China**

An exciting opportunity arose this year. A representative from Beijing No. 9 School and Beijing Dayu School reached out to me this Fall to ask to me if students from their school could visit and shadow BHS and JGMS students his winter. This opportunity could



eventually to lead to forming a formal partnership with one or both schools in a few years with the eventual hope of creating an exchange program for BHS students and teachers. While there are many steps that must be taken before any of those ideas become a reality, a one day visit was a nice step in exposing our students to peers from a different culture. As it turns out, the students in Beijing are very excited about this trip and so close to 100 middle school and high school students have signed for their trip.

There will certainly be more information regarding this visit as we get closer to the event. Right now the plan is for these students to visit BHS in two waves on January 27th and 28th. Beijing students will be divided into two groups and shadow Bedford students during one day over the course of the two-day period. On January 28th during X-block Bedford hosts and Beijing students will join together to learn more about each others' culture.

With the large number of visitors, there will be opportunities for many of our students to interact with these visitors. BHS students who are interested in having a Beijing student shadow them for a day should leave their name with my assistant, Brenda Sweetland. For some of our students there will be an opportunity to participate in some after-school and evening activities as well on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report Cards**

Please be aware that first quarter grades are posted in Aspen.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences for Bedford High School will be held on Thursday December 10th from 4-8 PM.**

Each conference will be scheduled for 10 minutes and you may sign up for only 2 conferences per child. This year, we have decided to use a new sign up system so it will look different than last year. You will be able to sign up for conferences beginning Sunday November 20th. We will send out an email through Blackboard Connect with the link to schedule your conferences.

### **PL-874 Form—Over Due**

Every parent or guardian must fill out this form and return it back to BHS. Extra copies of this form can be found in the Student Office or at:

*<http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/home/bedford-high-school/1316-201516-pl874-for-all-students.html>*

## ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Lexington Arts and Crafts Society presents the 20th Annual Regional Art Exhibit  
October 31st-November 15th  
Reception, November 15th, 2pm-4pm

Student Exhibitors:

2015 BHS Student Exhibitors:

Ava Altmann	Erin Venuti	Aleia Mc Walter
Abby Bosco	Michelle Kupersmidt	Emily Barga
Laura Caron	Leslie Yan	Kiera Doherty-
Kassie Doud	Aaron Hamilton	Herwitz
Christine Lee	Rob Ackerman	Libby Fields
Olivia Morrissey	David Lach	Leo Goldschmidt
Nghi Nguyen	Lauren Miller	Ariella Hensen
Debora Ploch	Teague Schlafli	Marja Hubbard
Christina Solitro	Matthew Bridgeman	Allison Jew
Ludovica Schaerf	John Giaquinto	Megan Knoedler
Laura Wei	Patrick Siegler	Kelsie Patterson
Madison Wiggins	Ian MacPhee	Nicole Powell
Carly Martin	Justin Paxton	Jennifer Rennich
Gwen Gardner	Liz Carter	Rachelle Shao
Kristin Mills	Tatianna Parker	Sophia Wilson
Alyssa Brown	Savannah En	Shane Murphy
Olivia Geary		Annie Fotis
Kayla D'Alleva		Maya Bostwick

Congratulations to all student exhibitors!

Gallery Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday and Sunday: 12pm-4pm  
Saturday, 10am-4pm  
Closed Monday

For additional information:

<http://lacsma.org/Portals/0/2015/HS%20Art%20Flier%2010-19-15.pdf>

Thank you,  
Sean Hagan  
K-12 Visual Arts Program Director  
Bedford Public Schools  
Bedford, MA  
781-275-1700 x4195

### **Clearing Away the Smoke: Facts & Fiction About Marijuana & Youth 11/17/2015**

Parents, learn the facts and latest scientific research regarding marijuana and youth. Whether your child is at the high school or still in elementary school, it's never too late or too early to start talking about challenging choices and decisions. High school and middle school students welcome.

**Who:** Dr. Kevin Hill, McLean Hospital Director of Substance Abuse Consultation Service and author of Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth About the World's Most Popular Weed.

**When & Where:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7 to 9 pm @ Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium, 500 Walden Street

**Sponsored by:** Bedford Youth & Family Services, Concord-Carlisle Youth Services, Bedford Police Department, and Concord Police Department

**Questions?** 781-275-7727 (Bedford) & 978-318-3043 (Concord-Carlisle)

**For more information:** Click here for the flyer

<https://bedfordmspa.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/dhrhillflyer.pdf>

and click here for the press release

<https://bedfordmspa.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/prkevinhillnov15.docx>



### **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Please check out Guidance News at:

[http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/images/stories/pdfs/bhs/guidance/November\\_Newsletter\\_2015.pdf](http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/images/stories/pdfs/bhs/guidance/November_Newsletter_2015.pdf)

### **College Visits**

Attention Students!

The following colleges will have representatives visiting Bedford High:

Thursday, November 12th: Quinnipiac University

Friday, November 13th: Lasell College

Monday, November 16th: Curry College

Tuesday, November 17th: Endicott College

Thursday, November 19th: Fisher College

Friday, November 20th: Salve Regina University

Please stop by guidance to see what these institutions have to offer!

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT NEWS

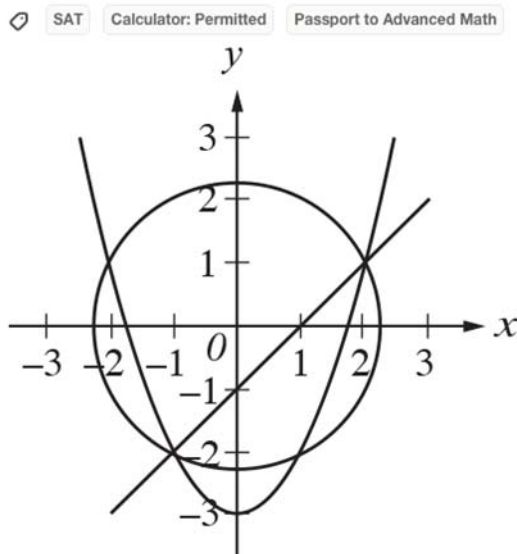
### November 2015

At a recent Parent Roundtable that I attended the topic of the "new" SAT came up. Here are some of the highlights.

The "new" SAT math test will ask students to: (1) solve problems that have several steps including those that model real life situations; (2) most questions are multiple choice while there will be 22% "grid ins" that require the student to determine the answer; (3) there will be calculator and non-calculator portions; and (4) there is no penalty for guessing.

There will be a strong emphasis on Algebra, Problem Solving, Data Analysis and what they are calling "Passport to Advanced Math," which covers much of what we teach in Algebra II at BHS. The College Board has essentially worked to re-align their test to the Common Core math standards. There is an "Additional Topics" category which includes Geometry and Trigonometry with the latter topic being one that parents have asked about. In our Geometry curriculum students learn about trig ratios and solve real word problems. Students also learn about radian measure. In Pre-Calculus and Continuing Algebra II/Pre-Calculus student go deeper into trigonometry. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are working this year on updating our Learning Expectations for Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II and the Common Core Standards, MCAS topics, AP-Calculus standards, and the new SAT are a part of our work.

The College Board, the company behind the SAT, has partnered with Khan Academy to provide, in their words, "free, personalized SAT study resources for all students." This is based on



$$\begin{aligned}x^2 + y^2 &= 5 \\y &= x^2 - 3 \\x - y &= 1\end{aligned}$$

A system of three equations and their graphs in the  $xy$ -plane are shown above. How many solutions does the system have?

both the current SAT and the "new" SAT that will take affect in March of 2016. There are diagnostic tests, practice tests, topical reviews, and much more. I would suggest taking the math diagnostic tests to start and the interactive nature of Khan Academy can individualize an SAT program for your child. Visit <https://collegeboard.org/sat/practice>



## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Below is an example of an "Advanced Math" question where a calculator is allowed, but not needed if you understand the concept of systems of equations. Students who understand that a solution to a system would need to satisfy all equations would know that all three curves [the line, parabola and circle] intersect at (2,1) and (-1,-2) and thus there are two (2) solutions. I suspect the initial reaction of some may be, "I've never seen this before..." and what we need to work on is getting students to take a moment and think through what they do know and how they can transfer their knowledge to a new situation.

All my Best,

Patrick Morrissey

## BEDFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (BAA) CLOTHING SALE

The BAA is selling Buccaneer clothing online for just a limited time. Visit the store at:



<https://triconsports.tuosystems.com/stores/bedfordbaa15>

This is a great opportunity to buy Buccaneer gear online and have it delivered in time for the holiday season. All proceeds from sales are passed back to the sports programs of the Bedford High School and Middle School athletic programs per the mission of the BAA. The BAA also supports events at Davis and Lane School. The store is only open through 11/22/2014.

## 2016 AMC-10 and AMC-12 Exams Sign Up Deadline 11/24/2015

Attention Math students: The 2016 AMC-10 and AMC-12 Exams will be given in February. Last year this 75 minute exam was administered by over 4000 schools around the world. Many Colleges and Universities ask for your AMC score on their applications. The test is FREE, but if you do not sign up now, there will not be an exam for you in February, because we have to order the exams in advance. Please put your name on the signup sheet in C108, or email Mr. McGowan if you want to take the test. The deadline to sign up is November 24th.

## Student Directories are Available

If you would like to purchase a 2015-16 Student Directory, the booklet of students' names with parents' contact information, please send \$10 (cash or check made out to BHSPA) to Kelly Craven, 17 Norma Road, Bedford, MA, 01730. For any questions, please contact Kelly at [kellyscc@aol.com](mailto:kellyscc@aol.com).

# 2015/2016 School Calendar

(Times and dates can change so please also check on the on line calendar too)

## November 2015

- 3rd No School—Professional Day for Teachers
- 3rd School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 4th MCAS Retest—ELA Composition Sessions A&B
- 5th MCAS Retest-ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1&2
- 6th MCAS Retest-ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3
- 9th MCAS Retest-Mathematics Session 1
- 9th Parent & Student Mandatory Winter Sports Meeting @ 6pm  
*Auditorium*
- 10th MCAS Retest-Mathematics Session 2
- 11th No School—Veterans Day
- 17th School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 20th Roundtable @ 8am  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 25th Early Release @ 11:20am
- 26th No School—Thanksgiving
- 27th No School

## December 2015

- 8th School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 10th Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 15th School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 18th Roundtable @ 8am  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 21st Principal's Advisory Council @ 1:20pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 22nd School Council @ 2:45pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 24th December Vacation Begins
- 25th December Vacation
- 28th December Vacation
- 29th December Vacation
- 30th December Vacation
- 31st December Vacation

## January 2016

- 1st December Vacation
- 12th School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 14th Junior/Senior Semi
- 15th No School—Teacher Workshop
- 18th No School—Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- 19th Midterms
- 19th School Council @ 2:45pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 20th Midterms
- 21st Midterms
- 22nd Midterms
- 26th School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 28th Principal's Advisory Council @ 1:20pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 29th Roundtable @ 8am  
*Principal's Conference Room*

## February 2016

- 1st MCAS Biology Session 1
- 2nd MCAS Biology Session 2
- 9th School Council @ 2:45pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 15th February Vacation Begins
- 16th February Vacation
- 17th February Vacation
- 18th February Vacation
- 19th February Vacation
- 23rd School Committee @ 7:30pm
- 25th Principal's Advisory Council @ 1:20pm  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 26th Roundtable @ 8am  
*Principal's Conference Room*
- 29th MCAS Retest-ELA Composition Sessions A&B





# 2015/2016 School Calendar

(Times and dates can change so please also check on the on line calendar too)

## March 2016

1st	MCAS Retest-ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1&2
2nd	MCAS Retest-ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3
3rd	MCAS Retest-Mathematics Session 1
4th	MCAS Retest-Mathematics Session 2
11th	No School—Teacher Workshop
16th	BHS Musical
17th	BHS Musical
18th	Roundtable @ 8AM
18th	BHS Musical
19th	BHS Musical
22nd	MCAS 10 Grade—ELA Composition Sessions A&B
23rd	MCAS 10 Grade— ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1&2
24th	MCAS 10 Grade-ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3
25th	Early Release @ 11:20am
29th	School Council @ 2:45pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
29th	School Committee @ 7:30pm
31st	MCAS 10 Grade Make Up-ELA Composition Sessions A&B

## April 2016

5th	Mandatory X-Block Meeting for All Grades
12th	School Council @ 2:45pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
12th	School Committee @ 7:30pm
18th	April Vacation Begins
19th	April Vacation
20th	April Vacation
21st	April Vacation
22nd	April Vacation
28th	Principal's Advisory Council @ 1:20pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
29th	Roundtable @ 8am <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>

## May 2016

3rd	School Committee @ 7:30pm
6th	Art Show
7th	Art Show
8th	Art Show
17th	MCAS 10 Grade-Mathematics Session 1
17th	School Council @ 2:45pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
17th	School Committee @ 7:30pm
18th	MCAS 10 Grade— Mathematics Session 2
21st	Relay for Life
22nd	Relay for Life
24th	ROTC Awards
27th	Roundtable @ 8am <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
27th	Principal's Advisory Council @ 1:20pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
30th	No School—Memorial Day
31st	School Committee @ 7:30pm

## June 2016

1st	MCAS-STE Session 1
2nd	MCAS STE Session 2
2nd	2016 Graduation @ 6:15pm
7th	Locker Clean Out
10th	Finals Begin (With No Snow Days)
13th	Finals (With No Snow Days)
14th	Finals (With No Snow Days)
14th	School Council @ 2:45pm <i>Principal's Conference Room</i>
14th	School Committee @ 7:30pm
15th	Finals (With No Snow Days)
16th	Finals (With No Snow Days)

