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Happy New Year and welcome to 2023! It is hard to believe that our first semester has already come and gone... it seems like we just had our First Knight welcome back where we showed off our new window wraps. Now here we are kicking off the 3rd quarter. I have a couple of items I want to share with you as we hit the midpoint of the school year.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS -

"At BRHS we strive to create a safe, supportive, welcoming environment where students can learn."

This is the vision we have for our building. It is not something where we can really ever say that we have arrived, and that we are done trying to achieve that vision. It should be an ongoing effort each and every day to be better. Please let us know if you ever feel that we are not living up to this vision. We are definitely here to support you and your students.

"Blue Ridge Schools will Embrace, Engage, Equip, and Empower students, staff, parents, and the community."

As a staff, we continue to work on ways to keep this mission at the forefront of our work. Since we get to interact with your students every day, it is a little easier to see ways to embrace, engage, equip and empower our students. Finding ways to embrace, engage, equip and empower parents doesn't always seem as simple. The next item is hopefully a step in the right direction on that front.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS FOR THIS SEMESTER -

Skyward will be set up to send weekly communications to families if your student is having any academic struggles. There will be two different indicators that will trigger this email to be sent.

- If your student has a grade in a class that has dropped below 75%, this information will be included in the weekly email.
- If your student has any assignments that are marked as "missing" in a teacher's gradebook, this will also be included in the weekly email.

Skyward has also been sending automatic emails to families when a student has multiple attendance irregularities in a given day. If your student is marked absent or tardy or "C" (left class) more than one time in a day, you should be receiving an email notification. You can check Skyward to see what the





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issues are, or you could call the office to see what is happening. We are also rolling out automated phone calls when a student is absent from school for the morning and we have not heard from the family as to why this is the case. These are all new things we are using to improve the communication between the school and home. Please let us know if you see a way we can make it better.

CREDITS -

For many, this could be a review... but I do want to make sure that parents who are new to the building are aware of the semester goals for our students. In high school, a student earns 0.5 credits for passing a class in a semester. This means that a student with 7 classes and a study hall could earn up to 3.5 credits in any semester. Over eight (8) semesters of school, this would put that student at a total of 28 credits earned. Our graduation requirement is 26 credits. It is very important for students to be mindful of how many more credits they might need at any time in order to be on track for graduation. Please review your student's report card and let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding their status.

Thanks for reading. I am always happy to meet or chat if you have any questions or concerns.

Go Knights!

Brian Easter

