



Principal's Newsletter

Branford High School • Fall 2019



Please visit our website for important information and updates:

www.branfordhigh.org



From the Principal:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're just a few weeks into the school year and already it's been a busy time, both in and out of the classroom. As I walk around our building, I see a lot of smiling faces and positive energy. When I get into classrooms each day, it's a pleasure to watch teachers meet students where they are and help them grow through engaging instruction and curriculum.

Extracurricular enthusiasm is high as well: on one recent Friday, Our Class Act School student committee, athletic department, sports team members, marching band and dance team created a truly memorable and spirit-filled pep rally; school clubs have begun to have their first meetings, and the Fall Drama production of *Romeo and Juliet* is starting to take form.

Because we always want to do things better, we appreciate feedback to faculty and administration. Whether an email to a teacher, a phone call to an administrator, or a more formal opportunity like our school climate survey, hearing from you is important. Your input has helped focus the development of programs that support our students. Last year, it led directly to programs to inform our students and parents about vaping and e-cigarettes; student health and wellness; and the safe use of social media.

We look forward to partnering with you during your student's exciting journey through high school. We encourage you to access the most current information about BHS events at our website at www.branfordhigh.org.

Sincerely,

Lee Panagoulas, Jr.
Principal

Fall Calendar

OCTOBER

5	SAT
11	Yale Presentation: E-Cigarettes 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
14	NO SCHOOL Columbus Day
16	PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors
17	Evening Parent Conferences 6:00 - 8:00 PM
26	ACT
29	Evening Parent Conferences 6:00 - 8:00 PM
30	Early Release Day: Students released at 12:00 PM
31	Quarter 1 ends

NOVEMBER

1	Quarter 2 begins
1	Photo Retake Day
2	SAT
5	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Election Day
6	Music Maker Showcase 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
27	Early Release Day / Thanksgiving Recess
28-29	Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

7	SAT
11	Early Release Day: Students released at 12:00 PM
11	Winter Choral Concert 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
13	Winter Pep Rally
14	ACT
17	Winter Instrumental Concert 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
23-31	NO SCHOOL Holiday Recess

Summer Vacation News

BHS Teachers Awarded Fund for Teacher Fellowships

Two BHS teachers did something a little different this past summer. Andy Tremaglio (English Teacher) and Vicki Climie (Horizons Science Teacher) each received **Fund for Teachers Fellowships** to pursue an area of interest within their teaching disciplines. **Fund for Teachers** is a national organization that supports educators' efforts to develop skills, knowledge, and confidence that will have an impact on student achievement. Since 2001, Fund for Teachers has invested \$32 million in nearly 8,500 teachers who have traveled to 152 countries and all 7 continents.

Andy Tremaglio explored Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks focusing on nature-based literature to facilitate student engagement in conservation/preservation work. His journey took him across Wyoming and included guided hikes with park rangers to learn about the importance of the history and conservation efforts within the area.



The photo at left above shows Mr. Tremaglio standing on rough terrain in front of mountains and evergreen trees. The photo at right shows him with a National Park Service Ranger holding a Fund for Teachers brochure.

Vicki Climie spent 7 days sailing to several reefs within the British Virgin Islands to film/photograph fish and coral species. Her students will use these photos for research on species repopulation after Hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed much of that underwater habitat.



The photo above shows Ms. Climie snorkeling near a reef.



In the photo at right, she is on deck sailing her boat.

Mr. Tremaglio and Ms. Climie are just the latest of many BHS teachers who have traveled the world through Fund for Teachers. Previous BHS faculty who have received Fellowships include Pete Bouley, Joel Hinrichs, Elise Weisenbach, Donna Roy, Nick Rizzi, Rob Polemeni, Christian Miller, Mallory Legman, and John Matthiessen. If you would like to see more pictures and highlights about any of these trips, please visit:

https://fft.fundforteachers.org/applications/fellow_search

You can view their reports by entering the staff member’s name in the Keyword search bar. Then click “View Report” (all the way to the right). While each report is limited to 6 photos, it will give you a peek at what many BHS faculty have experienced and brought back into their classrooms during summer break.

Addams Family Cast Earns Kudos at Halo Awards

In June, the cast of our spring musical, *The Addams Family*, attended the Halo awards, an event similar to the Tony Awards where high schools from all over Connecticut receive awards for different aspects of their productions. Our production was nominated for 6 different awards!

- Alina Catania was nominated for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical.
- Ben Clouse was nominated for Best Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Musical.
- The Stage Crew was nominated for Best Running Crew.
- The entire cast was nominated for Best Dancing and performed the opening number of our show as the closing act.

Two Branford students received the awards they were nominated for:

- **The Halo for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical went to Dylan Campos!**
- **The Halo for Best Comic Male Performance in a Musical went to Brandon Hernandez!**

These awards indicate these students as some of the best actors in Connecticut and BHS Performing Arts is proud to have them as members of our cast.

News from Your School Based Health Care

We are back for another busy year! This school year, we have changed our hours and will be starting our day earlier at 7:30 am. Please see the schedule listed below for our daily hours.

With the arrival of fall, thoughts in the SBHC turn to preventing the flu in the months ahead. Best way to do this? Get a flu shot and vaccinate yourself against getting sick. Remember, it takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccine for maximum effectiveness to be reached. You do not want to wait until flu season has started to get immunized!

Any questions? Stop by or call us.

Carrie Federici, APRN 203-315-6727

Monday	7:30 – 2:30	<u>Please note:</u> Afterschool appointments can be arranged.
Tuesday	7:30 – 2:15	
Wednesday	7:30 – 2:30	
Thursday	7:30 – 2:15	
Friday	7:30 – 2:30	

BHS Monarch Butterfly Project

Branford High School Monarch Butterfly Initiative for 2019/2020

by Pamela Castro Pascoe

Branford High School (BHS) is collaborating with the Branford Garden Club (BGC) to kick off the new BHS Monarch Butterfly Initiative! The Monarch Butterfly population has been steadily declining due to pesticides and loss of habitat. BHS and BGC want to do their part to help save the Monarch Butterflies.

The BGC generously donated plants to start the BHS Butterfly Pollenating Garden, located in front of the school. Through the combined efforts of BHS's Unified Sports, BHS's teachers Ms. Phillip & Ms. Evans, Hedy Bastian and other BGC members, the butterfly garden has far exceeded expectations! The photo below shows BHS Unified Sports with their awards from the BGS Flower show, placing 1st, 2nd & 3rd for their butterfly bush, milkweed, & marigolds, respectively.



BHS is also raising 50 monarch caterpillars, some donated from Natureworks Garden Center, in their classrooms and offices, with nutrition provided by the BHS award-winning milkweed!



The picture above left shows the Butterfly Garden newly planted in June. The picture above right shows the Butterfly Garden in full bloom at the end of the summer.

School Counseling News

The School Counseling Department was off and running prior to the start of school registering new students, participating in Freshman Orientation, and ensuring that all students were scheduled for the first day of school. We are pleased to say that it was a very smooth opening day!

September has been extremely busy, hosting **Back to School Night** and **Senior College Planning Night**. We had several agencies and vendors at our Back to School Night including the Yale Smoking Cessation Program, School Based Health Center, the BHS School Counseling Department and we all enjoyed a **"Taste of BHS"** with the help of John Turenne from Chartwells. Jason Riendeau from the University of New Haven, and Lew DeLuca from Southern Connecticut State University were the guest speakers at the College Planning Night, and covered topics on the College Application Process and Financial Aid. Both events were well attended and very informational.

Post-Secondary Planning & College Rep Visits

Seniors should be scheduling their post-secondary planning meetings with their school counselors and signing up in Naviance to meet with college admissions representatives visiting BHS.

AP Exams

AP test registrations will be happening in the fall this year. Students will be getting registration forms from their AP teachers and forms are also available in the School Counseling Office. The deadline to register is **Oct. 18th**.

FAFSA News

FAFSA DAY CONNECTICUT

This is a nationwide volunteer-driven effort to assist students and families in accessing funding for post-secondary education. Event participants will receive free, hands-on assistance in completing the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA, in a comfortable local setting.

Please register at <https://www.capfaa.org/fafsa-day/>

Upcoming Events

October 16	Community Service Fair and Freshman Transition Workshop	7:30 -11:30 am
	PSAT (Grades 10 and 11)	7:30 - 11:30 am
October 18	College Fair	9:00 - 11:30 am

TEST DATES

SAT	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
October 5	PASSED	PASSED
November 2	October 3	October 22
December 7	November 8	November 26

ACT	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
October 26	PASSED	October 13
December 14	November 8	November 25
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020

Congratulations!

National Merit Scholarship Commended Students

Four BHS seniors have been commended by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for their outstanding performance on the PSAT: **Austin Bui, Samantha Esposito, Joshua Josephy-Zack, and Max Padian.**

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue on to compete for 2020 National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million student who entered the competition by taking the 2018 PSAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented an NMSC spokesperson. “These students represent a valuable national resource. Recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

School Counseling Department Chair Recognized

The Shoreline Chamber of Commerce has selected **Marian Montano** as a 2020 **Woman of Excellence.**

Ms. Montano has worked for Branford Public Schools for over 20 years, going above and beyond for our students and their families. In addition to her counseling caseload and her duties as department leader, Ms. Montano also serves as advisor of the new Excel Club at BHS. To accomplish these tasks, Ms. Montano puts in extra hours before and after school. She gives all of her students personal attention, and even donates her personal time and resources to help prepare students for life after high school.

Congratulations and thank you to Ms. Montano!

Juniors to Attend Yale Rep Performance

Attention Parents of Juniors:

Coming up in the spring, your son or daughter will have the opportunity to see the Yale Repertory production of ***A Raisin in the Sun***, Lorraine Hansberry’s classic tale about a family living on the south side of Chicago striving for the American Dream. The performance is open to all **juniors** through their American Literature classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the play come alive on stage after reading it in a classroom.

Since Yale expects this play to fill up very quickly, we have to collect permission slips and money within the next few weeks to let them know how many students will be attending. Please be on the lookout for a permission slip and more detailed information about the field trip coming home in the next few weeks. If you have any questions, ask your child's junior English teacher - Mr. Miller, Mr. Tremaglio, or Ms. Lepre.

BHS Band News

BHS Jazz Band Updates

Concert with John Smedley Trio

By Mallory Legman

The BHS jazz band performed with a professional group, the John Smedley Trio, on Friday, September 27 at the First Baptist Church in a concert organized by the Musical Art Society of Branford.

Shown in the back row at right (left to right) are Jazz Band members Graham Reynolds (bass and drums) and Alex Sweeney (bass)

Front row (left to right): CJ Doyle (baritone saxophone), Kyle Bissell (alto saxophone), Dylan Royka (tenor saxophone and drums), and Pierce Kozlowski (trumpet)



BHS Marching Band Updates

Marching Band Performs at UConn Football Game, BHS Home Football Games, and Sheehan Competition

By Mallory Legman

Before the school year started, the BHS marching band completed a week of band camp to practice its marching and music in preparation for performances throughout the fall. Band camp concluded with a Preview Show performance on August 27.

The 2019 field show is called Classic Rock Favorites and includes The Rolling Stones' "Paint it Black," Toto's "Africa," Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer," and the school fight song, "Hail to the Varsity." The students have already performed their show at two home football games and are preparing to host WIS 7th and 8th grade band students at the next home game on October 25.

On September 7, the BHS marching band joined students from high schools across Connecticut to perform with the UConn Marching Band (UCMB) during halftime of the UConn vs. Illinois football game. On September 26, the BHS marching band is traveling to the UConn campus for a one-on-one clinic with the UCMB.

On September 21, the BHS marching band participated in a competition at Sheehan High School (Wallingford). The photos on the next page show band members on the field performing and hanging out as they watched other bands. They will perform at another competition at Lyman Hall High School (Wallingford) on October 12.



In this photo, Drum Major CJ Doyle conducts members of the BHS marching band as they perform their field show "Classic Rock Favorites."



This photo shows BHS marching band members posing for the camera as they hang out and watch other bands perform.

Drama Department News

***Romeo and Juliet* Will Stage December 5-7**

William Shakespeare's classic tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* is BHS Dramat's fall play. The play will be performed in BHS's Cathmann Roding Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on December 5, 6, and 7.

Possibly Shakespeare's most famous play and a staple of high school English classes, *Romeo and Juliet*'s sad tale is familiar to most audiences. However, the play contains numerous complex characters in addition to its "star-crossed lovers," providing numerous challenging roles for BHS's corps of actors.

This is Director Maria Ogren's 11th Shakespeare play. She has directed more than 50 productions at BHS, some years directing two.

"Why Shakespeare, and why now, and why this play???", asks Ogren. "Three questions to be asked! As a long-ago English teacher (neither Mrs. Ogren nor Mr. Matthiessen) once told her classes, 'Because it's about *you*.'

"Romeo and Juliet remains a play about young people caught up in a situation of simmering tensions likely to break out in violence at any moment. Despite this, they find a love as intense as their families' hatred. The actions they take are misguided, but as young teens overcome with the enormity of their plight and desperate to nurture 'this bud of love' to its full flowering, they end in tragedy.

"Reflections of present disturbance? Children placed in danger? Tempers quick to flare into violence?"

"Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague would be right at home!"

Tryouts for *Romeo and Juliet* took place on September 9 and 10. The cast, in order appearance, is:

Abelia Rodriguez	Prince/dancer at party
Jeremy LaCroix	Montague/Sampson/Servant
Matt Cabahug	Abraham/soldier/assistant
Amirah Veselova	Peter/Servant
Gabriela Darling	Brawler/Servant/Dancer
Brianna Flood	Gregory/Watchman/dancer
Hope Steen	Benvolio
Ian MacDougall	Mercutio
Adriana Tourangeau	Lady Capulet
Kyle Bissell	Capulet
Elise Eggert	Lady Montague
Adit Rajpurohit	Romeo
Charles Doyle	Paris
Rita Micklus	Nurse
Abbygail Shaw	Juliet
Alexis Brown	Juliet
Ben Clouse	Friar Laurence
Louis Brodsky	Friar John/Balthasar
Sofia DeSorbo	Apothecary/Attendant/dancer



At front and center in this photo, Adit Rajpurohit (left) and Lexi Brown rehearse their lines onstage in the Cathmann Roding Auditorium.



BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL ID # 41117

Dear Supporter:

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and to a new year of A+ School Rewards! This year's A+ Program runs from September 6, 2019 through March 14, 2020.

Our school **BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL**, ID#: **41117** has the opportunity to participate in and earn **CASH** from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through your local Stop & Shop!

Former Supporters:

You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

New Supporters or Existing Supporters Wishing to Make Changes:

- Beginning *July 26, 2019*, visit and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, select "MY ACCOUNT", followed by "MANAGE MY ACCOUNT", then "REWARDS & SAVINGS" to select your school.
- If you do not have an online account, visit stopandshop.com and click "REGISTER". Follow the prompts to create your online account. Once logged in, follow the same instructions as noted above.
- You'll need your 13-digit STOP & SHOP CARD number and the School ID number. If you need assistance, call 1-877-366-2668 option 1.

To earn points:

- Use your registered STOP & SHOP CARD each time you shop at any Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can confirm your school selection by logging into your account.
- At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign in to your online account.
- Our school will receive one CASH rewards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

Also, please encourage your family members and friends to support our school. This could result in more cash rewards for our school!

Thank you for supporting our school.

Sincerely,