



Principal's Newsletter



Branford High School • Spring 2020

Please visit our website for important information and updates:

www.branfordhigh.org

Spring Calendar

MARCH

- 3 Student Voter Registration, during lunch waves in the Commons
- 5 Parent Coffee, 7:30 - 8:30 am in the College and Career Center
- 6 International Women's Day Celebration, all day in the LLC
Hometown Harmonies: Musical Fundraiser for the BHS Cathynn Roding Scholarship, 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Cathynn Roding Auditorium
- 11 CAFE Day on the Hill
- 12 Evening Conferences, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 13 Spring Musical: Elementary Students Day
- 18 Early Release Day
Seal of Biliteracy Test Day
Student Tea, 12:30 pm in the College and Career Center
- 18 - 20 Spring Musical, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
7:00 pm in the Cathynn Roding Auditorium
- 21 Spring Musical, Matinee and Evening performances:
2:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Cathynn Roding Auditorium
- 22 Spring Musical, MATINEE ONLY, 2:00 pm in the Cathynn Roding Auditorium
- 25 In-School SAT Day
- 26 Evening Conferences, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 27 Quarter 3 ends
- 30 Quarter 4 begins
- 31 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 7:00 - 8:30 in the Cathynn Roding Auditorium

APRIL

- 2 Peace Jam Fundraiser, 6:00 pm in the Commons
- 4 ACT Test
- 9 Choir Pops Concert, 7:00 in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium
- 10 **NO SCHOOL** Good Friday
- 13 - 17 **NO SCHOOL** Spring Recess
- 22 Early Release Day
- 27 DEADLINE for Seniors to submit the BHS Common Scholarship Application
- 28 **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** Voting Day - CT Presidential Primary Selection
- 30 All-Strings Concert, 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium

MAY

- 4 - 8 Advanced Placement Testing
- 8 Best of BHS Contest, 7:00 pm in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium
- 11 - 15 Advanced Placement Testing
- 14 Spring Instrumental Concert, 7:00 pm in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium
- 15 Junior-Senior Prom, 6:00 - 10:00 at The Woodwinds, Branford
- 20 Early Release Day
- 21 NGSS Test Day
- Senior Class Trip to Lake Compounce
- Achievement Awards Night, 7:00 in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium
- 25 **NO SCHOOL** Memorial Day
- 28 Senior Choir Showcase Concert, 7:00 pm in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium

JUNE

- 6 SAT
- 8 Quarter 4 ends
- 9 - 10 FINAL EXAMS
- 10 Senior Scholarship Awards Night
- 11-12, 15 FINAL EXAMS
- 15 Potential Last Day of School and Graduation, 6:00 pm



ATTEND COLLEGE DEBT-FREE WITH PACT

Beginning the fall 2020 semester, qualified Connecticut residents can pursue a degree or certificate **tuition and fee-free**. The Pledge to Advance Connecticut, or PACT, will support full-time students who are entering Connecticut community colleges in the fall 2020 semester.

To qualify, students must:

- Be a graduate of any Connecticut high school, GED or home school program
- Be a first-time college student
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), and accept all available financial aid
- Enroll and stay enrolled as full-time students (12 credits per semester)
- Participate in a degree or credit-bearing certificate program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress

By the Numbers

36
MONTHS the PACT program covers 3 years of tuition and fees

12
CREDITS the minimum number of credits per semester required for PACT eligibility

72
CREDITS the maximum that can be earned with PACT

JULY
15, 2020

the deadline to apply and register in order to receive priority consideration

"I think PACT gives hope to every student, no matter what their economic circumstance, that they can go to college."

Mark Ojakian

President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Branford Police Department Women in the Law 2020 at BHS

Branford High School was very pleased to host the Branford Police Department's Women in the Law 2020 discussion panel. Sgt. Melissa Carney (K-9 Arrow), Crime Analyst Dominique Virgulto, Dispatcher Amber Boisseau, Officer Brenda Vera, and Sgt. Amber Morgan described their responsibilities and spoke to our students about how they became part of the Department and what education they received. Detective Dave Atkinson led the panel discussion. BHS thanks the BPD for their service!



Branford High School's Monarch Butterfly Initiative



& Pollinator Pathway 2020

The Monarch Butterfly's population has been declining due to the use of insecticides in their habitats. Starting in 2019, Branford High School, in partnership with the Branford Garden Club, joined the nationwide efforts to assist the Monarch Population. BHS & BGC created a Pollinating Butterfly Garden to provide habitats and milkweed to nurture the Monarch Life cycle. In the fall of 2019, BHS classrooms raised approximately 100 Monarchs from caterpillars to butterflies, tagged and released them into the BHS Butterfly Garden. This year BHS is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Branford Commissions on Conservation, Environment & Forestry to join the town, state, & nation-wide Pollinator Pathways in creating a new BHS Native Plants Pollinator Garden!

BHS Seniors Prepare for Internships

Pam Castro

The Branford High School Senior Internship Program is a four-week internship for qualified BHS seniors starting in May. This program is offered to students in good standing who can secure an internship at an approved site for a real world, authentic, hands-on educational experience. Approximately 80 seniors have expressed an interest in the program this year that began in January. Seniors must qualify, submit all essential forms, and attend meetings to prepare them for a successful, professional internship. For more information, please contact Ms. Castro at:

pcastropascoe@branfordschools.org.

Departmental News

English Department

The Winter/Valentine's Day issue of *Calliope*, BHS's literature and arts magazine, features a variety of writing and graphics by more than 30 students. You can get a copy for \$1 from Mr. Matthiessen in F14. All profits go to Read to Grow, a local non-profit that provides books to families who need them. To get involved with *Calliope*, listen for announcements for upcoming meetings, or talk to Mr. Matthiessen or editors Alexis Armoogam or Sofia DeSorbo.

World Language Department



Twenty-eight BHS students traveled to Quebec City, Canada February 27 - March 1 with Leslie Casanova, BHS French teacher, Kristin Mancini, WL district coach, and Amanda Smith, WIS French teacher, to explore and bask in the beauty and adventure of French Canadian culture and sites. The itinerary included dogsledding, exploring Old Quebec in all its wintry glory, and dining on authentic French cuisine. The students are pictured above gathered in front of a mural on a snow-covered sidewalk in Quebec City.

On Wednesday, March 18th, BHS will be offering proficiency testing to earn the Seal of Biliteracy on diplomas for Juniors and Seniors who elected to take the test. BHS is one of thirty-three districts in the state of CT to offer this amazing opportunity to its WL students, as well as to students proficient in languages not offered at BHS. Some of the languages that students will be testing in this year to earn the Seal, include: Spanish, French, Latin, Italian, Arabic, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, etc. This is the second year that the district is offering the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy to the BHS upperclassmen. The makeup date for students who are absent that day will be March 20th. For more information on the Seal of Biliteracy in CT, please access: <https://ctcolt.org/seal-of-biliteracy/>



Practical Arts Department

CULINARY ARTS NEWS



Students in the Culinary Arts program had a successful Valentine's Day Sale. Many staff members purchased cookie kits and chocolate covered pretzels.



Our advanced students began their **Chef of the Week** series on February 27th with a prix fixe meal for staff celebrating Puerto Rican cuisine. This will continue most Thursdays through the end of May.

On February 5th, Cristian Torres was recognized and given an award for his talent and hard work in Culinary Arts at the Rotary Student of the Month Breakfast. Cristian will be attending the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, NY this fall. Congratulations, Cristian!



On February 25th, twenty-two of our advanced culinary arts and baking students took a trip to Chabaso Bakery. Peter Abrams, Manager of Research and Development at Chabaso, guided us through the full-scale production of their famous ciabatta. We observed the entire process of making this high moisture, sticky dough. We learned about the making of the poulish, the process of fermentation, and how they proof thousands of loaves at the same time. As we moved on to the baking area, we got to see the huge ovens and drying areas at work; the smell was amazing. At the end of the tour, we were each given a loaf of the Artisan Ciabatta to take home. After touring the bakery, we visited the Culinary Department at Gateway Community College. They explained the various programs available and served us a delicious lunch.

TECHNOLOGY ED NEWS



Check out Stephanie Toste's excellent Branford Buzz article about the Robotics Club's recent activities here:

<http://www.branfordbuzz.com/2020/02/26/club-builds-robots-and-memories/>

Fine Arts Department

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

On January 25, visitors from Orchard House attended a BHS jazz band rehearsal. This is the start of a Jazz Appreciation Club at Orchard House. We are looking forward to more visits as the year goes on.

On February 6, the BHS Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Marching Band completed their tour of all the schools in town, performing at Murphy Elementary School and Tisko Elementary School. We look forward to making a tour of all Branford Public Schools an annual tradition.

On February 11, Alasdair Neale, conductor of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO), visited the BHS orchestra class and conducted the orchestra on the piece Pictures at an Exhibition. Alasdair inspired all of us to be better musicians. The BHS orchestra is attending an NHSO rehearsal in March.

On February 27, we had our annual band Step Up Day, in which grade 8 band students took a field trip from Walsh Intermediate School (WIS) to learn about the BHS band program. WIS and BHS students rehearsed together, ate lunch together, and reconvened in the evening for a concert and refreshments. Orchestra students will have their Step Up Day in March and a joint concert with WIS students in April.

- Mallory Legman



BHS Band students stand in a circle in the Instrumental Room tuning before their Step Up Concert with the WIS 8th Grade band members. L-r: CJ Doyle (alto saxophone), Kyle Bissell (clarinet), Ali Dorsi (bass clarinet), Dylan Royka (tenor saxophone), Casey Maymon (trombone), Jade Bocciarelli (horn), Greta Blaskovich (horn), Lucas Johnson (horn), Mirza Ramic (trombone), and Levi Burger (trombone).

Save the dates!

Upcoming Concerts (all begin at 7:00 pm in the Cathyann Roding Auditorium)

Thursday, April 9 - Choir Pops Concert (Grades 9-12 Choral students)

Thursday, April 30 - All Strings Concert (Grades 5-12 Orchestra students)

Thursday, May 14 - Spring Instrumental Music Concert (BHs Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Orchestra)

Thursday, May 28 - Choir Senior Concert

School Counseling Department

The School Counselors have met individually with the **Class of 2021, 2022, and 2023** to register for classes for the 2020-2021 school year. Meeting individually with each student provided an opportunity to review student performance, including academic progress, attendance, student involvement in co-curricular activities and an opportunity to talk about post-secondary plans.

Registration Time

The counselors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and guardians for their support in their child's education. The meetings gave us an opportunity to get to know our students on a more personal level and we were so pleased at how engaged the students are in their education and their future plans.

Registration for the **Class of 2024** begins Monday March 2, 2020. Eighth grade parents and guardians received an appointment letter from BHS. If parents have any questions about the registration process prior to their meeting, they can contact Matt Madruga at **WIS** or Marian Montano at **BHS**.

Senior News

The counselors have wrapped up their meeting with their seniors to discuss their post-secondary plans. Many of our college bound students have completed their college applications and are waiting for a decision. Those students considering other options are putting together their resumes, and exploring certification programs, apprenticeships and opportunities to go directly into the job market. In preparation for graduation, seniors should have their community service paperwork and essay completed and handed in to their school counselor. Students are also responsible to get their class dues in and those should go directly to their Class Advisors, Ms. Loesche and Mr. Stonier.

Seniors are encouraged to stay focused on their studies. Colleges will be asking for mid year grade reports and eventually final grades. Counselors will be on the lookout for any cases of "senioritis".

Upcoming Events

SAT School Day is March 25, 2020. The SAT will be administered to all juniors during the school day. There is no need to register your child, registration is done through the district and the Connecticut State Department of Education. If you have any questions about the **School Day SAT**, please contact your child's School Counselor.

Spring Post Secondary Planning Night for Parents and Students Grades 9-11

The **School Counseling Department** will be hosting an informal panel discussion on the opportunities available to your child after graduation. Representative from Gateway Community College, The Connecticut Building Construction Trades Apprenticeship Programs and a former Director of College Admissions will be presenting. The event will take place in the **Branford High School Library Learning Commons**. **Date:** TBA

PE / Health Department



Justin Cheny and his Facility Dog "Tiny" came for a visit to introduce Mrs. Stackpole's Lifetime Fitness students to some self-defense skills.

Congratulations to Karly King for being selected as the Physical Education Department's 'Rotary Student of the Month.' She attended the award breakfast with her family and Ms. Kohut from BHS.



Students learned about easy-to-make health snacks with John Turenne from Chartwells. Be on the lookout for some new healthier options during breakfast and lunch at BHS!

Clubs and Activities News



Peer Connectors

On February 14th, Peer Connectors hosted an event for all students new to Branford this year. Peer Connectors and new students got together to decorate Valentine's Day cookies, play interactive games, and win prizes. This event helped new students feel welcomed and valued in our community! All students who attended had fun interacting with one another and getting to know

Peer Connectors regularly organizes events to promote inclusion, unity, and support to all students at BHS. During the event, it was also announced that a monthly group for new students is forming. All new students were invited to attend and as students continue to join our community they will also be invited.



L-R: Shahd Salama, Katherine Kelly, Payton Anastasio, Emya Maeby, Amari Moss, Gabriella Morrotti

Moving schools, especially in high school can be a challenge, and Peer Connectors is committed to helping make the transition as smooth as possible for these students.

Young Women's Club

Young Women's Club "Henna Day" Fundraiser

by Junior Presidents Zahra Zaidi and Natalie Leysk

The Young Women's Club has a mission to help and work with young women, inside and outside the BHS community. Its members reach out to ALL girls and welcome them to our Thursday meetings after school in room C10 (Mrs. Roy's room). We emphasize forming bonds with one another at all of our meetings, and each activity we do is a reflection of that.

This was especially evident during our recent "Henna Day" Fundraiser Activity, which was a wonderful success. The Club's Junior class Presidents asked the members to each bring in a dollar in exchange for a Henna design. All the proceeds went to "In Our Blessed Mother's Arms Support Center for Women." This year the Young Women's Club has raised \$650, including our previous Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser for this Center. We are planning to do a school-wide fundraiser using the idea of the Henna Day activity to raise even more money to help women in need. Donations are always welcome ☺



Svea Lundgren & Zahra Zaidi



Arpita Shrestha & Lauren Dombrowski



Puneet Benipal, Chelsea Acheampong & Shanza Zaidi



Lila Wasiolek & Lily Penner



Puneet Benipal, Chelsea Acheampong, & Shanza Zaidi



Giuliana Discher

The February 27th meeting was the “Changing of the Guards” meeting for our Young Women’s Club. The Junior class Presidents organized and ran the Fundraiser meeting and have now taken over all the responsibility of the Young Women’s Club. We are a large club of 30 plus girls & we’re Proud of Our Diversity! 😊



Dani Collier & Sofia DeSorba



Alya Gafdas & Emma Allen

Young Women’s Club is collecting baby clothes, maternity and business clothes for young mothers that are trying to get back into the workforce.

Our Mission is to help young women in need. If you know of a family or nonprofit organization that needs our help, please contact Mrs. Roy, our Advisor & Advocate

droy@branfordschools.org



CABE Day on the Hill

BHS Math teacher and Freshman Class Advisor Ryan Roberts will escort the following members of the Freshman and Sophomore Classes to CABE Day on the Hill:

Coleman Hicks
Pierce Kozlowski
Aidan Schmidt
Taylor Tracy
Liev Shpitalnik

Students will have an opportunity to meet their state legislators and hear their discussions with members of Boards of Education from all over Connecticut about proposed legislation that could directly affect them during their time at BHS. The flyer reprinted below includes some details about how the day will be spent.



Patrice A. McCarthy
Deputy Director
and General Counsel
pmccarthy@cabe.org

Sheila McKay
Senior Staff Associate
for Government Relations
smckay@cabe.org

**Connecticut Association
of Boards of Education, Inc.**
*The Leading Voice for Connecticut
Public Education*

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109
860.571.7446 • www.cabe.org

CABE urges legislators to analyze each piece of legislation by asking

"How will this legislation promote student achievement?"

and


"What is the fiscal and administrative impact on local communities?"

Save the date and plan on attending!

CABE'S DAY ON THE HILL
March 11, 2020 • 8:30 a.m.
The Bushnell, Hartford

*An opportunity for board members and legislators
to discuss critical education issues.*

For more information, contact Gail Heath at
860-571-7446 or email gheath@cabe.org



**Connecticut Association
of Boards of Education, Inc.**

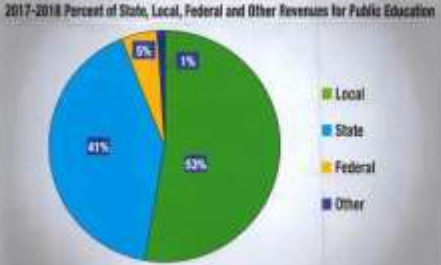
2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Investing in Our Students
Strengthen the support for social and emotional learning through professional development for educators and provide resources for students, parents and community members.

Supporting Our Schools
Remove the cap on the special education Excess Cost Grant. Provide supports for increasing shared services.

**Attracting and Retaining Quality
Educators from Diverse Backgrounds**
Support programs that promote the training, hiring and retention of educators from diverse backgrounds.

**Supporting Educator Effectiveness
for All Students**
Invest in programs that promote cultural competency for all educators.



Local
State
Federal
Other

CABE Mission Statement:
To assist local and regional boards of education in providing high quality education for all Connecticut children through effective leadership.

For over a century CABE has taken the collective voice of more than 1,000 board of education members across the State. As CABE has grown, so has our presence as a leader in shaping public education programs — helping Connecticut prepare for the increasingly competitive 21st Century.

CABE's positions reflect the commitment of board of education members to promote public participation through local law control of public education, to promote equal opportunity and a high quality education for all of Connecticut's public school children, and to increase public awareness of education issues.

Celebrate International Women's Day



Sponsored by Mainstreet Singers

March 6th, 2020

Come hear empowering music and enjoy some snacks in the library, all day long! Ladies, Contact Mainstreet if you would like to Sing!

Wear Pink to Support

School-Based Health Care News



Karen Reilley, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, recently joined the School-Based Health Center (SBHC) team at BHS. Karen has extensive service with the pediatric and adolescent population having worked for many years in a large, private, primary care pediatric practice, where she collaborated with a large team of experts. About 5 years ago, Karen moved from New Mexico to Connecticut and worked with Yale New Haven Hospital where she gathered a wealth of experience working for their Emergency Department. WE are very excited to have her join our School-Based family and look forward to all of her innovative ideas on how to creatively manage healthcare issues with the ever-changing high school population. Students interested in participating in medical visits with the BHS SBHC need to enroll. Students can stop down or call to make an appointment.

Project Graduation News

Project Graduation Upcoming Events

<http://branfordprojectgraduation.weebly.com>

branfordprojgrad@gmail.com

Planning is underway for this year's Project Graduation!

There will be lots of exciting activities throughout the night, including the DJ from Boppers! More information coming soon.

Current Fundraisers:

1. Tuxedo Fundraiser – Rent your tuxedo from Attilio's Men's Clothing at 827 Foxon Road in East Haven. Project Graduation gets \$5 for each rental.
2. Balloons for Seniors – Send your favorite senior a balloon to celebrate their graduation. Order forms are attached and can be found at <http://branfordprojectgraduation.weebly.com>. All orders are due by Friday, May 8th. Please send the order to Project Graduation, 185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405 or drop it off at the high school.
3. Senior t-shirt – details and sale coming soon. Stay tuned!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Class Act Café at Branford High School. Bring your friends and come join the fun!



Do you know any seniors graduating from Branford High School?

Make them smile by giving them a good wishes Star Balloon.



Project Graduation Committee is sponsoring

Balloons for BHS Seniors 2020

Let's Celebrate Our Graduating Seniors, Build School Spirit, Promote Community Spirit, and Support Our High School!

We will be delivering 18 inch red or white star shaped foil balloons. Balloons will be delivered before graduation day, deliveries might take more than one day. They will be tied to the mailbox unless special instructions are included in the "To:" box Deliveries will be made **only** to Branford for BHS graduates.

ORDER DEADLINE: Friday May 8th !!!

Attach a check payable to "Project Graduation" (*add Balloons for Seniors in memo*)

Mail to: Balloons for Seniors/Project Graduation

BHS 185 E Main Street Branford CT 06405

Questions? Call or text: (203) 915-6224 or mailto:balloonsforseniorsbranfordct@gmail.com

Balloons are \$5.00 each. Total included \$ _____

Please include seniors *name and address* in "To" area, and *your message* in "From" area. We will be using these as delivery tags.

****Make copies for more tags****

To:	From:
To:	From:
To:	From: