



Principal's Newsletter



Branford High School • Fall 2017

UPCOMING BHS EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 2 Class Withdrawal Deadline
- 6 Blood Drive @ Learning Commons
- 7 SAT
- 11 PSAT
- 12 Junior/Senior Class Coffee 7pm
- 13 BHS College Fair 9-11am @ Learning Commons
- 18 Minimum Day
- 19 Music Maker Showcase 7pm
- 24 BHS Evening Conferences
- 25 1st Marking Period Ends
- 26 2nd Marking Period Begins
- 27 Parade of Nations after Pd 3
- 28 ACT

NOVEMBER

- 2 BHS Evening Conferences
- 4 SAT
- 7 Election Day
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 18 Cabaret Night, 7pm @ BHS Commons
- 22 Minimum Day
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 2 SAT
- 4 Blood Drive @ Learning Commons
- 9 ACT
- 13 Minimum Day
- 15 Winter Pep Rally
Choral Winter Concert, 7pm
(snow date December 21)
- 22 Minimum Day
- 25-29 Holiday Recess

Administration

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Lee Panagoulas | Principal |
| Joseph Briganti | Assistant Principal |
| Stephanie Byrd | Assistant Principal |
| Dianne Dadio | Dean of Students |

Please visit our website for important information, updates, daily announcements, Program of Studies, The Guide, and the Principal's Newsletter!
www.branfordhigh.org

Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| BHS | 203 488 7291 |
| BHS HOT LINE | 203 315 6735 |
| Board of Ed | 203 488 5693 |
| Adult Ed | 203 488 5693 |
| Athletics | 203 315 6735 |
| Attendance | 203 315 6744 |
| Guidance | 203 315 6730 |
| Nurse | 203 315 6733 |
| School Based Health | 203 315 6727 |

Students in the News

BHS BAND UPDATES

Marching Band Season in Full Swing

By Mallory Legman

Before the school year started, the BHS band was hard at work during a week of band camp that lasted from Aug. 16 to 22. The students took a break from their music and marching to don eclipse glasses and watch the recent solar eclipse. Huntington Branch Library in Shelton and the New Haven Free Public Library donated the glasses so the band could safely experience this special event.

During band camp, musicians learned the songs “Crazy Train,” “Conga,” “Can’t Hold Us,” and “Hail to the Varsity,” which they perform in their 2017 field show at home football games. Upcoming performances include the October 6, 13, and 27 varsity football games.

The band also performed their show at a competition at Sheehan High School in Wallingford on September 23. In addition to putting on an impressive show, BHS band members had the privilege of watching several other area high school bands perform and making friends with band students from other schools.

As of this printing, the band is preparing for a field trip to UConn to visit the 300+ member UConn Marching Band.



Horizons students Chris Ruggiero (left) and Hunter Giordano work together to stock the history section on Sept 27.

Building Community Connections the Old Fashioned Way:

With a Little Sweat and a Lot of Books

On a hot late September afternoon, BHS Horizons students and Friends of the Blackstone Library worked together to prepare for the Annual Book Sale on the Green. The 90 degree heat did not slow down these teens - they carried, organized, and stacked over 25,000 books in 3 hours to serve their community and help the Blackstone Library to prepare for one of their biggest fundraisers of the year!

The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail

will stage Dec. 7-9

Senior Luna McCulloch, left, and junior Adam Jackson practice their lines on the BHS stage on September 28.



The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail, a historical drama by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee that explores the life and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau, is BHS Drama's Fall Play. The play will be performed at 7:30 pm on December 7, 8 and 9.

"*The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* is an imagined foray into the thoughts of Henry David Thoreau, as he sits in the Concord, Massachusetts, jail for non-payment of the war tax to support the United States' war with Mexico in 1847," notes director, Maria Ogren. "One of America's most influential thinkers, Henry Thoreau was a devoted abolitionist and saw the war as a means of acquiring more territory for slave states to expand this institution. His essay, 'Civil Disobedience,' on the citizen's responsibility to disobey unjust laws, influenced Gandhi's struggle for Indian Independence and Martin Luther King's non-violent campaign for civil rights in the US. He is best known for *Walden*, a personal narrative based on the two years he lived in a cabin he built on Walden Pond.

Far from being a dry tale, the cast has found a great deal of humor in the play; Thoreau is presented in all his idiosyncratic oddity, and characters such as Ralph Waldo Emerson are equally presented in a very human manner. They may be seen as real people attempting to solve the problems of their day as we are trying to solve our own."

The playwriting team of Lawrence and Lee is most famous for *Inherit the Wind*, their classic dramatization of the Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925 that was adapted to film in 1955.

Junior Shelby Zoccano is backstage manager and English teacher John Matthiessen is assistant director.

Tryouts for *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* took place on September 6 and 7 in the BHS Auditorium. The cast, in order of appearance, is:

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| Waldo | Michael Hoadley |
| Lydian | Luna McCulloch |
| Mother | Antoinette Higgins |
| Henry | Adam Jackson |
| John | Ben Clouse |
| Bailey | Sebastian Hincapie |
| Ball | Taron Jaruchaiyakul |
| Ellen | Kaitlyn Fisher |
| Sam | Teagan Haskins |
| Edward | Sophia Coppola |
| Williams | Manik Soomro |

School children, Townspeople, Soldiers:

Katelyn Bissell
Harrison Canaveral
Hope Steen
Hope McCormack
Elise Eggert
Emma Ng
Rita Micklus

BHS Model Congress News

BHS MODEL CONGRESS 2018

*Three Decades Dedicated To Cultivating Civic Awareness,
Understanding, and Performance of BHS Students*

The Model Congress Program at BHS is in its **Third Decade** continuing to offer an exceptional educational and civic experience to BHS students. Over **2000 students** have participated in this program, which has attended over **100 conferences** and related events since **1994**.

In historic Boston, Hartford, New Haven, New York City, Philadelphia, Princeton, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, BHS students have taken on the roles of Congress People, Supreme Court justices, journalists, district court attorneys, juries, lobbyists, presidential cabinet officials, and more and done so with excellence and award winning performances. Students have won over **500 awards** for their exceptional efforts, making Branford a formidable force at these competitive conferences.

Over a five-day weekend, in an Ivy League setting run entirely by premier college students, delegates are engaged in many hours of debate with high school peers from all over the country on important issues of democracy. They also take part in a variety of other learning and cultural activities. It is little wonder the experience is so appealing to and respected by students and supported so generously by many local (and several non-local) sponsors.

On many levels, a Model Congress conference is a unique and exceptional learning opportunity, as captured on our website - www.bhsmodelcongress.org - visit for the latest conference schedule and links, many many photos, student reflections, sponsor opportunities and more.



BHS MC 2018 Senior Presidents

**Richard Loftis, Margaux Lux, Charles Hall
Sarah Marsland, Caroline Erickson**

This year the program returns once again in full force, offering every student who is sincerely interested and qualified an affordable opportunity to attend at least one of The Major Conferences. Led by teacher & BHS MC Founding Father James Petela, a select number of BHS students will participate in “The Major MCs” - Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Penn.

The program is led by a much needed coalition of talented and dedicated officers, Prez/VPs/Govs, who were selected based on their previous years’ model conference performance, leadership, and peer recognition. This year’s current **Senior Presidents** (pictured above smiling with great eyes & teeth:) will not only help their BHSMC peers learn how to become effective and engaging delegates, but will also lead and inspire them by their model actions, encouragement and award winning performances. They are our best, along with their officer peers.

BHS MC Conferences 2018

Founding Father Advisor **James Petela**, jpetela@branfordschools.org
Asst. Advisors **Dave Gruendel**, dgruendel@branfordschools.org & **Alberto Cintron**

www.bhsmodelcongress.org

☺ -- **Senior BHS MC Officers** -- ☺

Presidents - Caroline Erickson, Charles Hall, Margaux Lux, Sarah Marsland, Richard Loftis

Vice Prezs – Stephen Cruz, Logan DiStasio, Katie Spaulding, Bradley Stutzman

FALL

Y A L E M O D E L C O N G R E S S 2 0 1 7

Nov 30--Dec 3, \$200, www.yale.edu/congress (~90+ BHSers - Srs, Jrs, Sophs, Frosh)

WINTER - SPRING

H A R V A R D M O D E L C O N G R E S S B O S T O N 2 0 1 8

Feb 21--25, Boston, \$600, www.harvardmodelcongress.org (~30 BHSers - Srs, Jrs, Soph, Frosh)

P E N N M O D E L C O N G R E S S 2 0 1 8

Mar 21--25, Philadelphia, \$600, www.pennmc.org (~30 BHSers - Srs, Jrs, Soph, Frosh)

The Concert #17, Yale Whiffenpoofs & BHS Music Makers

Spring/May 2018 TBD

***** Co\$ for above conferences include travel, hotel, 2-3 dinners, t-shirt, tours/misc. activitie\$ *****

\$scholarship money available on a per case basis, officers first – parents must request in writing/email

BHS Music News

Choral Music Program

By Michael Martone

We are off to a wonderful start to the 2017-18 school year. All four groups are well into their music and sounded fantastic. Below you will find a list of upcoming performance dates and times. We are adding a Cabaret Night this year and it is certain to be a wonderful musical experience. Please go to our website for information, contact information and more.

<https://sites.google.com/a/branfordschools.org/the-choir-lobby/>

- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH- MUSIC MAKER SHOWCASE, 7:00 pm
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH- CABARET NIGHT, COMMONS, 7:00 pm
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH- CHORAL WINTER CONCERT, 7:00 pm
SNOW DATE- DECEMBER 21ST
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH- MAINSTREET SHOWCASE, 7:00 pm



Set in a mythical “once upon a time” sort of land, Shrek the Musical is the story of a hulking green ogre who, after being mocked and feared his entire life by anything that crosses his path, retreats to an ugly green swamp to exist in happy isolation. Suddenly his isolated swamp is infiltrated by several “characters.”

Shrek goes on a mission to rescue a princess to appease the mighty Lord Farquaad in an effort to regain his private homestead. Does Shrek succeed? Only one way to find out:

Curtain is **March 21st** in the BHS Auditorium.

Attention, Seniors!

REMINDER: The BHS COLLEGE FAIR is on Friday, October 13, 2017 from 9a - 11a in the Learning Commons

Contact Kelianna Bonn at kbonn@branfordschools.org with any questions

Art Department College Visits Fall 2017

The Art Department has a total of 3 college visits planned for this fall, plus there is a poster about National Portfolio Day in Hartford on October 21st up in the hall outside of room C12.

Hartford School of Art Portfolio Day looks like a great opportunity for students to learn more about what art colleges from all over are looking for. Also, all interested students are welcome to attend one, two or all three of these college visits (see below).

Visits will take place in room C14. Interested student should see Mrs. Kropiwnicki

Oct. 13, **per 5** = Tufts University

Nov. 2, **per 8** = MECA, Maine College of Art

Nov. 21, **per 5** = Hartford School of Art

Scholarship Opportunities

| DATE | NAME | DESCRIPTION | DEADLINE | WEBSITE/CONTACT PERSON |
|------------|----------------------------|--|------------|---|
| 9/27/2017 | ADDISON E. VERRILL | Open to all BHS seniors who will attend a USA university or college | 3/30/2018 | <u>See Guidance for Information</u> |
| 9/22/2017 | BIG Y | Open to employees and their dependents, and customers and their dependents. | 2/1/2018 | <u>See Guidance for Application</u> |
| 10/02/2017 | ACT STUDENT CHAMPION AWARD | Open to students who have taken the ACT; have overcome challenges and can articulate education and career actions; must have a composite ACT score of 22 on a single test date, or a 3.0 GPA; preference given to underrepresented and/or first-generation college students. | 12/31/2017 | <u>Application found at: www.act.org/readinesschampions</u> |

Financial Aid Information

College Financial Aid

By far, the most stressful part of the college application process for parents is the cost. In addition, the financial aid process can be daunting. The first step in the process is sitting down with your child and discussing what is financially reasonable in terms of college cost. Remember, tuition, room and board is only part of the entire cost. Books, lab supplies, computer and spending money also need to be included in the total yearly cost.

FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>)

Required by all colleges. It is free to process. You must use the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)** to apply for aid once you've decided to apply for admission and attend college. **The FAFSA application is open October 1st each year.** You will need information from the student and parent's tax returns from the previous year.

CSS Profile (<http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>)

Required by some private colleges. There is a fee to process it. The CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service) is a financial aid form, **used by some private colleges to award institutional aid. It is available October 1st.** This form is especially required, and early on, for EARLY DECISION applications. The CSS Profile processes through College Board. It asks for more information regarding the student's and parents' financial situations. After you fill out the application, the College Board sends it to the colleges you've chosen.

Who Must File: Not all colleges and scholarship programs require the CSS PROFILE. Check with the colleges you're interested in to see if they require it.

When To Register and File: You should register at CSS Financial Aid Profiler at least two weeks before the earliest college or scholarship priority filing date you need to meet. This date is the college or program's deadline for submitting a completed PROFILE application.

Types of Financial Aid

The following types of college-based aid are available from the colleges, if you complete the FAFSA. Combined, they make up your "financial aid package". To learn more, see www.studentfinancialaid.ed.gov

College Grants - money you do not have to pay back, many types offered, usually determined by financial need through the FAFSA and CSS Profile forms.

Federal Pell Grant - up to \$5,350 each year (to help lower-income students)

Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant - up to \$1,300 starting 2nd year

Federal SEOG Grant - up to \$4,000 each year

National SMART Grant - for sciences, tech, math, engineering, and certain world languages up to \$4,000 per year

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship - \$1,500 for up to four years

College Scholarships - free money, usually based on merit, such as a certain level of SAT or ACT, or grade point average, athletics, leadership, community service or region of the country in which you live, used to entice scholars of various abilities and origins.

College Loans - borrowed money determined by FAFSA

Federal Stafford Loans - the most common loans offered, offered to students of all level of need, given by the colleges, based on the FAFSA. Two kinds, subsidized, in which the government pays the interest while you are in school, and unsubsidized. Current interest rate is 4.66%. Repayment begins six months after you graduate.

Federal Plus Loans - used by parents (“the parent loan”) to borrow enough from the government to fully fund the college bill not covered by the college financial aid package.

College Work Study - offered on campus through the college, you can earn a few thousand dollars working part-time, need determined by the FAFSA

Additional Financial Aid Information

There are many federal aid programs for future teachers:

TEACH Grants

Teach for America

Federal Perkins Loan Forgiveness

Federal Loan Forgiveness

Federal Pell Grants

There is aid available for specific populations, such as foster youth, athletes, students with disabilities, students with dependents, and those in the military

Other Means to Help Pay for College

Private Scholarships - over 150 scholarships can be found on NAVIANCE and are also emailed to students as they become available. Be aware of deadlines, as well as specific requirements. Use online search engines such as www.fastweb.com, as well. (See Appendix for a more extensive list.)

National Merit Scholarships - based on student’s PSAT score taken during Junior Year

Military - offers up to \$65,000 to enlistees for college tuition

ROTC - scholarships offered, must serve four years in active duty after graduation

AP or ECE - UConn Credit Courses can save you time and money

Early College Experience - take community college courses while in high school

Cooperative Education - work-earn-learn type programs offered at college such as Drexel and Northeastern, usually take five years, you will earn pay for some of your college stay

Begin College at Community College - Connecticut community colleges have articulation agreements with local and state universities, that after two years, you are automatically admitted with a certain minimum GPA. Community college course are more affordable.

529 College Savings Plans - money saved in this plan grows tax free, if used for college

Federal Tax Benefits

There are tax benefits to paying for college! Investigate Federal Tax Credits, such as the Lifetime Learning Credit or Hope Scholarship. Research the Loan Interest Deduction and the Tuition and Fees Reduction on your taxes.

Connecticut Financial Aid

Capitol Scholarship - residents in the top 20% of the class or at least 1800 on the **SAT** or 27 on the **ACT** and who plan to enroll in Connecticut or in a state with reciprocity agreement

Connecticut Minority Teacher Incentive Grant - for full-time college juniors or seniors minority students enrolled in teacher incentive programs

Connecticut Aid for Public College Students -based on **FAFSA** needs, attending state school

Connecticut Independent College Grants - based on **FAFSA** needs, attending private school

Tuition Break Program - The Apple Program (www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak)

Under this program, pay in-state tuition in an out of state school if studying a major not offered in-state. Over 700 degree programs. Information, participants and tuitions are on the website.

Also, consult the website of the **Connecticut Department of Higher Education** at www.ctdhe.org

What to Ask Your College regarding Financial Aid?

1. What are the deadlines for submitting the **FAFSA** or the **CSS** Profile?
2. Are there institutional forms to be filled out in addition to the **FAFSA** or **CSS** Profile?
3. What are the requirements for need-based aid, merit-based aid and scholarships?
4. When will I be notified of my financial aid package?
5. Will additional private scholarships reduce my financial aid package?
6. Will the college meet my full financial need for all four years of my attendance?
7. How might my financial wards change during my year's attendance?
8. Does this college participate in a tuition payment plan that allows installments?
9. Where can I find additional sources of financial aid?
10. What if my financial status changed dramatically recently?

News From Your School Based Health Center

Branford High's School Based Health Center, which is run by Yale New Haven Hospital, can be a source of convenient quality health care and mental health services. Remember, all students are eligible to use the clinic regardless of income or healthcare insurance and no co-pays are collected. If the student's insurance does not pay for our services, no bill is sent to the family for payment.

Your SBHC is open 5 days a week for both scheduled and walk-in appointments. Beginning last year, students who were in Walsh's SBHC are automatically enrolled in the high school SBHC. If possible, completing an updated enrollment form is encouraged as insurance, addresses and medical information may have changed. The enrollment form can be found on the district web site.

We have begun administering the flu shot. Children, especially school aged children, are more likely to catch the flu, which can lead to serious complications including hospitalization and death. The typical flu illness may cause the student to miss a week or more of school. The germs can be easily spread to other family members and friends causing them to miss school and work as well.

The easiest way to decrease your family's risk of getting the flu is to have everyone immunized. This prevents the flu from spreading to others.

If you have any questions or concerns about the flu shot, please feel free to call to discuss the vaccine or other concerns you may have.

Carrie Federici, APRN

203-315-6727