



College Fairs

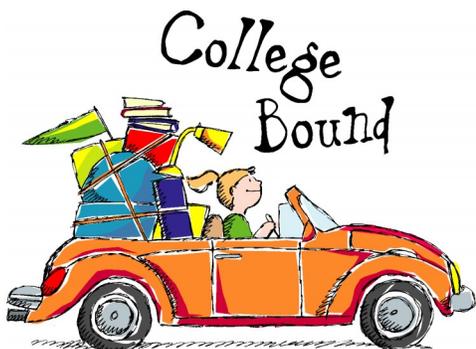
On four evenings this fall in Hillsborough County, students will be able to visit with college representatives from all of the public universities in Florida among others. The college fairs go from 6-8PM.

Mon. 9/25 at Sickles High School

Tues. 9/26 at Plant

Wed. 9/27 at Chamberlain

Thurs. 9/28 at Brandon



Last Lap



Myth-Busting

#1

Senior year doesn't really count!

Just no. No, no, no! Yes, seniors will apply to colleges before their first semester is over and their transcripts reflect what they've accomplished (or not), BUT, a final transcript is required. Colleges and universities can and DO rescind admission offers if a student slacks off in his or her senior year. Specific reasons for rescinding an offer can include things like failing grades, or a schedule that lacks academic rigor.

#2

It's "Senior Skip Day"

I don't have school.

Ah, senior skip day. What a tradition! The reality is, however, that it's not a thing. Really. Not. A. Thing. If a senior chooses to take a day off, he or she will have to submit documentation to get the absence excused. Also, if you're doing a college visit, remember to call or email Mr. Malo as soon as you arrange your visit and get confirmation from the college so your absence is excused.

#3

I won't be sorry I missed _____.

Senior year is a great time to make memories not just with your friends but also with your families, so take advantage of opportunities! Whether it's the Homecoming dance, BINGO night, Grad Bash, Prom, or even just a movie with your mom, GO!

Your Senior Support Team

Welcome back to the graduating seniors of 2018 and their families! I am so excited to be teaching the senior class in Personal, Career and School Development (PCSD) this school year!! PCSD is all about personal responsibility. All class lessons will focus on taking responsibility for your own life...losing the reliance on mom and dad! You can help by encouraging personal responsibility at home too. As young adults, your students should be getting themselves out of bed, arriving on time for school and other appointments, helping with household chores (willingly and without being paid), managing their personal finances, making good food and physical activity choices and demonstrating good character. It's going to be a great year and your students are going to be READY for their next big step by the time they leave us on May 18! Please reach out to me at bsalazar@bdchs.org if you have questions or ideas for classroom lessons! Once again, welcome back!!

-Bonnie Salazar, PhD, CHES

To those of you with whom I have worked as your school counselor previously, welcome back! For those who I am now the counselor for, hello! I am excited to work with you all in this important time your and your family's lives. This year we have our largest number of senior students.

A major emotion seniors have expressed experiencing in past years is STRESS, and it is my hope that by working together, we can make sure any stress you feel is manageable. A key to keeping stress under control is talking early and often.

Every year I hear the same thought: that the year went by incredibly fast. Take advantage of this time with friends and family, and use your resources. This year we have the most school-based support for any class of seniors we have ever had. Take advantage of what is available, do not assume, ask questions, plan early, take care of yourself, and make this a great year!

The Senior Checklist will be updated soon; however, access the current version at http://bdchsstudentservices.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/0/4/26049457/bdchs_senior_checklist.pdf

MR. ERIC GOMMERMANN

I'm so happy to welcome you all to your SENIOR YEAR! These next ten months will be filled with lots of fun opportunities to make lifelong memories. My job is to facilitate those opportunities and make sure that you are all aware of what's going on. Toward that goal, I have several methods of communication.

- You're reading the first one! Your Grad Gazette will be published on a monthly basis and filled with lots of information.
- We also have a senior Edsby page. The first time you log onto Edsby this year, please send a request to join the group. The Grad Gazettes will be posted there, and I'll have polls and surveys for you for things that we have to make decisions on (like senior shirt designs).
- I also utilize Remind, and you may join the group for text updates by texting @e97g4 to 81010
- The senior class has a Twitter: @BDCHSeniors
- I will also utilize email. If for any reason you don't receive the emails, please email me at arinard@bdchs.org so that I may add you to the group.

I hope you'll see that COMMUNICATION is a priority for me. I want to make sure that all seniors and parents have the information they need. Feel free to email me any time with questions.

Go Phoenix!

Soar, Class of 2018!

Mrs. Andrea Rinard

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

In the “Know Before You Go” section of the Gazette, you will find helpful tips to prepare you to get ready for life after high school.

Have “The Talk”

No, not THAT talk! Well, maybe that one too, but this “talk” is about senior year stuff. Here are some conversation points that you may want to consider as you embark upon your senior year:

- What are my financial resources for college? Many kids don’t know what, if any, arrangements, parents have made for college savings. This is an important conversation to have BEFORE you start thinking about applying to colleges.
- What kinds of things can you start doing on your own to prepare for life without mom and dad doing everything for you? Start setting your own appointments, and running your own errands. If you don’t already know how to, learn how to plan a menu, grocery shop, cook a meal, and clean up the kitchen. Learn how to check your oil and change a tire. Learn how to wash and iron your own clothes and do basic stain fixes and sewing.
- What are things you’d like to do as a family during this year? Plan a trip. Think about setting aside a night each week for dinner and games. Or, take a half hour a few times a week to go for a walk with a different family member.

This is a special year to make memories as a family too, so make the most of it and PLAN ahead!

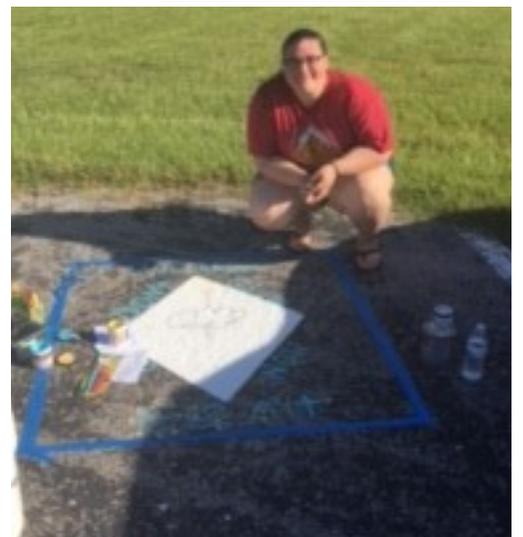
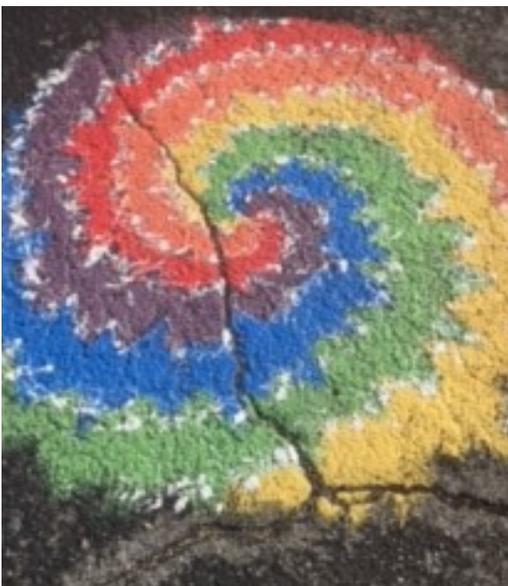
Recommendations!

How to increase your chances for getting effective rec letters for college and scholarship applications

1. Choose wisely—Pick a teacher, coach or other person who KNOWS you and has worked with you for at least six months. In most cases, you’ll never see your letter, so make sure you choose the best person possible to talk about how wonderful you are.
2. Have the right attitude—Remember that you’re essentially asking someone for a favor, so make a polite request, not a demand. Also, ask at least two weeks before you need the letter to give your recommender plenty of time. The person you’re asking may say no for a number of reasons. Be ok with that and move on to another person. Remember that you do NOT want a rec letter from someone who isn’t willing and at least somewhat enthusiastic about writing one for you.
3. Put it in writing—Write a letter to the person you’re requesting the letter from. Yes, a real letter—not an email. Emails get moved down the in-box queue and get forgotten. A hard copy of a request will be less likely to be forgotten. Include the purpose of the letter (college admissions, scholarship, etc.), the date you need the letter (at least two weeks), and the method of how to submit it.
4. Follow up—Send an email a few days before the day you need the letter to remind your recommender.
5. Make it easy—Include all forms and information. Do not make the recommender fill out anything that you should fill out (your name, address, birth date, etc.). If the letter is to be snail-mailed to the college or organization, provide a pre-addressed and stamped envelope.
6. Say thank you—Follow up with your recommender to say thank you with a note and even a small gift (candy bar, gift card, etc.). Chances are that you’re going to need another copy of your rec letter at some point for another purpose, and you want your recommender feeling warm and fuzzy about tweaking it and sending it out again. Also, it’s a nice touch to let your recommender know where you’ve decided to matriculate in your thank you note.

Senior Parking!

Forty-nine seniors applied for the preferred parking lottery, and we were able to give each one a spot, eliminating the need for a lottery other than to determine who got each spot. The seniors gathered to paint in the days before school began, and the weather thankfully cooperated except for the fact that it was HOT!



COMING
SOON

Class t-shirt and hoodie orders will happen at the end of August.

Make sure you join the senior Edsby group so you can vote on the design!



In September we will have our Herff Jones representatives on campus to do an assembly for caps and gowns, and then they will return to campus to take orders. Specific dates will be announced **SOON!**



Senior Year College Admissions Timeline



June - August

- make your short list of prospective college choices (one reach, one match, and one safety)
- Talk as a family about college expenses and budgets

September - November

- Take the SAT and/or ACT again if needed to get your scores up—remember that you need at least a 26 ACT or 1170 SAT for Bright Futures
- Create a checklist for your applications and meet all deadlines for submitting them: Where are you applying? Do you need letters of recommendation? Personal statements? Have you requested transcripts and score reports?

December - January

- Complete your FAFSA as soon as the site opens (funds are limited!); remember that the site is fafsa.gov and there is no charge for this service
- Look for other financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Evaluate your options and make a decision



Expected Expenses

A student's senior year can be expensive, so we are providing you with a list of costs you can expect to come up throughout the school year so that you can plan accordingly and be able to participate and enjoy all of the activities and experiences throughout your senior year. Please know that the **ONLY REQUIRED EXPENSE is the cap and gown package**. We do hope that every member of the class of 2018 will be able to take part in dances, Grad Bash, the end of the year Senior Day trip, but each of those things is optional. Also, please know that this is just a rough idea of what to expect.

Event/Item	Event Date	Payment Deadline	Cost	Details/Notes
Class T-Shirt	Delivery in September	August 30th	\$15	Students will vote on design in August
Class Hoodie	Delivery in September	August 30th	\$35	Students will vote on design in August
Cap and Gown	Assembly for ordering will be in Sept.	January 2018	\$75	Families will order directly through Herff Jones, NOT via BDCCHS.
Yearbook			\$80	Mrs. Catania will provide information
Homecoming Dance	October 2017 <i>Specific date TBD</i>	TBD	\$30	
Grad Bash	Friday, April 13 leave 1PM 4/13 and return 4AM 4/14		\$140	Includes charter bus transportation and ticket to Grad Bash
Prom	TBD		\$75	
Senior Field Trip	TBD		\$80 Estimated	We'll pick the destination together. Last year's class went to Blizzard Beach.
<u>ESTIMATED</u> Total for All Anticipated Expenses (prices may change based on participation)			\$530	

2017-2018 Calendar

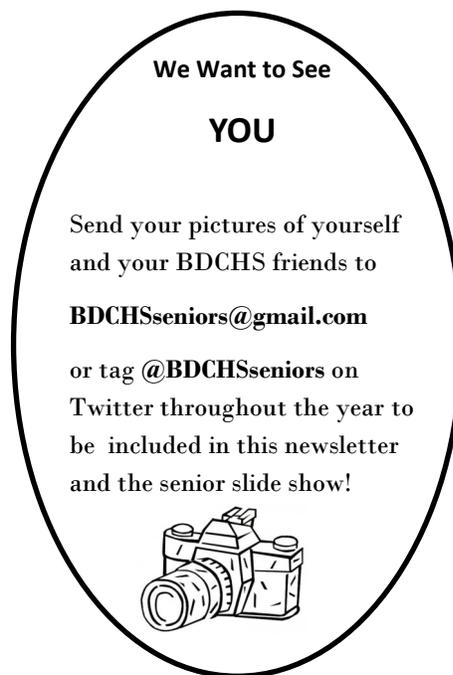
Dates Are Subject To Change!



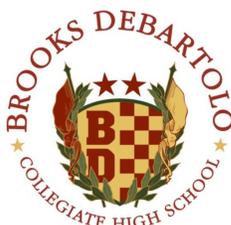
August 10	First Day of School
September 4	No School
October 13	Quarter 1 Ends
October 16	No School
October 11, 2016	Senior Day—Details TBA
TBA	Homecoming Week
TBA	Homecoming Dance
November 10	No School
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 19-22	Mid-Term Exams
December 22	Quarter Two Ends
Dec. 22—Jan. 8	Winter Break
January 15	No School
February 9	No School
February 19	No School
March 9	End of Quarter 3
March 12-16	Spring Break
March 30	No School
April 13	Grad Bash
May 4	Seniors' Last Day / Class Olympics
TBA	Prom
TBA	Senior Field Trip
TBA	Senior Exams
TBA	Senior Celebration

May 18 at 2PM

Graduation at Straz Center



Brooks De Bartolo Collegiate High School
10948 N. Central Avenue
Tampa, FL 33612
813-971-5600



STAY CONNECTED-

Sign up for Remind notifications by texting **@e97g4** to 81010

Follow us on Twitter **@BDCHSeniors**



Contact Mrs. Rinard, Senior Class

Advisor: **arinard@bdchs.org**