

Issue
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August
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CLASS
of
2019

Graduate Gazette

BROOKS DE BARTOLO COLLEGIATE H.S. CLASS OF 2019



College Fairs

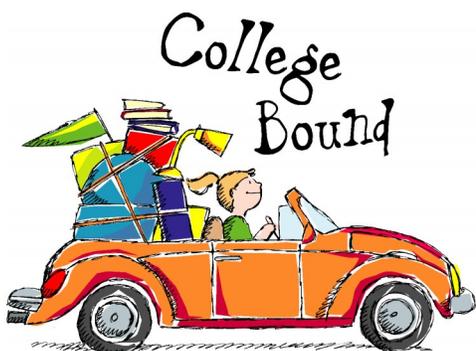
On four evenings this fall in Hillsborough County, students will be able to visit with college representatives from all of the public universities in Florida among others. The college fairs go from 6-8PM.

Mon. 9/24 at Sickles High School

Tues. 9/25 at Plant

Wed. 9/26 at Chamberlain

Thurs. 9/27 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 Ms. Myerson 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 2019 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 23rd! 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

Welcome back and I am excited to work with you this year! We are projected to have our largest senior class ever and we are ready for the challenge. Meeting graduation requirements, deciding post-high school plans, honoring deadlines, doing well in current classes, and navigating senior year will be exciting at times, but also stressful for both students and family. It is my hope that by working together, we can make sure any stress you feel is manageable and eventually lessens. A key to keeping stress under control is talking early and often about finances, expectations, and future plans, as well as proactively planning and managing time. The Senior Checklist on our Student Services Portal is a great resource for understanding what to expect going through this year. The "College" tab on the Portal has information about financial aid (Bright Futures, scholarships), college applications, requesting transcripts, and much more. The "Service" tab has information about potential community service sites and the process for accurately logging hours.

Every year I hear the same thought: that the year went by incredibly fast. Your time is valuable, so spend it wisely. My goal is for you to only have one senior year and it is going to happen whether you are taking it seriously or not. Take advantage of this time with friends and family, and use your resources. This is not a time for you to assume and/or expect that things will "just work out". Ask questions, plan and finish tasks 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/senior-checklist.html>

-Eric Gommermann, Grade 12 School Counselor

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.

- This Grad Gazette will be published on a monthly basis and filled with lots of information.
- We also have a senior Edsby page. I have already added many of you. If you are not already added, please send a request to join the group when you get Edsby access. 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 @732kk to 81010.
- I will also utilize email. Some of you have already provided an email address. If for any reason you don't receive the emails, please email me at erin.schult@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.

I am so excited and ready to help you make your senior year AWESOME!

Mrs. Erin Schult

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. Dr. Salazar, Mrs. Rinard and Mrs. Schult have a great template you can use to make that request. 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!

The creativity and artistic ability of our senior class (and their family and friends who helped out) is impressive! Even under the absolutely brutal sun, the seniors managed to create some beautiful art that shows off their personalities.



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 in October (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 2019 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. **Other common expenses not listed: senior portraits, graduation announcements and memorabilia, class ring, Camp College, and college applications and visits.**

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 BDCHS.
Yearbook			\$90	Mrs. Catania will provide information
Homecoming Dance	October 2018 <i>Specific date TBD</i>	TBD	\$30	
Grad Bash	Friday, April 5 leave 1:40 PM 4/5 and return 4AM 4/6		\$140	Includes charter bus transportation and ticket to Grad Bash
Prom	Saturday, April 27		\$80	
Senior Retreat	TBD		\$40 Estimated	More information to come!
<u>ESTIMATED</u> Total for All Anticipated Expenses (prices may change based on participation)			\$505	

2018-2019 Calendar

Dates Are Subject To Change!



August 10	First Day of School
September 3	No School
October 10, 2016	Senior Day—Details TBA
October 12	Quarter 1 Ends
TBA	Homecoming Week
TBA	Homecoming Dance
November 12	No School
November 19-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18-21	Mid-Term Exams
December 21	Quarter Two Ends
Dec. 24—Jan. 4	Winter Break
January 21	No School
February 8	No School
February 18	No School
March 15	End of Quarter 3
March 18-22	Spring Break
March 25	No School
April 5	Grad Bash
April 27	Prom
May 3	Seniors' Last Day / Class Olympics
TBA	Senior Retreat
TBA	Senior Exams
TBA	Senior Celebration
May 23 at 2PM	Graduation at Straz Center

We Want to See

YOU

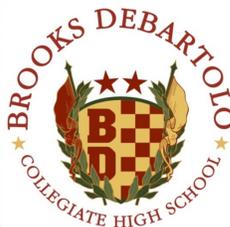
Send your pictures of yourself
and your BDCHS friends to

bdchs2019@gmail.com

throughout the year to be in-
cluded in this newsletter and
the senior slide show!



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
@732kk to 81010

Contact Mrs. Schult, Senior Class

Advisor: erin.schult@bdchs.org