

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
Office of the Headmaster

February 7, 2014

Dear Eighth Grade Families:

Welcome to the Brookline High School community. We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant and diverse school. We would like to invite you to a series of informational events about the courses and opportunities available here at BHS. These events are designed to welcome you and to answer many of your questions. Just as your sons and daughters are preparing for one of life's larger transitional periods, we know that parents as well are experiencing something new, exciting, and, at times, a bit intimidating. The activities we have planned for the Spring of 2014 are a bridge to help all in the wonderful transition to high school.

While we encourage you to attend as many events as possible and know you will benefit from them, we also know how busy life gets. If you can't attend every single session, consider finding another eighth grade parent who can share the information.

EIGHTH GRADE TRANSITION EVENTS – 2014

Tues., February 11 and Thurs., February 13 at each K-8 school

BHS World Language “Road Show” is for **students only** and during the day. We will introduce our course of study for languages.

Wed., February 12 in the BHS Auditorium

Arts at BHS: Students only. 8th graders visit BHS and enjoy a presentation of our Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Career and Technical Education offerings.

Thurs., February 27 at 6:00 pm in the BHS Auditorium.

Lab and Studio Night for Career and Technology Education, Performing Arts and Visual Arts

Parents and students are invited to visit the Career/Technology Education and Performing and Visual Arts classrooms to see the wide range of courses before choosing elective classes for ninth grade. The evening is designed to give eighth graders the chance to see BHS students in action, view the excellent facilities, and meet some teachers. The evening begins at 6:00 pm where families will be paired with junior and senior student mentors for guided tours through the many working studios.

Wed., March 5 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the MLK room

Overview of Special Education services and programs

This portion of **Curriculum Night** is for parents to meet the special education administration and available staff members, and learn about the high school's robust continuum of special education programming, models, and services, including our course offerings: small group and co-taught; Instructional Home Bases: Learning Center, Learning Support, Comprehensive Learning Center and Language and Academic Home Base (LAHB), and Pathways; specialized programs, RISE, ExCEL, Community Based Classroom, and Winthrop House, our post-graduate program, BRIDGE, and Transitional Services. We will also present the wide-range of extensive related services available at the high school.

Wed., March 5th at 7:00 pm in the BHS Auditorium

Curriculum Night for English, Social Studies, Science, Math, World Language, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Career and Technology Education, and Health/Fitness.

This evening is for parents. The night begins in the auditorium where parents hear from the headmaster, the assistant headmaster, the guidance coordinator, and the department chairs.

Tues., March 11 at 7:00 pm in the BHS Auditorium

Life at Brookline High School

Parents and students are invited. On this night, the headmaster, dean of students for the class of 2018, leaders of the PTO, a guidance counselor, and a panel of students will talk and answer questions about life at Brookline High.

Tues., March 25 at 7:00 pm in the BHS Auditorium

Introduction to Athletics at BHS

Parents and students are invited to a presentation and Q&A session about our interscholastic athletic program.

We know some parents/guardians may still be deciding on where to send their child to high school. Please know that you are most welcome to attend these evenings as a way to gather information. In fact, we believe that Brookline High offers a rich, high quality program that is competitive with any private or public school in the area. We look forward to seeing you soon at the Eighth Grade Transition Events. Welcome!

Sincerely,



Deborah Holman
Headmaster



Anthony Meyer
Dean of Students



HOW TO ELECT AN EXPERIENCE IN Career And Technology Education, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts Walk Through The Spaces, See The Places And Faces

Brookline High School has a tremendous array of offerings for students in the Career and Technology Education, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts curriculums. Together they are referred to as the “electives,” and students select the classes they will experience in order to fulfill the 3 credit graduation requirement in these disciplines.

High School is the perfect time to experience many new endeavors. It is an exciting time of self-discovery, and at BHS students have an amazing opportunity to develop skills in areas of study that are familiar, and, through our electives programs, in those areas of interest that have yet to be discovered. Our courses are hands-on: where students are challenged to use what they know in new creative situations. Students will work in our state of the art facilities.

The Career and Technology Education, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts curricula encourage the students to try something they don't yet know, something they are not sure they can do, or something that may surprise them. Our staff will provide all the support needed for the learning while students explore creative courses and perhaps develop a new lifelong passion.

We encourage students to think differently as they choose their electives. For example, if you are a student who loves music, take the music classes AND consider the business class, so when your band is famous you will be able to manage your good fortune.

Do you love math and science? Visual arts classes are a great use of your skills where you can develop observational skills in drawing and experience aspects of chemistry and math in ceramics and photography.

Are you a performer? Take the drama offerings AND consider the documentary filmmaking class.



your skills.

Do you love poetry? Learn to illustrate your work through painting and drawing. Are you interested in a career in communications? Public speaking? Are you an athlete? Perhaps sports casting is in your future. Consider the television production, digital design, or digital video classes to enhance

Are you planning to own a car or a house? Would you like to understand the mechanics of cars or have experience with building objects from raw materials? Interested in being a smarter consumer? Check out our Psychology of Marketing course. So come to the open house and see for yourself what the Career and Technology Education, the Performing Arts, and the Visual Arts offer.

Join us and Elect an Experience!

February 27, 2014 6:00pm
Headmaster Deborah Holman will welcome families and students in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. followed by student-guided tours of the electives studios.

Guided by the BHS mentors, families and students will explore the electives spaces and places. Mentors will direct groups through the working spaces where students and teachers will be available for questions. It is an opportunity to experience the facilities, tools, and equipment that create hands-on learning in the various disciplines. There will be no formal presentation in the studios.



Who Can I Call?

Arnie Marcus 617 713 5101
Career and Technology Education Coordinator

Kenny Kozol 617 713 5228
Interim Performing Arts Coordinator K-12

Alicia Mitchell 617 713 5298
Visual Arts Coordinator K-12

****TRANSITIONING TO HIGH SCHOOL*
WHAT 8TH GRADE PARENTS NEED TO KNOW***



*Adolescent Psych 101 ~ Welcome to Teen Life
Parenting Strategies for the High School Years*

**Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Brookline High School MLK room
7 pm to 9 pm**

Parenting/child development expert Joani Geltman offers rising freshman parents tips on a wide range of topics, from social media “do’s and don’ts” to teen-proofing your home and your relationship. Joani’s special brand of “infotainment” leavens valuable information with humor and storytelling, sending parents home with a “goody bag” of helpful techniques. And meet BHS social worker Mary Minott, who will be available for follow-up discussion on any questions raised by the presentation and will be an invaluable ongoing resource for parents while their children are at BHS.

Please register for this free presentation at <https://apr16joanigeltman.eventbrite.com>

HEAR IT FROM THE KIDS THEMSELVES

“What to Know Before Your Kids Get to BHS”

Sometimes the best source of advice on issues of adolescence comes from those who’ve just been there and survived -- mature teens who have figured out how to navigate developmental milestones. Brookline High School Peer Leaders are currently available for presentations at your school on a variety of middle school issues. These unusually informed, insightful and candid teens can talk to parents about the concerns of individual schools, including bullying, internet use, healthy relationships/dating, alcohol/marijuana, or whatever your school’s needs might be. For 8th grade parents, Peer Leaders also can do a special presentation on “What to Know Before Your Kid Gets to BHS.”

To schedule a presentation at your school or for your parent group, contact June Harris, 617-713-5156 or jharris@brooklinema.gov

8th Grade (SADD) Students Against Destructive Decisions



"I thought [8th Grade SADD] was great. [My daughter] connected with the SADD students and the BHS Peer Leaders...being from upper grades made it special. I think she got the message and now shares it." (BHS Parent)

"Once the meetings started, she was looking forward to the next one." (BHS Parent)



Dear 8th Grade Parents,

B-PEN (Brookline Parent Education Network) invites you to send your son or daughter to 8th Grade SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). The meetings, run by the BHS Peer Leaders and their advisors, will be held at the Brookline Teen Center and Brookline High School.

What is SADD?

SADD is a peer-to-peer education, prevention and activism organization dedicated to teaching students how to make healthy decisions. SADD was founded on the philosophy that **young people**, empowered to help each other, **are the most effective force in prevention**. Its unique approach involves teens delivering education and prevention messages to their peers, focusing on underage drinking, drug/marijuana use, risky/impaired driving, teen violence, teen stress and high school life.

Why should my 8th grader attend a SADD meeting?

SADD offers 8th grade students *an informal introduction to Brookline High School and the Brookline Teen Center*. Meetings provide opportunities to become familiar with the layout of Brookline High School and meet current BHS students who are choosing to make good decisions. It is also an excellent opportunity to learn about the Brookline Teen Center and meet other 8th graders from all the Brookline schools. These one-hour club meetings include games, group discussions and a BHS scavenger hunt. **Health teachers give extra credit for attending meetings, and pizza is served at all meetings.**

COME TO ONE, COME TO ALL!

All meetings are held from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at Brookline Teen Center

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at Brookline Teen Center

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at Brookline Teen Center

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Brookline High School

Whether your 8th grader can't wait to get to the high school or is a bit nervous about the transition, 8th grade SADD is a great opportunity to learn about high school from current BHS students and to meet members of the Class of 2018.

Questions? Contact Hope Schroy, LICSW, at hope_schroy@brookline.k12.ma.us or 617-713-5149.

www.B-PEN.org

www.facebook.com/BrooklineParentEducationNetwork

<https://twitter.com/BPENBCASA>