



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Baldwin Senior High School

Susan C. Knors, Principal



December 2009

CALENDAR

January 4 - Classes Resume
 January 4 - PTSA Meeting – HS – 7:30PM
 January 5 - Financial Aid Night – HS - 7:30PM
 January 14 - Martin Luther King - 7:30PM
 January 18 - Schools Closed - Martin Luther King Day
 January 19 – HS Information Night (Grade 8 Parents) HS - 7:30PM

January 22 - End of Marking Period 2
 January 26-29 - Midterm and Regents Exams
 February 2 - Founders Day – HS 7PM
 February 12- Report cards Mailed
 February 15-19-Schools Closed – Winter Recess
 February 25 - District Choral Festival – HS-7:30PM

Are You Prepared For 2010?



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT BHS

Volunteer Opportunities - Helping Others Can Help You

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community. But did you know that it can have many benefits for you, too? You may have heard that volunteering helps you get into college, but keep in mind they're not just looking for a list of organizations and dates. Colleges want to see a complete picture of you, and real examples of your commitment, dedication, and interests.

REASONS TO VOLUNTEER

Gain Valuable Life Experiences and Skills

Whether you do fall-cleanup for the elderly, clean up the Brookside Preserve, or serve pancakes to senior citizens you'll experience the real world through hands-on work. You can use this experience to explore your career interests.

Meet Interesting People

Volunteering brings together a variety of people. Both the recipients of your volunteer efforts and your co-workers can be rich sources of insight.

Send a Signal to Colleges

Colleges pay attention to your life inside and outside the classroom. Your extracurricular activities reveal a great deal about you, such as what your interests are, whether you can manage your priorities and maintain a long-term commitment, what diversity you'd bring to the student body, and how you've made a meaningful contribution to something.

Keep in mind, colleges are not interested in seeing you do it all. It's more meaningful to colleges to see your dedication to one or two causes or activities than to see that you've spread yourself thin.

More...

Volunteering has many other intangible benefits. It can help you give back to society, break down barriers of misunderstanding or fear, explore personal issues, and even have fun.

Here are some of the Community Service Activities in Which Our Students Participate at BHS:

ADOPT A FAMILY - [Key Club](#)
 AIDs Peer Educators
 Anti-Smoking- National Kick Butts Day -[SADD](#)
 Autism Walk- [Key Club](#)
 Blood Drives– October and May- [Medical Explorers](#)
 Breast Cancer Walk - [Key Club](#)
 Cell Phones for Soldiers -[National Honor Society](#)
 Children's Art Workshop- [Art Club](#)
 Clothing Donation- Blue Jeans - [Rock and Wrap It Up](#)
 Donation to Breast Cancer Association - [Key Club](#)
 Donation to Invisible Children – Uganda- [Human Rights Club](#)
 Donation to the Ronald MacDonald House – [Phoenix Magazine](#)
 Elementary School Hygiene Education - [Medical Explorers](#)
 Fall Clean-up - [Key Club](#)
 Food Drive for Local Soup Kitchens– [Phoenix Magazine](#)
 Freshmen Mentors- [Teen to Teen](#)
 High School Heroes teaching Elementary students
 Holiday Celebration at the LIRR Station - [Key Club](#)
 Home Work Help @ Brookside Elementary - [Future Teachers of America](#)
 Intergenerational Breakfasts at the Senior center – [Key Club and Leadership](#)
 Kamp Kiwanis- [Key Club](#)
 Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center- [Key Club](#)
 Light and Sound - district programs which take place at BHS throughout the year

March of Dimes- [Key Club](#)
 March of Dimes Walk America - [FBLA](#)
 Mentoring BMS Lego Team - [Robotics](#)
 Pajama Night- Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center- [Key Club](#)
 Peer Tutoring- [National Honor Society](#)
 Recycling - [Blue Marble, Leadership & Robotics](#)
 Relay for Life - School wide
 SADD presentations at BMS
 Salvation Army bell ringing – [FBLA](#)
 Schleroderma Walk- [Key Club](#)
 STEP Performance at Martin Luther King Celebration
 STEP Performances at Brookside Gardens
 Student Mentors – [STAR Club](#)
 Supermarket Sweep - [Key Club](#)
 Thanksgiving Food Drive - [Leadership, Stage Crew, Robotics & Key Club](#)
 Toys for Baldwin Tots - [Leadership Council](#)
 Tutoring and HW help at Brookside Elementary - [Future Teachers](#)
 UNICEF- [Key Club](#)
 UNICEF- [Key Club](#)
 Volunteering at Mercy Medical Center
 Volunteering at South Nassau
 Winter Art Workshop- [Art Club](#)
 Winter Wonderland – Gifts to our 3rd Grade Brookside –School wide
 Youth vs. senior Chess challenge Tournament – [Chess Club](#)

COMPUTATION OF MID YEAR GRADES

On Page 26 of the Student Planner/Handbook, you will find a complete explanation of how to compute your child's grades at mid year. As you can see, themed Year exam counts as one fifth of your child's semester average. Please encourage your child to spend time studying and reviewing his or her texts, class notes, homeworks and previous exams.

SEMESTER COURSES (HALF YEAR) WITH A FINAL EXAM:

Final Grade = 2X (Marking Period 1 Avg) + 2X (Marking Period 2 Avg) + Final Exam 5

SEMESTER COURSES (HALF YEAR) WITHOUT A FINAL EXAM:

Final Grade = Marking Period 1 Avg + Marking Period Avg 2 2

FULL YEAR COURSES=

1st Semester Avg = 2X(Marking Period 1 Avg) + 2X(Marking Period 2 Avg) Midterm Exam 5

PREPARING FOR MIDTERM AND REGENTS EXAMS

Midterm and Regents exams will be given from January 26-January 29. In this article you will find a few tips to help you to be prepared for exams.

BEFORE THE TEST:

- Budget your time, make sure you have sufficient time to study so that you are well prepared for the test.
- Go to review sessions, pay attention to hints that the instructor may give about the test. Take notes and ask questions about items you may be confused about.
- Ask the instructor to specify the areas that will be emphasized on the test.
- Make sure you go to the class right before the test; it's another prime time for the instructor to give out more hints or the format of the test.
- Go over any material from practice tests, HW's, sample problems, review material, the textbook, class notes...
- Use the Internet as a resource. Access review materials by searching for them or ask your teacher if he can recommend any websites to assist you in your studies.
- Eat before a test. Having food in your stomach will give you energy and help you focus but avoid heavy foods which can make you groggy.
- When studying, put the main ideas/information/formulas onto a sheet that can be quickly reviewed many times, this makes it easier to retain the key concepts that will be on the test.
- Don't try to pull an *all nighter*. Get at least 6 hours of sleep before the test.
- Set your alarm and have a backup alarm set as well.
- Try to show up at least 10 minutes before the test will start.
- Use the rest room before walking into the exam room. You don't want to waste any time during the test.

DURING THE TEST:

- **Make sure you are not carrying any electronic equipment to school with you.** This includes phones, blackberries, iPods etc.
- Bring with you at least two pens and 2 pencils with good erasers and any other resources that your instructor has told you to bring. Remember, Regents exams must be written in ink and the declaration must be signed.
- Bring a watch to the test with you so that you can better pace yourself.
- Keep a positive attitude throughout the whole test and try to stay relaxed. If you start to feel nervous take a few deep breaths to relax.
- Keep your eyes on your own paper, you don't want to appear to be cheating and cause unnecessary trouble for yourself.
- When you first receive your test, do a quick survey of the entire test so that you know how to efficiently budget your time.
- Do the easiest problems first. Don't stay on a problem that you are stuck on especially when time is a factor.
- Do the problems that have the greatest point values first.
- Don't rush but pace yourself. **Read the entire question** and look for keywords.
- **Write legibly.** If the grader can't read what you wrote, they'll most likely mark it wrong.
- **Always read the whole question carefully.** Don't make assumptions about what the question might be.
- If you don't know an answer, skip it. Go on with the rest of the test and come back to it later. Other parts of the test may have some information that will help you out with that question.
- Don't worry if others finish before you. Focus on the test in front of you.
- Make certain to complete the appropriate number of questions in each section as indicated in the directions.
- If you have time left when you are finished, look over your test. Make sure that you have answered all the questions, only change an answer if you misread or misinterpreted the question because the first answer that you put is usually the correct one. Watch out for careless mistakes and proofread your essay and/or short answer questions.
- Double check to make sure that you put your first and last name on the test.



**Baldwin High School Administration,
Faculty & Staff Wish You A Safe And
Happy Holiday Season And A Very
Happy And Healthy New Year!**