

# BHS High School Insights

*Excellence is Expected Here*

## The Principal's Pen

Bluffton High School has had another banner year with several academic and extra-curricular accomplishments. We are dedicated to offering each and every student a quality education in a caring environment.

BHS welcomed five foreign exchange students this year. The countries of Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Ghana, and Pakistan were represented in our hallways on a daily basis. They came to us from many different backgrounds and cultures. This required extra work and patience from our teachers and guidance department, but the positive experiences we gained from our guests was beyond measure.

If you are not receiving the Week at a Glance email each week, please let our treasurer, Deanna Brinneman know at [dbrinneman@bhmsd.org](mailto:dbrinneman@bhmsd.org). This email is a great way to stay informed on the weekly activities at our school, as well as upcom-

ing events.

BHS had several students receive awards at the Tri-Kappa Art Show. High School students from Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells, and Kingdom Academy enter art work in various



categories and are then judged for winners in those categories. Andrea Vandentop received Best in Show. First place winners were Mallory Dove in Wheel Thrown Ceramics, Alexis Johnson in Traditional Photography, Lillian Stotlar in Mixed Media, and Allynay Meirmanova in Drawing and Watercolor Congratulations

to all our artists. You can view the exhibit through May 14 at the Creative Arts Centre.

It has been another incredible year for Bluffton High School and the community. We are very excited for next year and we know that our students will rise again to the expectations of our school and community. Let there be no doubt that **"Excellence is Expected Here!"**

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## Guidance Department Spotlight

**Scheduling 2018-2019**—Mrs. Leas and Mr. Meyer are nearing completion of scheduling student courses for next school year. We hope to provide a preliminary class schedule to each returning student some time in May.

Please do not hesitate to contact

the Guidance Department if you have concerns regarding your student's selection of courses and academic needs.

**Summer School**—We will be offering summer school again this year at BHS. Mrs. Bollenbacher will be teaching the algebra class.

Students may also take e2020 courses for credit recovery. Summer school will run from June 5—25 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. each day. Lunches will be provided free of charge each day. More information may be obtained in the office after May 1. Please contact the guidance office to register

## Department Spotlight—Spanish

Spanish class students will be involved with some aspect of the Mexican holiday “Cinco de mayo”. This is a very important part of Mexican culture. **Cinco de mayo** is celebrated on the 5th of May. A common misconception in the United States is that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day; Mexico's Independence Day is actually September 16 (*dieciséis de septiembre* in Spanish), which is the most important national patriotic



holiday in Mexico.

In 1862, as the French invasion of Mexico began, Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza's force of 4,000 soldiers defeated twice as many French soldiers in the Battle of Pue-

bla. The French occupation would continue until 1866. But the Mexican soldiers' courage and determination inspired Mexican Americans. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Spanish classes will have the opportunity to learn more about “Cinco de mayo”. Students will be able to experience the food that many Hispanic families enjoy during the Holiday season. Each student will be given a recipe to make at home. They will then share it with the class. ¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

## Department Spotlight—German

As we quickly approach the end of the year, German classes continue to push on full-steam-ahead. German III is in the middle of their fairy tale unit. Students are reading a selection of Grimm's fairy tales in the original German, utilizing all of their skills from previous levels to analyze the structure and themes of the stories. Following each story, we discuss the lessons and morals to be learned from the narrations. Finally, we watch a modernized version of the fairy tale on YouTube and discuss how various historical or stylis-

tic elements of the original have been adapted to a modern-day context. At the conclusion of this unit, students will utilize all of their German skills to write their own fairy tale.

Similarly, German II continues to work hard. This week, IPFW will come to observe the progress of our dual-credit students. After this observation, students will continue to discuss the past tense in German to talk about their childhood. This will be coupled with vocabulary of the house. Students

will learn to talk about where various things are located around the home and what kinds of things they have to do around the house. The culmination of this unit is to lead the class on a tour of either their own home or a dream house, explaining along the way where various objects are and what kinds of activities take place in the different rooms. There is so much to cover in so little time, but the students are doing a great job of keeping up the pace.

## Department Spotlight—Language Arts

We have a common saying here at Bluffton-Harrison MSD: We have the best staff and students in Indiana. As one example, the teachers in the Language Arts Department and Math Department have developed extra lessons for remediation. Sophomore, junior, and senior students received additional remediation and instruction during homeroom and language lab class in preparation for the ECA and ISTEP+ tests. The students reviewed language arts skills in reading analysis, writing formats, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. The students improved their skills in reading comprehension and test-taking strategies.

We are very proud of the students' efforts in producing the school newspaper, *The Comet*, and the yearbook, *The Retrospect*. The two staffs work

together during one class period to create both publications, and most students contribute to both. The *Comet* staff prints an issue of the school newspaper every other week. Also, The *Retrospect* staff is creating a yearbook of which BHS students can be proud! If your child has not yet ordered a yearbook for the 17-18 school year, please send in your payment of \$55 to the school to the attention of Mrs. Schantz. The final deadline to order is May 11. In addition, it is not too late to purchase a baby ad for your senior student. There are still a few more spaces available in the yearbook.

One of our English teachers, Mrs. Amanda Burman, is the sponsor of the Tiger Dance Company. A total of \$775 was raised to help support The Andrea Rizzo Foundation, a non-

profit corporation that raises funds to support dance therapy for children with cancer and special needs. The Tiger Dance Company performs one show each year and brings dancers from all backgrounds together to support a wonderful cause.

In the fall of 1991, Mrs. Deb Johnson joined Bluffton High School's Language Arts Department. At the ending of this school year, Mrs. Johnson will retire after 35 total years of teaching. We thank Mrs. Johnson for not only being an exceptional English teacher but also for her dedication as one of the supervising teachers at study tables and head senior class sponsor. We wish Mrs. Johnson continued health and happiness on her next adventure!

## Parent's Corner

This summer, bring back family dinners to reconnect with your



teenager.

Between your teen's homework, sports practices and work and your work, chores and errands, it may seem like there's no way you can fit

in time to spend with your teen during the school year. But no matter how busy you are, both you and your teen still need to eat!

Designate at least one night a week this summer "Family Dinner Night." Family dinners help strengthen parent-teen relationships, teach good eating habits, and are instrumental in preventing substance abuse.

To make the most of dinner time:

- Turn off the phones. Use this as an opportunity to focus on your

teen without any distractions.

- Ask your teen specific questions. Show him that you're interested in what he has to say.
- Talk about your own day. Ask your teen for his opinion.
- Keep it fun. Try to avoid topics that could lead to arguing. Consider letting your teen choose what to eat. Or have him help you cook the meal—he'll learn a life skill, and you'll squeeze in some extra time together.

## Athletic News

A reminder to all student athletes that you must have a physical on file in the high school office to participate in summer athletics. These forms may be picked up at the high school office. Physicals will be offered from 5 to 7:45 pm on Wednesday, May 9. The cost is \$15 per

student. Thank you to our Athletic Boosters for once again sponsoring this program.

The spring sports awards program will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:00 pm. All athletes, parents and the general public are invited and encouraged to

attend.

Letter jackets and patches will be ordered in the office following the program on the 5th for athletes majoring in a spring sport. A \$50.00 deposit is required for letter jackets while payment for patches is due when ordering.

## Important Senior Information



PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OUTSTANDING FEES NEED TO BE PAID PRIOR TO GRADUATION.

Please see Mrs. Brinneman if you have any questions about balances due.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Senior Walk at the elementary and middle schools—  
May 29

Finals: May 29 (Periods 2 and 4) and May 30 (Periods 1 and 3)

Senior Breakfast: May 31 at 7:30 am at the High School  
(**formal dress required**)

Class Day: May 31 at 9:10 am  
at the high school

(**mandatory—formal dress required**)

Graduation rehearsals  
(**mandatory**): May 30 at 9:00 am and May 31 at 11:00 am

Graduation ceremony: June 1 at 7:30 pm. Graduates need to be seated in the cafeteria by **6:30 pm**.

## Dates to Remember

**Band Pizza and Pops and Awards**—Thursday, May 10 at 6:00

**Choir Spring Concert**—May 22nd at 7:00. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

**2018—2019 Orientation** will be Tuesday, August 7. Details will be mailed to you in July.

**First Day of School**—Monday, August 13

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**