

BHS High School Insights

Excellence is Expected Here

The Principal's Pen

There are just a few days left until Christmas. Have you bought that special someone that unique gift yet? Even if you haven't, I hope you and your family have a restful and meaningful Christmas season. Here are a few things that have happened at Bluffton High School recently.

Our athletic teams are now into their winter seasons. If you have a free evening, please come and support our basketball teams, wrestlers, swimmers, and cheerleaders!

Our Commons area is looking very festive right now. Each year, clubs and classes decorate Christmas trees. It adds a nice holiday touch to our school.

Our student council is busy making plans for our 6th Riley Hospital Auction. They are soliciting donations to help raise money for this worthy cause. This year's auction will take place Friday, December 22. This year's goal is \$10,000, which they hope

to raise through the auction, dance marathon, the Staff vs Students brackets, and other fundraisers.



The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is sponsoring a homework hotline again this year. They are offering FREE math and science help for students in grades 6-12. The toll free number is 1-877-ASK-ROSE. Tutors will answer calls between 7-10 pm Sunday through Thursday.

Don't forget to check your student's progress through PowerSchool. Parents can have access to

attendance, grades and discipline of their children. It is an effective tool to stay connected to your child's education. We believe that communication with parents is essential to the success of students. Please call the high school at 824-3724 if you experience any problems with your access to PowerSchool.

With only a few weeks left before the end of the semester, it is important for students (and parents) to finish strong. Parents, please encourage your students to keep studying, get enough rest, and eat a good breakfast. Working together is the best way to ensure student success!

December 2017 -
January 2018

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Guidance Department Spotlight

FAFSA Completion Night - Bluffton High School will hold a FAFSA completion night on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Parents and seniors are encouraged to attend this meeting. You will receive assistance in completing your FAFSA and get answers to your specific questions.

Please call the Guidance Office if you have questions.

We make too much money to file the FAFSA - While it may be true that your family may not qualify for federal or State of Indiana aid presently, consider the possibilities. Say, for example, your family has a sudden change in earning power through unexpected job loss, a disabling injury, or even the death of a parent. If

such an unexpected event occurred, those students who have filed a FAFSA may file a "Change of Status" form and become immediately eligible to receive available aid. Students in these difficult circumstances who have not filed may be out of luck until the following year.

The FAFSA is the only document

necessary to qualify a student for all federal and State of Indiana grants (free money) and loans (pay back money). In addition, many scholarships from the colleges themselves require parents to submit the FAFSA to be eligible for such an award. Twenty-first Century Scholars are also required to complete at FAFSA.

SAT Tests - The registration deadline is February 9, 2018 for the March 10 SAT tests to be given at Bluffton High School. Students should go to www.collegeboard.com to register. This test is ideal for current juniors planning to attend a four-year col-

lege or university in the fall of 2018. Please call the Guidance Office for details.

Students who have an IEP and plan to take the March SAT should see Mrs. Leas before Christmas break to ensure that accommodations are in place for the test.

High School students who cannot afford to pay test fees may be eligible for SAT fee waivers. If you are on Free/Reduced lunches, a Twenty-first Century Scholar, or a foster child, please see Mrs. Leas for more information.



Department Spotlight—BHS Alternative Program (BHSAP)

BHSAP provides a unique educational setting for students who require an alternative to the regular high school due to life situations at school and/or in the students' lives. BHSAP enables students to accept the responsibility for their learning potential and growth. Through the acceptance of this responsibility a more positive self-image unfolds.

We have provided education for twenty-two students throughout the 2017-2018 school year. So far this school year, those twenty-two students have completed seventy-nine credits. In addition to our students' academic success, we have had ten students hold jobs since the beginning of the school year. These students work hard to support their families. Out of our twenty-two students, four are teen parents. With

community programming and support our teen parents are on pace to graduate on time and have gained knowledge to better support their families.

The individualized, personalized, special program provides a chance for the student to succeed and not drop out. Each student is discussed with a team of administrators before entering BHSAP. Here at BHSAP, we build relationships with students that encourage them to take responsibility for their decisions. The staff at BHSAP fosters an environment that will help all students succeed not only during the academic day, but also within the community. Mrs. Benedict works with students to receive their math credits. Mrs. Craig works with students to receive their English credits. Mr. Mounsey works with stu-

dents through textbooks and Edgenuity to receive their science, social studies, and elective credits.

Mr. Mounsey also has five students that participate in community service every other week, in which students earn one credit per calendar year. Students go to Helping Hands where they learn organizational skills, develop housekeeping awareness, and connect to possible services within the community. BHSAP provides students an opportunity to complete the requirements to receive a high school diploma and to reach their full potential.

Parent's Corner

College Bound?

Should your teen go to college? It is a big question, and the answer is different for each child. How do you decide what's right for your high schooler? Consider setting up an appointment to talk with your child's school counselor. Our counselors at Bluffton High School can help assess your teen's talents, interests, and academic strengths. They can encourage your child to think about the kind of life goals she wants to pursue and whether college should

be a part of them. A four-year college may not be the answer for everyone, but your teen probably should consider going to one if she:

- Has academic interests she wants to explore (writing, mathematics, etc.)
- Has career goals that require a college degree (psychologist, field biologist, etc.)
- Wants to expand her horizons and life opportunities with a college degree

If a four year college doesn't seem to be the right fit for your child, our

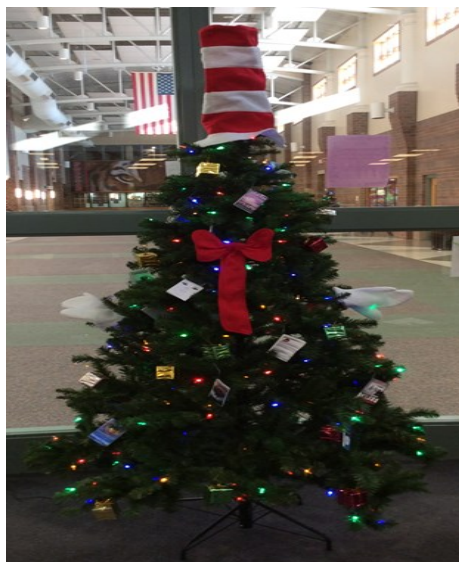
counselors can help her explore other options, including:

- Vocational and technical schools
- Business or community colleges
- Internships
- Apprenticeships

Call or stop by our office to talk with our counselors. They have the training and expertise to help your child make the best educational decisions for the future.

Off the Shelf

On November 9, nine senior students in the Book Review club attended a field trip to Barnes & Noble. These students learned about selecting reading material for the library, by reading reviews and considering the appropriateness of each book they chose. Altogether, the library purchased 43 new books (mostly fiction) for students to enjoy in a variety of genres.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the library!



Department Spotlight— Industrial Technology

Students always need to be thinking of their future, and the Industrial Technology department would like to spotlight several courses for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as upcoming courses for the 2018-2019 school year. One class being spotlighted is the Construction course. In the course, the students were able to build two wonderful projects. The first project the students built were picnic tables. Six picnic tables were constructed. The picnic tables turned out so well, that they were all sold before they were even built. The second project the construction class built was a shed for a local customer. These projects speak for themselves. The quality education that the student's received by accomplishing these projects has been monumental. The Industrial Technology Department would also like to spotlight the upcoming Welding Technologies II course. This course is in its second

year being offered at Bluffton High School and has been a major success. Students in this course will receive dual credits through IVY Tech. The students will also network with local businesses that have stepped up to donate time and money to the program. Last year only two students took the AWS (American Welding Society) certification exam. Of those two students, both passed the test, and became certified welders. This year, 19 students will be taking the test in May. Many young men and women need to learn the skills necessary to compete for the job market of Bluffton as well as Wells County, and the Bluffton High School Industrial Technology Department is striving for the very best student and highest student achievement to reach these goals.

The Bluffton Harrison MSD has the

following mission statement: "A learning community where a quality education empowers all students to learn and achieve to their potential." The Industrial Technology department is, and will always support this mission statement, as it is what drives our department and school to do the very best that we can do.

With an ever growing importance of technology to our local, state, and national society, it is vital that students receive an education that emphasizes technological literacy. Please join Bluffton High School in this effort as we look forward to educating the youth of America.



The Industrial Tech department built this "Buddy Bench" for our elementary school students. Pictured are '17 grad Matthew Stotlar, Mr. Powell, '17 grad Brian Hubble, and Mayor Ted Ellis.

**Have a very Merry Christmas and a
Healthy and Happy 2018!**

