

Frequently Asked Questions

Many answers can be found on the BCC website

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/> or in the student handbook <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/bcchs/students/studenthandbook09.pdf>

What does the B-CC PTSA do? The PTSA supports a broad range of activities at B-CC including publication of the student directory and handbook and the *Banter* newsletter, sponsors student recognition awards, supports academic and career guidance efforts, and holds informative sessions on a variety of issues of interest to B-CC families including college admissions, risky behavior, and financial aid. The PTSA depends on volunteers – JOIN THE PTSA AND GET INVOLVED!!!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/parents/>

Do kids take the school bus?

Yes, all kids (unless they are within walking distance) do take the Montgomery county school bus typically freshman year. By later grades they seem to find rides with other students.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/about/transportation.aspx#School%20Buses>

Where do I drop my child off for school if I drive them?

Cheltenham St entrance is the easiest drop off point. There is a circular drive. Bell times found <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/about/bellschedules.aspx>

Are students allowed off campus for lunch?

All grades go to lunch at the same time and only have 40 minutes to get back to school. Students are allowed off campus and many kids go to local lunch places that are close enough to walk to and return quickly. Each family decides how to manage this as far as packing a lunch for their child or giving them money to purchase lunch. The cafeteria is available and kids do stay on campus to eat lunch.

Where do I park when I visit during the school day? There are designated “Visitor” parking spaces in the main parking lot accessed from East-West Highway (after entering lot, continue straight downhill to visitor spaces; avoid the bus loop on right). Please refrain from parking in “Staff” spaces or in the student parking lot accessed from Pearl Street.

Is hazing a problem at BCC?

There have been some issues in the past of upper grade students teasing freshman. The administration is very aware of this and keeps an eye on it.

Is there a dress code?

The dress code is the same as WMS in that girls must wear appropriate attire including straps that are two fingers wide and shorts must meet the wrist; boys must wear pants covering appropriately. Students will be called into the office to change or required to wear a school shirt and parents may be notified.

Do I need a note for absences?

Parents need to send a note within three days or call the attendance office if their child misses school. If your child needs to leave school during the school day for appointments a note needs to be sent in the morning with your child.

Absences and loss of credit?

E2 is a loss of credit which can result from 5 unexcused absences. There is also a rule that 3 unexcused tardies does equal one unexcused absence.

<http://coldfusion.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coursebulletin/index.cfm>

How do I contact my counselor?

The best way is by e-mail (click on "Contact B-CC" on the B-CC home page <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/counseling/>), but you can leave a message by phoning the Counseling Department as well 240-497-6320.

What kinds of issues do counselors deal with?

Counselors can address student-specific concerns such as ADD, special accommodations, emotional or social concerns. Staffing meetings that call together all your child's teachers at one meeting can be arranged through the counselor for those students who are struggling. Concerns that are related to a specific class should be discussed with the teacher first. If concerns are not resolved or if there are additional questions, contact the Resource Teacher (department head), and then the counselor. Counselors can also provide general advice regarding course selection and are important resources for upper classmen as your student considers "life after B-CC".

What is Homecoming?

This is an all school dance and football game with a student organized parade that occurs on October 9th. The dance requires tickets which must be bought at school the week before the dance. Many students choose to attend but certainly not all. The attire is not formal though many students wear dressier clothes than school clothes. Boys typically wear polo shirt and girls wear skirts/dresses but again, not all.

Health class options?

There are currently four different ways to satisfy the Health requirement for graduation. Health classes are offered; (1) during the school year as a regular one-semester class, (2) as part of MCPS summer school offered at several County high schools, (3) as a special B-CC summer class taught by Ms. Lizarazo, and (4) as an online class with 3 face-to-face meetings with a B-CC teacher.

What are the art/music and language requirements?

<http://coldfusion.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/coursebulletin/index.cfm?do=basics#top>

Is IB different?

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/about/#ib>

How do I get involved in the drama program?

Drama at B-CC has both an academic and extra curricular aspect. While the after-school plays are open for all to participate in, taking classes in B-CC's integrated Theater and Film Conservatory is directly linked to what is done after school.

Drama is an extracurricular activity, but there is also a Drama Club that is a subset of those who participate in shows and may also include those who do it outside of school. There is a huge range of activities: on stage, of course, both musical and non, but plenty behind the scenes, too: design and construction of sets (stage crew), design and production of costumes, working on lights, sound (tech crew), moving sets and props, etc during shows (running crew), and choreography. Also needed: kids interested in the business side: publicity and ticket sales, program, etc. The musical always needs people who can sing and/or dance - those who have trained voices and bodies and/or natural talent have a lot to contribute even if they have no acting experience. Every freshman is eligible to take Theater 1 A and B or TV Production A and B.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/activities/theaterarts.aspx>

AP and Honors classes?

Many kids take AP and/or Honors classes. These classes are more challenging than on level courses and are weighted higher into the GPA by one point up to a grade of C. On level courses are available for all subjects and are appropriate for many students.

Is there a drug problem at BCC?

This is a nationwide issue with teens. All high schools have concerns about use of alcohol and drugs and will be addressed this year by the administration.

What is the cell phone policy at BCC?

Students are to keep their cell phone away and off during the school day. Teachers will take cell phones if they see them during this time.

Is there a theft problem at BCC?

Like any public place students need to be vigilant about their belongings. Lockers are available for students but many kids choose not to use them and carry a bag/backpack with them all day. Students need to be aware that leaving valuables (including ipods, cell phones and jackets) unattended can result in loss of the item. Students should report all suspected instances of theft on school property to the Main Office.

Do kids get lockers?

Yes, 9th graders are assigned lockers but many kids choose not to use them. Upper classmen are assigned lockers if they request one.

What is Edline?

All students are entered into the Edline database.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/edline.aspx> This is a great tool to track grades and keep up on assignments. Both parents and kids use this and most teachers are very good at having their class current.

<https://www.edline.net/Index.page>

Do parents visit classes on Columbus Day?

Parents are very welcome to sit in on classes during this day. Your student may discourage this but it may be a useful insight into their day. It is not required that the parent attend any or all classes but you can select certain classes that you feel would be helpful to see in action.

Where do I go for information about a specific sport at B-CC? Refer to the B-CC sports website. In some cases individual sports will also have their own web pages or listserve. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/athletics/>

What is B-CC Sports Boosters? This is a group of parent volunteers who help support athletics at B-CC. B-CC High School athletic needs are many, from helmets and other safety equipment to facilities upkeep, and county funding is not nearly adequate. In particular, because of heavy use of our extremely limited field space at B-CC, our expenses for field maintenance are extraordinary, and much of it is not paid by the school. The boosters raise funds for these through various activities.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/athletics/boosters.aspx>

What is required for sports eligibility?

Maintaining a 2.0 GPA with no more than one E.

What are class fees?

Secondary school fees and policy on course materials are available on the B-CC website.

What is the ECM fee?

This covers extra curricular activities. This can be paid on line or sent in via information sent to each students home.

What is TAP?

TAP is a wonderful resource for students to get additional help with classes after school. This is available after school at BCC or Coffield Center at no cost. There are teachers available to work with students on any subject or organization. The students can get individual help or work in groups. TAP is available Tue, Wed and Thurs. The student does not have to sign up, just show up when they need additional support.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/students/supportprograms.aspx#tutoring>

What is the B-CC HS Educational Foundation? The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable foundation 501(c)(3) established in 1995 that works closely with the principal and school staff, as well as the PTSA, to identify unmet needs and raise funds from the local community to sustain and enhance educational excellence for all B-CC students. Among its many funded projects are the language lab, TAP, College Tracks, Community Scholarship Fund, Parent ESOL and the Summer Academy.

<http://www.bccedfoundation.org>

Are after school busses available?

The school busses only run to and from school at normal school hours. If students participate in any after school activity or stay for any reason they will not have a school bus option. Public transportation allows students with IDs to ride free on Ride On and Metro Bus.

How are Final Exams scheduled?

Final exam schedules will be posted at the end of each semester. The students only attend school on those days and times of their exams.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/examschedule.aspx>

Peer Parent Contacts – These B-CC parents have volunteered to act as clearinghouses directing parents with questions to the proper sources.

9th Grade:

Babby Landon: babby37@gmail.com

Peggy Hsieh McIntosh: peggy_hsieh@yahoo.com

Michele Taussig: mtaussig1@verizon.net

10th Grade:

Susan Gutenberg: susan.bg@erols.com

Laura Long: Llong1@aol.com

Dee Carden: Dee.W.Carden@abc.com

11th Grade:

Ellen Shearer: shearer@nothwestern.edu

Mary Rubino: M.rubino@starpower.net

Bonnie Norman: triplecmom@aol.com

Francesca Kelly: fkellysun@aol.com (301 718 1994)

12th Grade:

Ronna Borenstein: RBorenstein@SuburbanHospital.org

Carol Salisbury: Carol_salsbury@comcast.net

Melissa Leabaert: Melissa@melissavoice.com (301 897 9775)